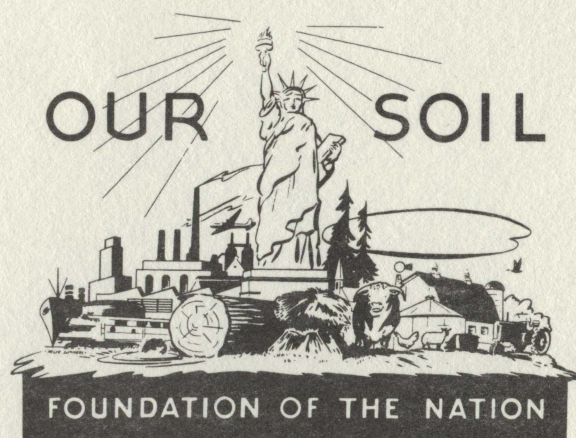


Cherokee County Soil Conservation District



Annual Report 1978

The District wishes to thank three people who gave their time and attention to the needs of the District during the past year or years; namely Vere T. Corrington, who did not seek re-election in 1978 and completed 24 years as a commissioner and 22 of these years as chairman; Elmer O. Brehmer elected in 1970 and served until March 1978 before resigning due to moving from the county and Jerome Peterson, who was appointed to finish out Elmer's term until election in November.

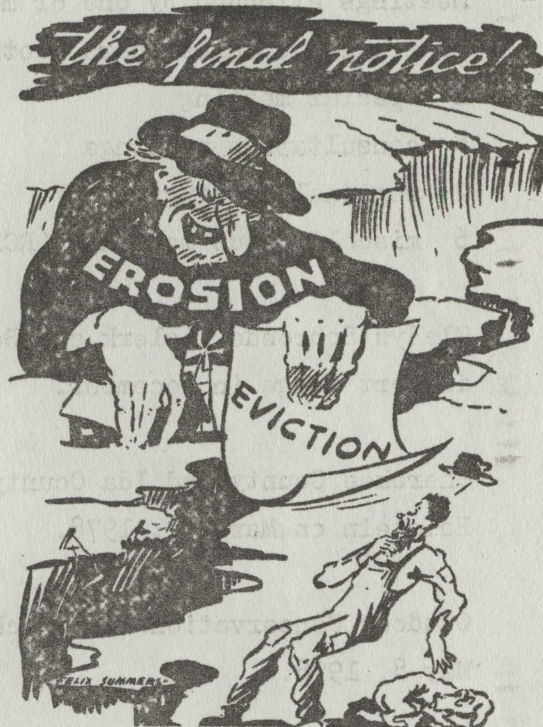
All commissioners serve without pay for their time and in the last ten years their duties have increased greatly. We give a "big thank you" to these men who unselfishly helped the District promote conservation practices and guide the District's role in the conservation of Cherokee County land.



Vere Corrington receives plaque from Max Mugge, Chairman, at an evening dinner honoring him for his 24 years as a District Commissioner.

1978 - Our No. 1 priority, terrace construction forged ahead, especially in the priority land treatment watershed areas. However, early winter temperatures and snow put an end to construction and some of the planned 1978 work could not be accomplished. Our goal for 1979 will continue to be terraces and all conservation measures that will help to control our enemy ———— EROSION.

The time is now to make a resolution to seek out the problems and then find the solution in the form of conservation practices that will heal the injuries of the soil.



CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Cherokee County Soil Conservation District wishes to thank all USDA agencies, businesses, news media and especially the farmer-cooperators who assisted so much in making 1978 another good year in installing conservation practices.

1978 Commissioners

Vere T. Corrington
Max E. Mugge
Joe V. Dessel
Elmer Brehmer (to 3/31/78)
Jerome Peterson (4/78 to 11/8/78)
Linda Bindner (11/8/78 to present)

1979 Commissioners

Max E. Mugge
Donald L. DeWitt
Joe V. Dessel
Linda Bindner
Edwin Clow

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Meetings attended by one or more commissioners:

- 11 regular commissioners meetings
- 1 special meeting
- 8 consultation meetings
- 2 regional meetings
- 6 miscellaneous meetings (RCA - Watershed - 208)

*

Gladys Schroeder, clerk and Bernard Braband, D.C. attended the Annual Conference in Fort Dodge in December.

*

Cherokee County and Ida County conducted a joint meeting for contractors at Holstein on March 2, 1978.

*

Outdoor Conservation Field school days were held for four days starting May 8, 1978.

*

Planting site at Larrabee school completed in July 1978.

*

Local windbreak meeting at the Extension office on February 9, 1978.

*

D.C. Braband gave talks at Aurelia School on January 25, 1978 and at Cleghorn School on February 13, 1978.

*

Clerk and D.C. attended "03" watershed project meeting at Anthon on July 17, 1978.

*

Commissioner Elmer Brehmer resigned March 31, 1978 and Jerome Peterson of Washta was appointed to serve from April until the general election in November.

*

November elections resulted in Max Mugge elected for four year term and Linda Bindner and Edwin Clow elected for six year terms.

*

Bill McGill visited our office October 25th, 1978.

*

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978
- 2

Three teachers, Les Jicklider and Ronald Sadler of Cherokee Schools and Bruce Schmadeke of Meriden Cleghorn Schools attended Springbrook Park Camp for teachers on October 6 and 7, 1978 and were sponsored by the Cherokee State Bank, Steele State Bank and Central Trust & Savings Bank of Cherokee.

*

D.C. gave a talk to the Quimby Womens Club on October 30, 1978.

*

Local speech contest held November 1, 1978 with nine contestants - Yvonne Grauer, first; Kristie Peterson, second and Cheryl Larson, third. Winner Yvonne Grauer placed second in the regional contest held in Cherokee on November 14, 1978.

*

Vere T. Corrington was nominated for District Outstanding Soil Conservation Commissioner from Cherokee County.

*

Marc Cox Agricultural Conservation Program district winners were Robert Mortenson, Walter Mortenson and Frank Escue all of Cherokee. They also placed first as Area winners. Larry Myhre here to interview winners on October 24, 1978. Banquet was held in Sioux City on November 16, 1978

*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10 1 77 / 9 30 78

	Unit	This Year
District Cooperators	No.	37
Conservation Plans	No.	37
Plan Revisions	No.	
Terraces	Ft.	127,930
Structures & Ponds	No.	1
Waterways	Ac.	29
Tile	Ft.	13,273
Contouring	Ac.	751

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1977 - June 30, 1978

1-M Budget Allocation		\$ 1,000.00
Expenses:		
Commissioners Expenses	\$ 353.54	
Office Supplies	171.82	
Printing	34.55	
Contest Prizes	92.70	
Meeting Hall Rental	14.00	
Office Expense	* 75.98	
Meeting Expenses	11.95	
Released to Department of		
Soil Conservation	<u>245.46</u>	
	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
2-M Budget Allocation		\$ 10,525.00
Clerical Salary, FICA, IPERS,	*	
Travel & Insurance	\$ 10,073.18	
Equipment Expense	264.22	
Released to Department of		
Soil Conservation	<u>187.60</u>	
	\$ 10,525.00	\$ 10,525.00
3-M Budgets		
76-77 Allocation		\$ 33,000.00
Funds Paid Out	\$ 24,866.86	
Funds Obligated	0	
Funds Released	7,589.60	
Funds Unobligated	<u>543.54</u>	
	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
77-78 Allocation		\$ 33,000.00
Funds Paid Out	\$ 18,810.21	
Funds Obligated	14,010.75	
Funds Unobligated	<u>179.04</u>	
	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
District General Revolving Fund		
Balance on Hand 7/1/77		\$ 1,728.28
Income		<u>4,928.15</u>
Sub-total		\$ 6,656.43
Expenses		<u>3,716.24</u>
Balance On Hand 6/30/78		\$ 2,940.19
District Watershed Maintenance Fund		
Balance on Hand 7/1/77		\$ 47,159.96
Watershed Payments		<u>1,622.50</u>
Interest		2,898.97
Sub-total		\$ 51,681.43
Expenses		<u>281.50</u>
Balance on Hand 6/30/78		\$ 51,399.93

OFFICE STAFF

CHEROKEE

Bernard Braband	District Conservationist, SCS
Monas Nixon	Conservation Technician, SCS
Duane Hollenbeck	WAE Technician, SCS
Gladys Schroeder	Clerk Secretary, District

AREA OFFICE STAFF

Sioux City

Wallis R. Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist, SCS
Richard Hall	Area Engineer, SCS
Wayne Eberly	Civil Engineer Technician
Lee White	Civil Engineer, SCS
Wayne Dicommun	Civil Engineer, SCS
Judith Rathel	Area Clerk
Margaret Walker	Clerk

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Thomas Neal	Wildlife Biologist
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(stationed at Cherokee)

Duane Bedford	District Forester
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(stationed at LeMars)

WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

Railroad Creek Watershed has been found to be economically unsuitable for development. As a result, terrace construction with 75% watershed cost-sharing funds will not be permitted after 1980. Landowners will then need to apply for whatever level of cost-sharing that is available in the programs available at that time.

Four Mile Creek Watershed is progressing quite satisfactorily with terraced land treatment. It is estimated that 60 percent of the needed land treatment has been done in this watershed. Probable structure site investigation is scheduled for 1979.

Ashton Creek Watershed was organized in 1977 and interest in terracing is beginning to take place. It is estimated that 10% of the land treatment has been done.

Silver Creek Watershed was newly organized in 1978 and considerable terracing was done in 1978 with an increase in interest for 1979. It is estimated that 10% of the needed land treatment terraces are completed in the watershed.

Stratton Creek Watershed, organized in 1972, is making limited progress in land treatment. Planned terrace work in 1979 will provide a renewed outlook in the watershed. It is estimated that 15% of the needed land treatment has been completed in this watershed.

Small watershed development in the Little Sioux River Basin has a termination date set for 1992, leaving less than 14 years for completing any feasible projects. It is, therefore, important that terracing for land treatment be accomplished within the next six to eight years as at least 75% of the land treatment must be on the land before any structural development can be started.

It is important to get the terracing completed in the watersheds having a planning priority as no other cost-sharing program allows such an attractive cost-sharing policy as the 75% program allowance under the Little Sioux Watershed Program.

Currently over 27,000 acres of Cherokee County farm land in the Railroad Creek, Stratton Creek, Four Mile Creek, Silver Creek and Ashton Creek Watersheds qualify for this increased cost-sharing.

FOOD AND COVER --- KEY TO MORE WILDLIFE

Have you wondered what has happened to the wildlife populations we had 20 or 30 years ago? What happened to the rabbits, the pheasants, and the songbirds that once were so common?

Nearly everyone you talk to has a simple answer for a not-so-simple problem. We've all heard; "The foxes have killed all the rabbits". Or, "The hunters have killed all the birds". It is true that there are many factors working against our wild animals. Small mammals and birds are faced with predators, hunters, storms, poisoning, traffic and a host of other hazards.

What is far more dangerous to wildlife than anything else, however, is loss of habitat. If a rabbit is killed by a dog, or a pheasant dies in a storm, another can eventually move in and take its place. But if the protective cover or food supply is destroyed, future generations of wildlife will never exist. The loss of cover and food has done more to reduce wildlife populations than any other factor. Something as seemingly harmless as tiling a wet area or cleaning out a fencerow can make a whole farm unsuitable for wildlife.

Those who can remember the days of abundant wildlife will recall small crop fields, marshes and patches of grass and brush. Food and cover were always close at hand no matter where an animal happened to be. Now fields are getting larger and fencerows and marshes have been eliminated. Wild animals are often faced with the prospect of fall-plowed fields as far as the eye can see. There is often no food, no cover and no wildlife.

If we remember that wild animals need food and cover, close together, we can still have good populations. Try leaving a few rows of corn stubble unplowed next to a windbreak or other cover area. When you make a brush pile, put it in an out of the way place and don't burn it. Above all, the next time you consider clearing the brush out of a fencerow or draining a wet area, remember that you may lose more than you gain.

--- Tom Neal, Wildlife Biologist

WINDBREAKS

This unseasonably cold January brings to mind one of the many possible uses of trees - livestock protection. Research has proven that cattle lose weight in severe winter weather and gain more weight in moderate winter weather if they are provided with wind protection. Cattle or other livestock exposed to a wind with a chill factor well below zero certainly will tolerate the condition but they could be using all the calories received from corn or prepared feed just to maintain their body temperature. Multiply the pounds of weight gain reduction per animal for one cold spell times 30 or 40 head and you're looking at a very real dollar loss. A well planned, simple, and inexpensive planting of trees and shrubs within or adjacent to these areas can reduce or perhaps even eliminate the decreased weight gains that coincide with the coldest winter weather.

A feedlot windbreak or a field windbreak intended for livestock protection naturally has to be quite dense. After all, the goal is to reduce wind velocity by about 75%. The accompanying benefit of this wind reduction is that most of the snow will lodge heavily within and just beyond the windbreak. Since the deep drifts are not spread over a long distance, livestock can move in fairly close to the plants to take advantage of the protection they offer. The conditions resulting from a blizzard are an exception, however.

The most suitable species to plant for this type of protection are eastern redcedar, tatarian honeysuckle, common ninebark, common lilac, and long-needled pines such as Austrian and Ponderosa. Broad-leaved trees such as green ash, silver maple or cottonwood do not provide a large percentage in wind reduction unless many rows are planted.

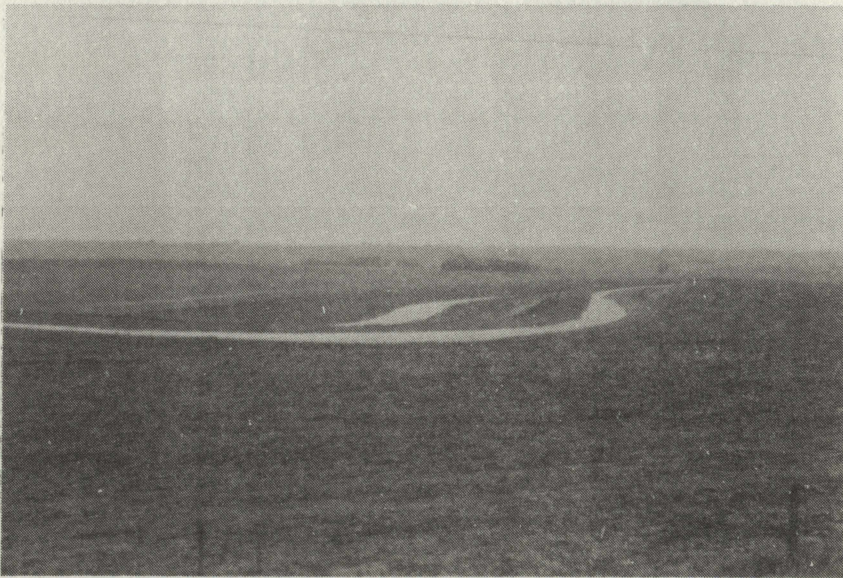
A livestock producer might show as much concern for livestock protection needed for the summer months as for the winter months. Water requirements and the danger of heat stress can be reduced if ample shade is available yet most pastures and feedlots do not have enough trees or buildings to supply this needed shade. It's easy to alleviate this problem in an open pasture - simply plant trees in multiples and protect them from browsing and trampling. Planting trees in or near a feedlot, however, presents a few problems. High concentrations of nitrates in low pockets and runoff areas prevent one from planting anything but usually somewhere on or near the lot there will be found spots where nitrates will not persist and planting can be carried out.

-- Duane Bedford, District Forester

THIS?



OR THIS?



This or this? Many times such a comparison is asked with two alternatives presented — would you choose between mashed potatoes or dressing?

The choice between the alternatives pictured is by far more serious. The choice between conservation and unchecked erosion affects the most important resource base of Cherokee County. The soil is the base of the number one industry in the county.

Soil loss is economic loss as erosion is caused by excessive runoff following rains. Moisture losses mean direct income loss due to reduced yields in dry years. In addition, with the runoff water goes the topsoil which means the water soluble fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides applied in the topsoil are also lost. This is direct dollar loss to the farmer.

All of this uncontrolled runoff from agricultural fields causes a problem to society as a whole. Excessive runoff causes floods, sediment in lakes, rivers and streams, causes expense in dredging and

clean out and a detriment to natural environment. Pollution by farm chemicals is a definite hazard to health where allowed to enter the surface and shallow sub-surface water supplies. How many farm water supplies are contaminated by nitrates and unfit for human consumption?

As further tests of surface waters are made, the choice pictured above may not be a voluntary matter. There could be a label placed on the Little Sioux River saying "Caution — any use of this facility will be injurious to health."

—Bernard Braband
District Conservationist, SCS

