

I N T R O D U C T I O N

To all the people of Kossuth County interested in preserving and maintaining the productivity of the fertile soil which nature has endowed.

This is the 10th anniversary of the organization of the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District. The District was established by the vote of the landowners of Kossuth County, who voted into office three Commissioners to administer the program in the County.

It has been my privilege to be elected as a Commissioner three times. During my tenure of office I have served as Chairman for nine years.

We have had many pleasant experiences in serving as Commissioners. The cooperation from the various agencies in which we have come in contact, made much improvement in land use.

As we look over the County, we see only a beginning of the job to be done. We have 329 farm plans completed in regard to technical assistance. It is of course up to the man on the farm to put into practice the knowledge he has gained from this service.

We wish to thank all the people who so generously helped in advertising in the Soil and Water Magazine which featured Kossuth County a few months ago, and made it possible to mail a copy to every farmer in Kossuth County.

In conclusion let me say a hearty thanks to every one in the County who in any way contributed to the success of the conservation program and soil conservation on the land. Let us make 1958 better.

Yours truly,



KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION
DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY
J. C. SKOW, Chairman

KOSSUTH COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1957

ALGONA, IOWA

We usually hold our regular meeting on the fourth Thursday of the month. This year we held 12 regular meetings and one special meeting. Those who usually attend our meetings in addition to governing body members are assistant commissioners, Walter Campney and Joe Skow; Treasurer Glen Jenkinson; Extension Director Dean Barnes; and Work Unit Conservationist Lyle Riedinger. Area Conservationist Joe Colgan, Conservation Aids Sidney Johnson and Eugene Arndorfer and District Clerk Elizabeth Hoover attend a number of our meetings.

On September 8, 1957 J. C. Skow attended the Annual Conference for District Commissioners at Ames. We also attended State and District ACP and soil bank meetings.

Attendance at our Annual meeting for District Cooperators this year was about 180. Treasurer Glen Jenkinson served as Master of Ceremonies, J. C. Skow presented the awards to the three outstanding conservation farmers Burdette Hoepfner, George Olsen and Mrs. Edna Harr and Ralph Morgan. (They were 1956 winners.) Walter Campney presented the land judging award to the Swea City FFA chapter. Members of the team were Bob Kaltved, Maurice Blair, Bill Wiskus, Howard Roalson and Harlan Rippentrop. Mr. Clifford VanBerkum is the advisor. Charles Ballantyne, Extension Soil Conservationist, gave the evening address. Albert Johnson, Corwith, Walter Campney, Burt and Ernest Heidecker, Lakota, served as election officials at the election for District Commissioner. J. C. Skow was re-elected as a District Commissioner.

The Extension Service has a memorandum of understanding by which it agrees to help us carry out our Educational program. They also assisted in the soil bank program and formulation of the ACP program.

The Soil Conservation Service has provided assistance to the District by furnishing two full time men, plus help for soil surveys and engineering work from the Area Office. They have given District Cooperators assistance in the planning and applying soil conservation and drainage practices.

Tours, demonstrations, contests or general meetings dealing with soil and water conservation for adults and others were held last year are as follows:

Township ASC Committeemen	1/10/57	Sign up meeting for cost sharing.
Cooperators Meeting	1/ 7/57	Farm planning meeting at cooperators homes of Delmar Angus, George Seaberg, Burdette Hoeppner, Ernest Haldecker, C. W. Schlichting, Elmer Folkerts and Lloyd Bartlett, about 50 attending.
Cooperators Meeting	Week of 1/14/57	Same as above, movie on "Soil Conservation with regular farm Equipment" was shown to the groups, about 50 attending.
Cooperators Meeting	Week of 1/21/57	Discussed field arrangements for the advancement of conservation, drainage and efficiency in operation, met at the same homes as above, about 50 attending.
Soil Bank Meeting	1/20/57	Review the soil bank program at Estherville.
Cooperators Meeting	1/28/57	Discussed farm planning at the home of Burdette Hoeppner.
Cooperators Meeting	1/28/57	Discussed farm planning at Portland Center School.
Cooperators Meeting	2/ 4/57	Discussed soil conservation at Hebron Community Hall.
Cooperators meeting	2/ 6/57	Discussed soil conservation. Meeting held at Morris Quam's home.
Cooperators Meeting	2/ 7/57	Discussed soil conservation. Meeting held at the Legion Hall in Titonka.

Cooperators Meeting	2/11/57	Discussed soil conservation. Buffalo Center Voc. Agri. class and instructor visited the meeting held at Hebron Community Hall.
Cooperators Meeting	2/14/57	Discussed soil conservation. Meeting held at the Legion Hall in Titonka.
Cooperators Meeting	2/15/57	Discussed soil conservation. Meeting held at Grant School.
Farm Bureau Meeting	2/14/57	Discussed soil conservation. Meeting held at Legion Hall Titonka.
Ledyard Farm Bureau Meeting	2/22/57	Showed a movie on soil conservation.
Soil & Water Magazine	Month of February	Featured Kossuth County in the Soil and Water Conservation Magazine. Distributed to all Kossuth farmers and land owners.
Regional meeting	3/11/57	District Commissioners and cooperating agencies.
A.C.P. Meeting	3/18/57	Selection of practices for 1958.
Annual meeting and election	3/25/57	Annual meeting of District Cooperators and election of District Commissioner. Held at Burt with 180 attending.
Whittemore Jr. High School	4/19/57	Field trip to the Arnold Metzger farm.
Soil Stewardship Week	Week of June 16	Phamplets on Soil Stewardship Week and Selected Sermons sent to all Ministers on request.
Badge for Eagle Scout, Conservation Merit		Assistance given to David, Robert and Richard Hutchins and Buc Buchanan.
Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Contest	7/ 8/57	District Cooperators Leslie Johnson, C. W. Schlichting and T. E. Lagerstrom were selected as the three outstanding farmers.
Queen of the Furrow Contest	7/31/57	Marilyn Seiler, Algona and Darlene Callies, Titonka, were selected as Kossuth County candidates.
Fair Booth	8/14, 15 16 & 17	Kossuth County Fair.

Report on Springbrook Camp	8/22/57	Mrs. Newbrough, Burt Jr. High Teacher, reported at the regular Commissioners meeting on her summer course. She was scholarship winner of the Kossuth District.
Plowing Match & Field Day	9/22/57	Held by Armstrong FFA Chapter.
Soil Judging Tour	9/13/57	Field trip - Swea City FFA Chapter.
Soil Judging Tour	9/20/57	Field trip - Algona FFA Chapter.
Soil Judging Contest	9/25/57	Swea City, Titonka and Algona FFA Chapters participated in the contest.
Burt Farm Bureau Meeting	12/11/57	Discussed soil conservation. 30 attended.
St. Joe Meeting	12/ 2/57	Discussed soil conservation. About 25 attended.

Regular weekly news paper columns are written by the Work Unit Conservationist and the County Extension Director. These columns carry the activities of the District and the accomplishments in the District. Special news articles have been written on the annual meeting and other special events. Newspapers in the County carrying articles about soil conservation the past year were the Swea City Herald, Bancroft Register, LuVerne Tribune, Whittemore Champion, Lakota Review, Titonka Topic, Kossuth County Advance and the Algona Upper Des Moines.

During the past year the number of new Farmer-District agreements signed was 66. This brings the total to-date to 459 agreements signed.

Practices applied during the year of 1957 were as follows:

Contouring Farming - - - - -	540 Ac.
Wildlife Area Improvement- - - - -	3 Ac.
Ditch Construction - - - - -	4,187 C.Y.
Drop Inlets- - - - -	1 No.
Tile Drainage- - - - -	145,734 L.F.
Diversion Construction - - - - -	.5 Mi.
Open Drains - - - - -	5,886 C.Y.
Drainage - - - - -	328.7 Ac.
Waterway Development - - - - -	.4 Ac.
Farm Ponds - - - - -	2 No.
Basic Farm Plans - - - - -	11 No.

The Kossuth County A.S.C. has transferred to the S.C.S. 5% of the County allocation to provide assistance to ACP participants in their soil and water conservation program. During the year there were 175 farmers with 92 completing the practices. The balance were not interested in doing it this year. The 5% funds turned over to SCS has been used to pay for travel and hire additional part-time help to service ACP participants.

The District has continued the policy of having a full-time clerk paid from the State funds. During the past year there were 742 office callers and 261 phone calls.

We believe the Soil Conservation Service should furnish more help to our District for the year beginning next July 1 and ending June 30 the following year. There is an increasing interest in farm planning and soil conservation practices.

We wish to express our appreciation for the assistance and cooperation given to the District from the following Federal agencies: Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, A.S.C., and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Newspapers, civic groups and other groups have done much to spread the work of the District program.

