

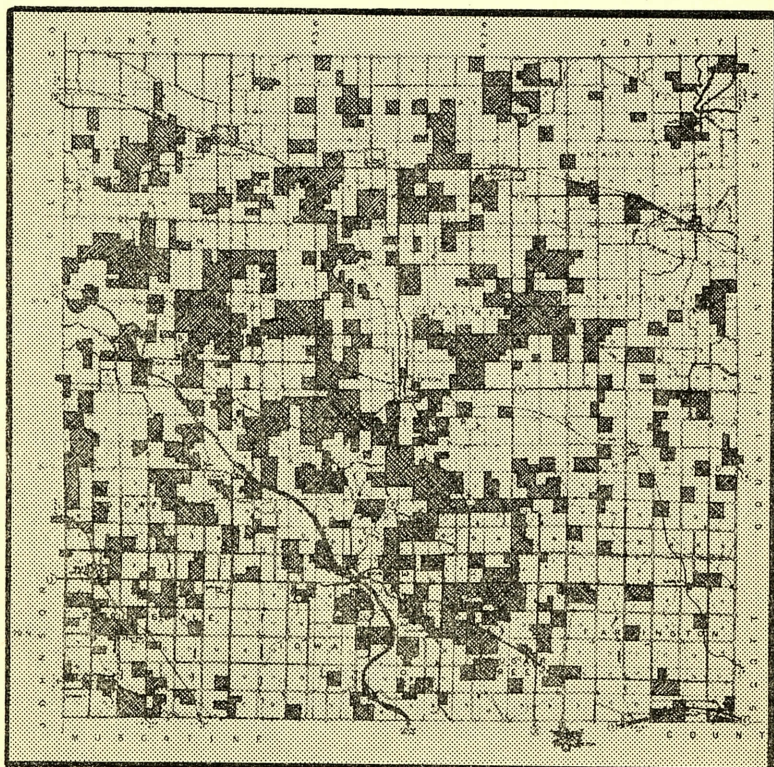
1955

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

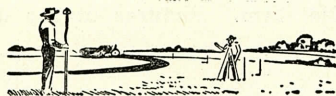
1946-1955

Commission

Cedar County Soil Conservation District



Farms which have requested assistance from the District and which have been soil mapped as of January 1, 1955.



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1955

During 1955 the District Commissioners held twelve regular meetings at the District Office in Tipton to conduct the affairs of your district.

In January, J. S. Smith represented the District at the Soil Conservation Short Course held at Iowa State College.

In February, the District held its annual meeting in the Tipton Library. Ken Wagner was the principal speaker. Coffee and doughnuts were furnished by the Cedar County Bankers' Association.

Bill Allen, agricultural representative for KSTT, met with the commissioners in April and made a recording to be used throughout the midwest by the Keystone Fence Company. Fifty pounds of Vernal alfalfa was delivered to Warren Bowstead for an experimental project.

During May the F. F. A. Soils Judging Contest was held. Geo. Kiser presented the plaque to the Tipton F. F. A. Chapter which won the contest. J. S. Smith presented prizes to the winners of the County Conservation Scrapbook Contest which was completed in May.

Herb Holdorf, student trainee from Iowa State College, reported in June for work in the District during the three summer months.

The Cedar District acted as host to the commissioners and soil conservation service personnel at a picnic at Hoover Park in West Branch on Sunday, July 31.

A twilight pasture tour was held in connection with the Extension Service at the Geo. Brown farm at Mechanicsville.

The Work Unit Conservationist attended the first statewide meeting in Iowa for soil conservation service personnel during September. Herb Holdorf who had been working in the District during the summer returned to Iowa State College.

In October, the District sponsored Dick Elijah of Clarence who entered the Area Plowing Contest in Clinton County.

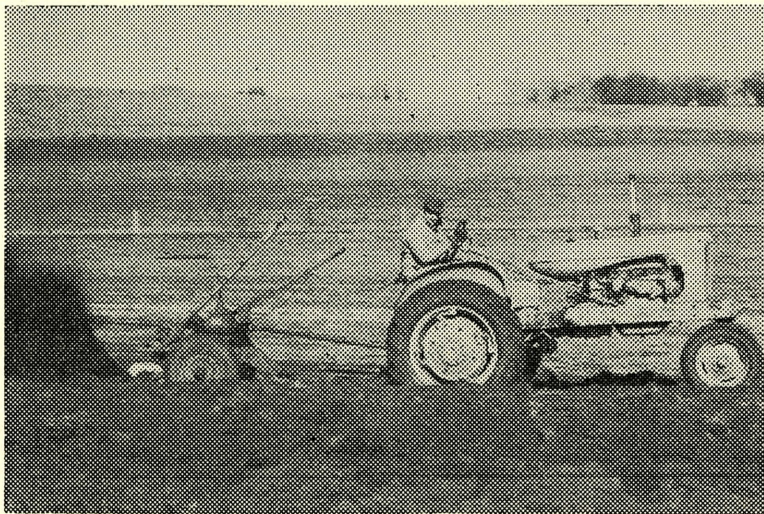
On November 3, the District held a terracing demonstration at the Marvin Mallie farm. Pictures of the demonstration are shown in this report.

The commissioners met with the County A. S. C. Committee during December to work out plans for the 1956 A. S. C. Program. They also worked out and approved goals for the 1956 calendar year.

INFORMATION PROGRAM

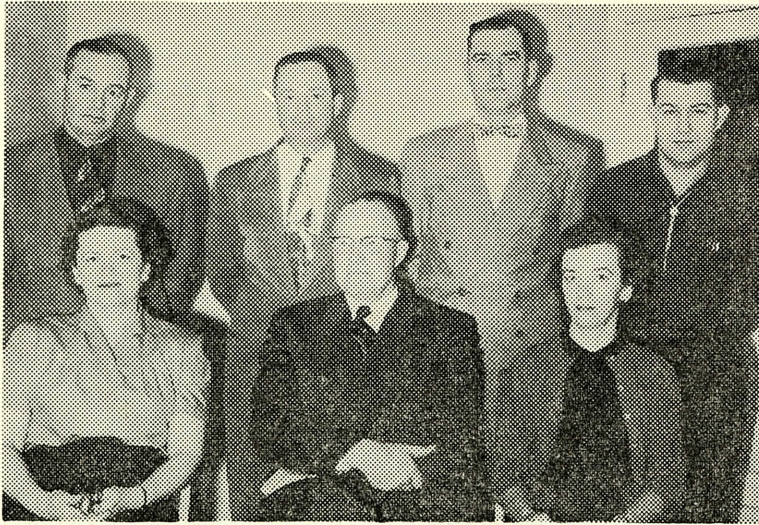
A weekly column entitled "Williams' Wanderings" was started. This is published by four weekly papers in the county and has been well accepted by the publishers. Four newsletters were sent to all district cooperators during the year.

The Cedar Rapids Gazette ran an excellent feature story on the Francis Moffit and Marvin Mallie farms during Soil Conservation Week.



—Courtesy of Cedar Rapids Gazette

Marvin Mallie building a terrace with a whirlwind terracer at the demonstration on his farm.



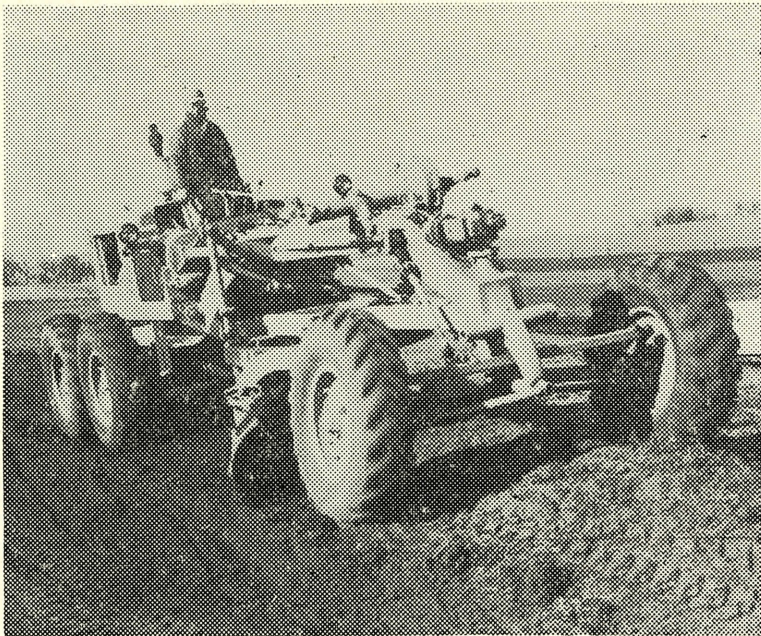
Commissioners, technicians and clerks of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District are pictured above. Seated left to right are Lucille Farnum, clerk; Geo. Kiser, chairman of the commissioners; and Kathryn Jensen, clerk. Standing are James Smith and Wm. Wertzbaugher, commissioners; Don Williams, Work Unit Conservationist; and Clarence Beyer, Conservation Aid.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

Because this is the tenth year the District has been in existence, we believe that the total accomplishments to date will be of interest, as well as those for 1955. Progress has often seemed slow, but we feel that it is significant and important to point out that the amount of conservation applied to the land has increased each year.

Accomplishment Item	1955	To Date
District cooperators	63	462
Basic conservation plans	36	265
Contour farming	3133 Acres	18869
Stripcropping	136 Acres	1244
Pasture planting	274 Acres	1294
Hederok planting	120 Rods	40220
Wildlife area improvement	13 Acres	38
Structures (Concrete)	8	13
Farm ponds	3	12
Tile drainage	303718 L.F.	1001075
Terracing	5 Miles	12
Watercourses	28 Acres	164

The District owns a whirlwind terracer which is available to the farmers in Cedar County on a rental basis of \$1.50 per hour.



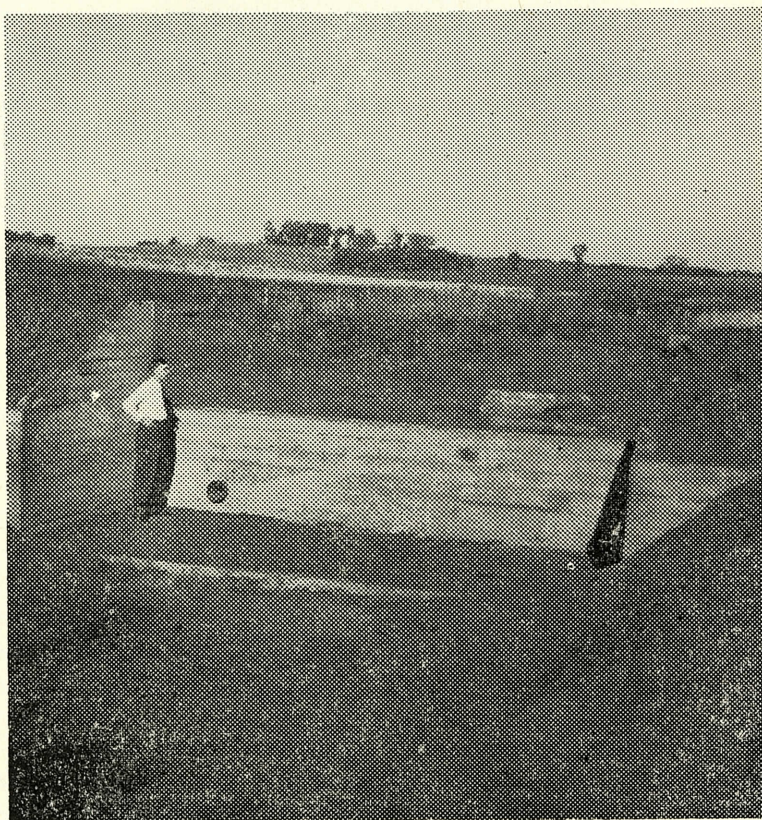
—Courtesy of Cedar Rapids Gazette

Geo. Blake, operating grader owned by Jesse Kohl of West Branch at the terracing demonstration on Marvin Mallie farm.

SUMMARY OF THE PAST TEN YEARS

- 1946 The Cedar County Soil Conservation District was organized March 11, 1946, as the sixty-sixth district in the State of Iowa. Arnold Meier, Amos Suchomel and Robert Kelly were elected commissioners. Amos Suchomel resigned because of his health and Floyd Fawcett was appointed to take his place. The district program and work plans were prepared along with Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Soil Conservation Service.
- 1947 Philip Poland reported as Work Unit Conservationist.
- 1948 Philip Poland resigned to go farming and Don Williams replaced him as Work Unit Conservationist.
- 1949 Melvin Bird reported as Conservationist Aid to help take care of the increased layout work. State funds were made available to pay commissioner's expenses and to hire additional technical and clerical assistance.

- 1950 George Kiser was elected as a commissioner for a six-year term. The District purchased a terracer from state funds to be made available to farmers on a rental basis. Wm. Wertzbaugher was appointed as commissioner to replace Floyd Fawcett who resigned because of his health.
- 1951 Jo Ann Smith was employed from state funds as a part-time clerk. The District sponsored a scrapbook contest for grades four through eight.
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—Courtesy of Davenport Democrat

Don Williams, Farm Planner, looking at a large "Wier Notch" structure built on the Darrel Brown farm.

- 1952 Jim Smith was elected as a commissioner for a six-year term. The Soil Conservation Service was made responsible for ACP layout and inspection greatly increasing the load on the technical personnel. Melvin Bird, Conservation Aid, resigned to farm. He was replaced by Clarence Beyer. M'ss Donna Wolf and Mrs. Gloria Yock worked as state clerks on part time basis.
- 1953 The District again sponsored a scrapbook contest for grades five through eight. A county-wide air tour was held for the first time; seventy-six took this tour. Lucille Farnum was employed as part time state clerk.
- 1954 Wm. Wertzbaugher was re-elected as a commissioner for a six-year term. Mrs. Kathryn Jensen was employed on a half-time basis as state clerk so that someone would be in the office at all times. A scrapbook contest and air tour were again sponsored this year.
- 1955 The summary of 1955 is contained in the main body of this report.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The State of Iowa makes available to each District limited funds to assist with district operations. Expenditures of such funds in our District during 1955 were as follows:

District Operation Expenses (1A Budget)

Contests	\$ 66.00
Commissioner's mileage	128.20
Office Supplies	104.22
Meeting expense	12.00
Material for demonstrations	29.33
(Lath for staking tile)	
Office expense	45.77
Publicity	7.50
Total Expenditures	\$393.02

Clerical and technical assistance (2A Budget)

Clerical	1948.10
Technical	70.14
Technical travel expense	4.62
Total expenditures	2022.86



—Courtesy of Davenport Democrat

Don Williams, Farm Planner, inspects a concrete structure used for watering livestock on the Anders Mather farm.

COOPERATING GROUPS

As in previous years, technical assistance was provided to the District through cooperation of the U. S. D. A. Soil Conservation Service. Don Williams and Clarence Beyer continued in their assignments with the District.

Through funds made available to the District by the State of Iowa, Mrs. Lucille Farnum and Mrs. Kay Jensen have each been employed on a half-time basis as district clerks. Robert Kelly of Clarence and Robert Wertzbaugher of Atalissa have worked as technical assistants, both on a part time basis.

The Iowa State College Extension Service through Howard Hamilton, County Extension Director, provided assistance with the educational work in soil conservation.

The Cedar County A. S. C. Committee cooperated closely through administration of the ACP Federal Cost Sharing Program.

The F. F. A. Chapters in the county, through the guidance of their Voc. Ag. teachers, have also worked with the District.

To the above groups, and to all others who have assisted in the conservation program, we wish to express our appreciation.

A LOOK AT 1956

As we look ahead to 1956, the picture is somewhat clouded by the uncertainties of farm prices and income, possible new farm programs, and—as always—uncertain weather.

However, there are some things of which we can be sure. The critical soil moisture problem makes it imperative that we underline WATER when we think of "Soil and Water Conservation" and do everything we can to retain the moisture that is made available to us. It is an established fact that the use of contour tillage operations, perhaps in connection with strip-cropping or terraces, will go far toward reducing runoff and, of course, retain rainfall for use by the growing crops.

Also as we are faced with the urgent necessity for increasing efficiency and reducing cost of production; it is well for us to remember that one of the main "hidden" costs in crop production is the loss of plant food nutrients and organic matter by soil erosion. The waste of these resources with the expectation of replacing them by use of commercial fertilizers is a luxury that we cannot afford. It is important to remember that in soil fertility "a penny saved is a penny earned." Lowered farm income may cause the postponement of the installation of more costly conservation measures, however, it is a simple fact that any farmer can apply such things as contouring, strip-cropping, terraces, etc. WITH LITTLE OR NO CASH COST. (But don't forget to keep in mind that the Federal Cost-Share under 1956 ACP Program has been increased appreciably for many practices.)

Perhaps this is the year that we should re-examine our farming operations and adopt those practices which have been postponed too long.

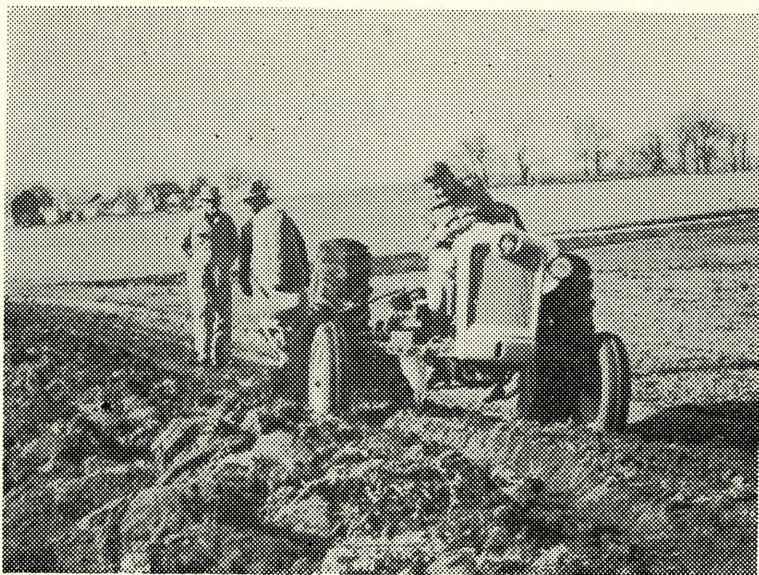
The NEED was never greater!

Your District Commissioners,

GEO. R. KISER, Chairman

JAMES SMITH

WM. W. WERTZBAUGHER



—Courtesy of Cedar Rapids Gazette

Clarence Beyer, Soil Conservation Aid, demonstrating the use of a disc plow for building terraces at a demonstration on Marvin Mallie farm.

