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INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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LEAVES LOCAL POST THIS WEEK —

Honor McCarty for Soil District Achievements

Chas. McCarty completes duties this week as District Conservationist for Hardin county and he leaves behind a five-year record of new program achievements and overall district accomplishments.

Hardin County Soil Conservation Commissioners and members of the office staff honored McCarty at a farewell banquet Wednesday night at Blanche and Ethel's Tea Room, Eldora. During the program District Chairman Carroll Hobson of Eldora presented McCarty a plaque, engraved with the following tribute: "Presented to Charles A. McCarty for exceptional initiative, achievement and devotion to service in the Hardin County Conservation District. By the Commissioners, 1-18-1965 to 11-16-1969."

"The District Commissioners regret losing a man of Chuck's capabilities, but we are extremely pleased with his promotion and wish him the very best. He has proven a fine friend of Hardin county and has achieved extraordinary results during his five years here," Hobson commented.

In addition to Hobson, other district commissioners are Caleb Knutson of Radcliffe and Kermit Whitehead of New Providence and assistant commissioners are Paul Primus of Steamboat Rock and Lawrence "Ted" Cutler of New Providence. Local

soil conservation staff members are Dean Miller, conservation technician; Joe Shore, state conservation aide; Diane Neubauer, district clerk; and Earl Griffith, soil conservationist. The latter also completes his duties here this week.

McCarty begins duties Monday as Chairman of the state's first Resource Conservation and Development Project. He

McCarty —

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CHAS. MCCARTY COMPLETES 5 YEARS IN ELDORA.

tential resource planning, 87 group construction plans prepared, 13 groups assisted and 72 services to groups.

PL WATERSHED PROJECT

The best known single conservation achievement during McCarty's five years is the Pine Lake Watershed Project, which has attracted more than 100 touring groups from throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, Argentina and New Zealand. An estimated 2,500 persons from the National Soil Conservation Society of America toured here in August, 1967.

Initiated in March, 1965, the PL project pioneered the new program conception: conservation as it relates to total environmental living. The first special ACP project in the state of Iowa involved complete land treatment in a sub-water shed within the PL watershed.

The Pine Lake Watershed Project requires planning and implementation of all erosion control practices necessary to protect Upper and Lower Pine Lakes as a recreational facility for residents throughout central Iowa. Although substantially completed in 1968, the project is still undergoing further development.

Involved are approximately 10,000 acres of land, and conservation work has included terracing, waterways, tree planting, tiling and planting of permanent vegetation in critical areas. The Hardin County Soil Conservation Service provided the coordination, planning and technical services for the project. The local district was successful in obtaining state and federal funds which paid approximately 80 percent of the land development cost for the conservation work.

Representatives from all federal and state agencies were invited to attend a special Pine Lake Watershed Appreciation Day and Fish Fry at the Pine Lake Wildlife Club on February 6, 1968. Purpose of the event was to illustrate the success of the watershed project. Over 200 persons attended.

In February, 1967, an Agricultural Research Service station was established in the watershed area to study benefits to the farmer and society from upland soil treatment. This provides a continuing study and evaluation of the project. A 30-minute movie, filmed by Iowa State University personnel, was produced here during the summer of 1968. It explained the history and facilities of Pine Lake and advantages derived from the watershed project.

McCarty's first project was completion of the 10-acre lake at the Iowa River Conservation and Improvement Club near Steamboat Rock. The local soil conservation service provided engineering and planning and supervised construction of the lake. A sink hole, resulting from the fracture of lime rock at the base of lake, developed in the summer of 1967, resulting in loss of water. It has since sealed itself off and the lake was filled to capacity in 1969.

PLAN LAKE AT UNION

Two watershed projects that will require man-made lakes were approved for planning by

the State Soil Conservation Committee this summer. They are the Union watershed, with the lake to be situated in the South Hardin Recreation Area northwest of town, and the Honeycomb Watershed southwest of Iowa Falls. The soil conservation service was involved in development, organization and submitting of applications for the projects, which now await state funding for final planning and actual construction.

The local district has developed a total of 93 plant material plots, ranging in size from one-fourth acre to 15 acres, since 1966. Purpose of this program is to determine the adaptability of new type trees, shrubs, grasses, and legumes in the county. The plants can be obtained from the federal government on an experimental basis to study results and inventory potential. In this manner, brome grass and Reed's canary grass have previously been determined adaptable to the area.

The district is presently experimenting with a seeding mixture designed to re-establish native prairie in one of the county park areas. The park, still to be selected, would be used as an outdoor classroom to show children native vegetation. An additional 30 plant material plots are planned for Hardin county in 1970.

The conservation service also provides the Hardin County Conservation Board with technical assistance in identifying plants, trees and grasses along walkways in county parks. These are likewise used as outdoor classrooms.

STATE FIELD DAYS

The Hardin Soil Conservation District was responsible for correlation of the activities held in conjunction with the State Field Days and Plowing Matches, held in PL Watershed area during the summer of 1968. The two-day program included the State Soil Conservation Queen Contest, won by Miss Dennise Huston of Union, the plowing matches, varied industry tents, minimum tillage demonstrations, field crop variety plots, insect and herbicide test plots and helicopter rides over the area.

The local district was recently instrumental in procuring \$50,000 in flood restoration funds through the ASCS to repair damage resulting from the heavy June rains. These funds will go directly to the farmer, to be used in repair of conservation practices and fences, removal of debris and improvement of crop land damage. The office is now in charge of the technical aspect of the restoration work.

The conservation office has also encouraged farmers to develop timber plots through planting of pine trees for future Christmas tree sales. There are presently eight growers throughout the county.

CONDUCT INVENTORIES

In the area of total human resource development, the Hardin District has completed or is planning six inventories of county-wide facilities and potential.

The first inventory, completed in December, 1966, showed the potential for outdoor recreational development throughout the county and was conducted in co-

operation with several governmental agencies. The study showed where individuals could establish profitable operations in the areas of recreation. The findings were published and distributed to interested persons.

In March, 1968, the facilities and potential of all Hardin County Conservation Board parks were inventoried. Purpose was to determine conservation needs in the area, illustrate facilities available to the public and determine future park needs. Close to 4,000 copies of the findings were published and distributed.

In February, 1968, the district published an inventory of municipal recreational facilities available in the towns and cities of the county. The Pine Lake Wildlife Club defrayed the expense of printing 4,000 copies of the findings. An inventory of farm houses available for non-farm occupancy has also been completed.

At the present time, an inventory is being conducted of all organizations functioning in Hardin county. This study will explain the benefits expected from each and will show the overlapping goals and responsibilities of the organizations. Findings will be available next year.

The district is also presently involved in inventorying existing private recreational facilities in Hardin county. This study is expected to be completed in February or March, 1970.

The Hardin Soil District was recently selected as the No. 1 district in the state of Iowa, an award previously won here in 1963. One of the commissioners, Caleb Knutson of Radcliffe, will receive the award while a guest at the Goodyear Ranch in Arizona next month. The award is sponsored through the Goodyear Conservation Award Program.

STATE AWARD WINNERS

Earlier this fall, the Raymond McDowell family of rural Eldora was named winner of the 1969 State Conservation Farm Family Award. They will be honored during a recognition banquet Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Mary's Parish Center.

Last year, Milton Jordening of rural Eldora was named regional sweepstakes winner for his conservation program. Also, in 1968, Paul Primus of Steamboat Rock received the Wallace's Farmer Outstanding Commissioner Award, a state-wide honor. This year, Kermit Whitehead was named regional winner and received state recognition for his Commissioner efforts.

The Hardin district has also been active in distribution of conservation booklets and brochures to school children and church organizations throughout the county, has joined in sponsoring numerous workshops and training programs of county-wide interest and has entertained foreign nationals from Nigeria and South America. In late January, 1970, the soil district will cooperate with the Hardin County Extension Service in sponsoring a minimum tillage short course. A land use planning survey, in cooperation with municipalities and industrial development boards, is also planned early next year.

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will live in Centerville and serve a four-county unit.

Long recognized as one of the state's strongest soil conservation districts, Hardin county has enjoyed outstanding leadership since being organized in 1944. Dale Shadle headed the office from 1945-1951, Wayne Fisher from 1951-1953, Ross Brown from 1953-1958 and Cal Moore from 1958-1965. And during McCarty's five years, additional acclaim has come to the local program.

In recognition of his local efforts, McCarty was asked to give a paper on the program of the Hardin district in water development during the National Convention of the Soil Conservation Society of America, held in Des Moines during August, 1967.

Although the district has grown considerably in soil conservation programs, the most noted accomplishments during McCarty's five years have been in a relatively new area for the soil conservation service: development of all human and natural resources within the district. As it implies, this requires a cooperative effort between both rural and urban leaders and organizations in the county.

This total resource development will be McCarty's primary goal in his new position as Coordinator of the Centerville area Resource Conservation and Development Project.

A quick review of major soil program achievements of the past four years shows 290 new district cooperators, including an additional 128 in 1968-1969. Also, contouring practices on 5,952 acres, 589 new structures for water control, 837,543 feet of tile drainage, over 35 acres of tree planting, 4 farm ponds, 249,206 feet of grass backslope terraces with conduit outlets, 16,685 feet of diversion, and 164 new conservation farm plans.

The district's recent involvement in total resource planning is illustrated in the 1968-1969 report, which shows 30 units for po-