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ANNUAL REPORT
CEDAR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
Tipton, Iowa

The Cedar County Farm Bureau stressed Soil Conservation in its 1945 educational program and took action in 1946 to organize a Soil Conservation District within the County. Petitions for a hearing on the need for a District were circulated in January 1946. The hearing, on the need for a District held early in February of 1946, was favorable and a referendum was granted by the State Committee, to be held in March. The results of the referendum was favorable with 92% of the votes cast in favor of the District. There were 354 votes cast.

Credit should be given to the local AAA for assistance given in the formation of the District by assisting in circulating the petitions. Shortly after the referendum, Commissioners requested assistance of the Soil Conservation Service to assist in developing the District Program and Work Plan.

Harlon H. Backhaus was assigned as District Conservationist to assist the Commissioners. Technical assistance has been granted and a Farm Planner is expected shortly after the 1st of the year.

The District program and Work Plans were prepared and forwarded for concurrence along with memorandums of understanding. The Supplemental Memorandum of Understanding between the District and Soil Conservation was signed September 20, 1946. Thus making the District eligible for technical assistance along with other possible available services from the Soil Conservation Service. The attitude of the farmers, business men and press etc. is very favorable and have given their wholehearted support in carrying on activities to date.

An educational program has been conducted throughout the County in conjunction with the Township Farm Bureau meetings. Special interest meetings have been held for interested groups in preparation for Farm Planning. The Extension Service has given outstanding assistance in leadership of the educational program.

The County Superintendent of Schools has taken a part in the program by planning Soil Conservation as a course of study in the local rural schools. Commissioners and County Agriculture Extension Director conducted class room and/or field discussions with demonstrations for all High School students in the County in spring of 1946.

The Commissioners are intensively interested in the nutritional value of crops raised and urge the furtherance of research work along this line. The Commissioners along with local High School students have started a project to test the quality of crops grown on good vs. poor land.

In 1946, contouring was practiced on 1700 acres representing 49 farms. Two combination, clean plowing and contour plowing demonstrations were held in 1946 with approximately 350 in attendance. Forty-six (46) applications have been received and approved by the Commissioners. Conservation Surveys have been completed on 6500 acres.

Ideal cooperation has been received from all agricultural agencies in the County and plans are being laid for their continuance in 1947. Thus the District is looking forward to obtaining the maximum in Soil Conservation activities during calendar year 1947.

Cedar County Soil Conservation District Commissioners

/s/ Arnold L. Meier
Arnold L. Meier, Chairman