

Centerville, Iowa 444.6

1944 ANNUAL REPORT
BY DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS OF THE AUG 7 1964
APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

It might not be out of place to mention briefly a few things that led up to the organization of a Soils District in Appanoose County.

An extensive liming program was developed early in Appanoose County which encouraged production of a large acreage of legumes. The businessmen of Centerville and the County Farm Bureau had sponsored annual Alfalfa Contests and Banquets for 17 consecutive years. Appanoose County became known all over southern Iowa for its extensive liming program and its interest in Alfalfa and other legumes.

A County Soils Committee, a 4-H county Soils Program, and the CCC Camp deserve special mention for interest in erosion control on many individual farms and the early use of phosphate fertilizer for demonstrational purposes.

A strong educational program in good land use has been carried on in the county by the Extension Department of Ames, Iowa, and the Appanoose County Farm Bureau.

Through the above educational program information on erosion control, contouring, pasture improvement, best use of fertilizers, seed production and legumes has been available to many farmers but practiced only on individual farms.

The AAA has made it possible to carry out many of these practices by providing financial assistance to cooperating farmers.

All of the above factors contributed to making Appanoose County farmers conservation minded. Individual farmers worked on their own farms without regard to similar problems on adjoining farms. There was little coordination of effort in conservation practices.

In 1943 the possibility of organizing a Soils District resulted in the appointment of a special committee at the February meeting of the Appanoose County Farm Bureau Board. Peter Sidles, Jerome, Iowa; H. E. Glick, Moravia, Iowa, and R. E. Bear, Centerville, Iowa, were chosen to investigate the advisability of organizing a Soils District.

A favorable report was made by this committee on March 2nd but the committee felt that additional information was needed.

On April 6, 1943, a meeting of 32 representative farmers from the county was held. L. E. Clapp, Extension Soil Conservationist, Ames, Iowa, and Dick Wilcox, Farm Planner, Ottumwa, Iowa, gave a brief history on soil conservation districts in the state and outlined the necessary steps to organize such a district. Advantages and disadvantages were discussed in detail after which the group voted unanimously to give support to the organization of a district at once.

Petitions were distributed to be signed by at least 20 percent of the farmers in the county and by January 28, 1944 sufficient petitions were signed to qualify.

On February 14, 1944 a hearing was held in Centerville by the State Soil Conservation Committee. The sentiment seemed to favor a district and there was sufficient interest to justify the calling of a referendum on the 11th day of March 1944.

Results of the referendum showed 84.3 percent of the votes cast in favor of a soils district. Thus Appanoose County became the 36th Soils District in Iowa. Commissioners elected at the same time were as follows:

L. B. Monroe, Exline - 6 year term - 171 votes
Paul Strickler, Centerville, 4 year term - 134 votes
R. C. Wilson, Moravia - 2 year term - 117 votes

On March 17th the newly elected commissioners met with Frank Mendell, State Conservationist; Parks Forster, District Conservationist; and Clark Huntley, Member of State Conservation Committee. Wilson was elected president, Glen Birlingmair secretary, and request was made to the state committee and extension service for cooperation. Plans were also made to hold a meeting of representative farmers on March 23.

Thirty farmers attended this meeting from twelve townships in the county. In opening the meeting Wilson stated that the commissioners had called the group together to request them to outline what activities should be undertaken by the Soils District during 1944.

Four activities were chosen for immediate consideration as follows:

1. Contouring
2. Pasture Improvement
3. Best use of fertilizers
4. Legume and grass seed production

Many items other than the above were mentioned but it was decided to spend most of the effort of the district on the above during the summer after which groups of 10 to 12 farmers would work together in preparing farm plans.

Following the meeting the commissioners prepared a "Program of Work" and "Work Plan" for the district with the assistance of the district conservationist and county extension director. This program and work plan were adopted at a meeting held on March 29th. Also, Memoranda of Understanding between the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District and Soil Conservation Services was discussed and authorized.

The following groups of farmers were approved by the district commissioners as indicated below during the balance of the year:

GROUP #1 - LINCOLN TOWNSHIP - April 26, 1944

W. R. Hefner
K. E. Owen
Merle Loofbourrow
Joe Beer

GROUP #1 - LINCOLN TOWNSHIP - Con't.

David Newell
John R. Hickie
M. C. Wailes
H. L. Stark
Paul McElvain
Pete Sidles
John Cleaver
G. G. Clark

GROUP #2 - LINCOLN TOWNSHIP - July 27, 1944

George Sidles
F. M. McCabe
Raymond C. Osenbaugh
Van Pugh
M. E. Followwill
Maxwell Barkley
A. S. Gillespie
H. M. Hibbs
Edw. Inman
Gale S. Murphy
Don L. Wells
L. J. Norris

GROUP #3 - FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP - August 31, 1944

Guy McCannon
Claud Lowe
Fred Langford
Jimmie Hibbs
C. D. Harvey
Paul Condra
John Pindley
L. R. Teater
Sherman Ervin
Connie Klinkenbeard
Paul Staley

GROUP #4 - INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP - September 28, 1944

Everett L. Morlan
Glenn Massman
J. W. Kridlebaugh
Wm. Elam
Wm. Martin
Robert O. DeVore
M. M. Teater
T. C. Young
L. F. Lemley
S. C. Guernsey

GROUP #4 - INDEPENDENCE TOWNSHIP - Con't.

J. N. Vader
Arlo Fenton

GROUP #5 - WELLS TOWNSHIP - November 30, 1944

Jesse M. Adams
W. A. Hutchinson
Glenn Appler
Harry H. McDonald
Hardin Guinn
Hermas Swarts
Russell Morrow
Harold W. Davis
Roland Yates
Geo. F. Davis
L. G. Clinkenbeard
Tom Kirby

Other developments during the year which should be mentioned included the approval of Memorandum of Understanding between the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District and the Iowa Agricultural Extension Service on April 26, 1944. The employment of Everett Pownall on May 15th as Farm Planner. The Standard Farmer-District Cooperative Agreement was also approved on April 26, 1944.

Appointment of Assistant Commissioners was first discussed on May 22, tentative list made on July 27th, and final approval given to the following on August 31st:

Bellair - Harry O. Powers
Caldwell - O. H. Johnson
Chariton - Ira P. Boyer
Douglas - George Scott
Franklin - Don Shearer
Independence - S. K. Young
Johns - E. M. Knapp
Lincoln - Peter Sidles
Pleasant - Art Streepy
Sharon - Lester Murdy
Taylor - Earl Boyer
Udell - J. W. Tarrence
Union - Frederick Koehler
Vermillion - Leo Bowdish
Walnut - Earl Tait
Washington - Fae Gale
Wells - Geo. F. Davis

Cooperation of the District in proposed grazing plots to determine gain of livestock on different pasture mixtures was first discussed on May 22nd.

The first meeting of the first group to discuss farm planning was held on Wednesday evening, July 19, at the Jerome School, with Everett Pownall, Farm

Planner, Centerville; Harold Anderson, Farm Planner, Albia; and Glen Birlingmair, County Extension Director. Plans were made to hold 3 or 4 meetings with each group following a first interest meeting.

The commissioners requested district conservationist to secure 180 pounds of certified bromegrass seed for distribution by the district to farmers in the county. Commissioners also agreed to help place balance of reed canary grass seed produced on the R. E. Bear farm to farmers in the county.

GRAZING TEST

Arrangements were made at the September meeting to establish a pasture grazing test plot on the H. E. Vinzant farm 5 miles northwest of Centerville, in cooperation with the Farm Bureau, Association of Commerce and Extension Service of Iowa State College.

An area of about 19 acres was selected. Two tons of limestone was added, land was plowed, two more tons of limestone and 300 pounds of 20 percent super phosphate were applied and the entire area seeded to Balbo Rye. Plans were also made to fence four separate areas, supply water to each and seed a different grass mixture on each in the spring of 1945.

A meeting of Commissioners and assistant Commissioners was held on October 30th with Maurice Heath present to discuss a group of soil slides on pasture grasses and legumes.

Thus, at the end of it's first ten months of operation, the Appanoose County Soil Conservation District was well started on it's was to be of service to farmers in the area. Much good will had been secured through the work of the Farm Planner and the Commissioners feel that much more can be accomplished in the year ahead.

/s/ R. C. Wilson
Chairman, District Governing Body

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

DISTRICT Appanoose County Centerville, Iowa
 (Name) (Supervisor's Headquarters) (State)
Jan. 1 44 Dec. 31 44
 Period _____, 19__ to _____, 19__

ACTIVITY		This Period	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	0	0
	Attendance	0	0
Tours	Number	2	2
	Attendance	14	14
Demonstrations	Number	2	2
	Attendance	20	20
Training School Meetings	Number	0	0
	Attendance	0	0
Exhibits	Number	2	
Radio Talks	Number	0	
News Articles	Number	18	
Commissioners Meetings	Number	7	