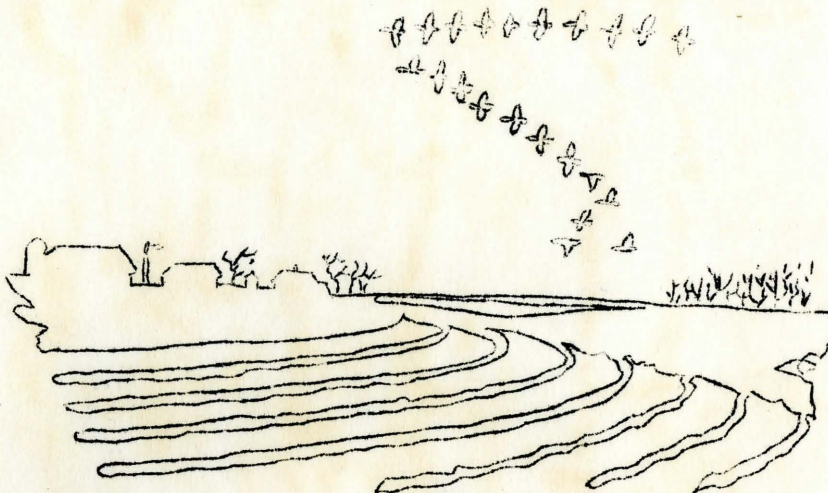




19th
ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 1963

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
TO THE
PEOPLE OF DAVIS COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

Clay C. Barnett, Chairman
Harold C. Baughman, Commissioner
Sam Botts, Jr., Commissioner

Lionel Herteen, Secretary and Assistant Commissioner
Dale Blackwell, Treasurer and Assistant Commissioner
Charles Chickering, Assistant Commissioner
Pearl Spilman, Assistant Commissioner

SCS PERSONNEL

Verle M. Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist
Eugene Francis, Conservation Technician
Larry Harper, Conservation Aid, Part-time (Jan.1-June 1963)
Teddy Dixon, Conservation Aid, Part-time (March 1 - Present)
Lorretta Augspurger, State Clerk (January 1 - April 1)
Christine Botts, State Clerk (April 8 - Present)

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LOOKING AHEAD, 1964



FOREWARD

1963 has been a good year for Davis Soil Conservation District.

All crops, except hay and pasture, were above average. The ideal harvest weather for both hay and grain was greatly appreciated by the farmers.

No serious insect damage, nor were we bothered by extremely high temperatures.

The application of Conservation Practices were carried on at the usual steady pace. Accomplishments were good.

The usual outstanding cooperation between agencies assisting the District Commissioners continues. The support by the local press was excellent.

Getting the first contract let on four structures in the Big Wyacondah Watershed, was quite an achievement for us.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

In 1963, we held 12 regular meetings and 8 special meetings to carry on the work of the District.

Commissioners Clay Barnett, Harold Baughman and Sam Botts, Jr. and their wives attended the NASCD Annual Meeting in Denver, Colorado in February of 1963.

Commissioner Sam Botts, Jr. and Assistant Commissioner Lionel Herteen attended the annual Short Course at Ames the first week of January 1963.

On March 25, 1963 the Davis County Board of Supervisors signed an agreement with the Davis County Soil District Commissioners to levy a $\frac{1}{4}$ mill when needed for the maintenance of watersheds constructed in Davis County. This gave the final "go-ahead" needed for construction of the Big Wyacondah Watershed and before 1963 ended, a contract was given for the first construction work.

Harold Baughman represented the district at the Regional SCD meeting in Fairfield which was held in March.

April 30th the Davis County Commissioners Baughman, Botts and Barnett, and Verle Arnold, WUC, met in Centerville with Appanoose County Commissioners where the decision was made for each district to submit petitions for watershed assistance in the Carter Creek Watershed area. The Carter Creek application was approved by our district commissioners at the regular May meeting and sent to the State Committee for examination.

On June 25, 1963 the Davis County SCD Commissioners sponsored serving the evening meal at the Field Day Program of the Southeast Iowa Experimental Farm. The food was prepared by our wives and served by the girls 4-H county officers.

Commissioners Activities - Page 2

At the special meeting with farmer representatives of North Wyacondah Watershed area on May 23, 1963, information was assembled for watershed assistance in the area. Charles Harsch and Vaughn Baughman were present as farmer representatives. The District Commissioners approved the application and it was mailed to the State Committee for their review and recommendation.

On July 26, 1963 the State Watershed Advisory Board of the State Committee along with Commissioners from Appanoose, Davis and Van Buren counties and farmer representatives in the Carter Creek and North Wyacondah areas were taken on tours of the two watershed areas. At noon, dinner was served to the 39 men that toured with the group. On July 31, 1963, both Carter Creek and North Wyacondah Watershed areas were approved for planning by the State Committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Botts, Jr. attended the annual Conference for Soil Conservation Commissioners in Des Moines, September 8 and 9.

Our annual cooperator banquet was held November 13, 1963 at the Christian Church in Bloomfield with 160 present. Joe Phillips, Extension Agronomist, presented a challenging talk on pasture improvement. Special recognition was given to Robert Norberg, local editor, for the publicity help he has given the district; and to farmer-cooperators Roy Stookesberry, Jacob and Eddie Birchmier, and Mrs. Paul Wilcox. The Register and Tribune awards were presented to the winners at this meeting, too.

The December meeting of SCD Commissioners was held December 23, to complete the work for 1963 and make plans for 1964. We agreed to again

Commissioners Activities - Page 3

pay our annual dues to the National Association and State Association.

At this meeting we completed our Goodyear Contest Entry for the 1963 contest which will be judged in February 1964.

SPECIAL AWARDS

SPEECH CONTEST -- 1963

The Davis County Soil Conservation District sponsored a speech contest at the local high school May 15, 1963. Mr. Ted Kappas, speech teacher, supervised the contest with seven contestants speaking on the subject "How Soil and Water Conservation Affects my Future". The winners were Sharon Newell, first; Donald Rysdam, second; and Paul Wray, third. The district furnished prizes of \$10, \$7.50, and \$5. to the winners. The other contestants that entered the contest were Linda Harris Hayes, Kenneth Sidwell, Donna Taylor, and Leonard Camp. Judges for the contest were Mrs. Lyle Baer, Mr. Walter Morrison and Mr. Clay C. Barnett. Miss Newell was in regional competition at Washington, Iowa on June 8.

DES MOINES REGISTER AND TRIBUNE
CONSERVATION AWARDS PROGRAM

On July 29, 1963 Commissioners Sam Botts, Jr. and Harold Baughman and Work Unit Conservationist Verle M. Arnold, toured the county to choose the Register and Tribune farmer-cooperator winners in Davis County. The winners chosen were:

- Division I - Raymond Howard, Route 9, Bloomfield
- Division II - Don Walley, Route 4, Bloomfield (Operator)
Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Christy, 312 North Marion St., Ottumwa (Owner)
- Division III - Marion Roberts, Route 7, Bloomfield

Special Awards - Page 2

The Division II and Division III winners, were winners again in the regional level. They were presented the regional awards at the Sigourney annual cooperators Banquet held on November 14, 1963.

QUEEN OF CONSERVATION

The Queen of Conservation Contest was held at the Drakesville Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion Thursday evening, August 1, 1963 at 8 PM. There were 4 contestants: Sharon Newell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Newell; Georgia Wilty, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Wilty; Donna Rudd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Rudd; Vicky Lynn Hershey, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Weldon Hershey. Sharon Newell was chosen queen and Georgia Wilty was chosen runner-up. These two girls entered regional competition in Fairfield, August 14, 1963.

CHANGE IN PERSONNEL

As a student in Bloomfield High School, Loretta Jarvis took her office training in our Soil Conservation Office during a 6-weeks period in April and May 1954. In August 1954, she started working as the State Clerk full time. She was employed in our office from August 1954 until April 1, 1963. During this period of years, she changed her name to Mrs. Ted Augspurger in April 1957 and her daughter, LuAnn, was born in April 1961. Loretta is now County Clerk next door--in the Farmers Home Administration Office, so we still keep in contact with her.

Change in Personnel - Page 2

Christine Botts replaced Loretta as State Clerk in April 1963 and still is serving in that capacity.

Larry Harper started working part-time as a Conservation Aid for the Soil Conservation Service in March 1956 and continued working part-time (during the busy lay-out season each year) until he resigned here June 8, 1963 to work full time with the Memphis, Missouri Soil Conservation Service.

PRECIPITATION 1963
(Prepared from Mrs. Verle Arnold's record)

While rainfall was low for the year, it came at intervals just prior to crop damage by drought. Another advantage was our high sub-soil moisture content at the beginning of the growing season.

Highest temperature on August 2, 1963 -- 101 degrees
Lowest temperature on January 23, 1963 -- -21 degrees
Last freeze in spring -- May 1, 1963
First freeze in fall -- October 28, 1963

Rainfall amounts by months

January	.50 inches
February	.54 inches
March	3.83 inches
April	2.54 inches
May	2.85 inches
June	.83 inches
July	4.06 inches
August	3.21 inches
September	3.04 inches
October	.92 inches
November	2.50 inches
December	.42 inches

Total precipitation 25.24 inches in 1963
Total precipitation 30.09 inches in 1962

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>FISCAL YEAR</u> <u>1963</u>	<u>accomplished</u> <u>to date</u>
New Cooperators	Number	73	883
Basic Plan Developed	Number	42	547
Basic Plans Revised	Number	10	
Cons. Cropping Systems	Acres	4200	63,837
Brush Clearing (Pasture)	Acres	201	3316
Diversions	L. F.	26395	651,295
Farm Ponds	Number	48	1354
Fish Pond Stocking	Number	30	913
Erosion Control Structure	Number	18	139
Grass Waterways	Acres	80	1009
Land Clearing for Cropland	Acres	141	1001
Mains & Laterals (Drainage)	L. F.	20596	189,445
Pasture Renovation	Acres	460	15,414
Surface Field Ditches	L. F.	17945	378,385
Terraces, Graded	L. F.	63334	2,700,597
Terraces, Parallel	L. F.	27440	92,210
Tile	L. F.	37960	74,871
Tree Planting	Acres	35	209
Soil Mapping	Acres	14820	202,227

FORESTRY SECTION
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Bruce E. Plum, District Forester

More people planted trees in Davis Soil Conservation District in 1963 than any previous year. Eleven plantings were made. Some of these were additions to existing plantations and some new plantings were established. Those establishing new plantings were: Leo Leonard, Vernetta Bride, R. C. Hockersmith, Roy Stookesberry, Raymond Curtis and Teddy Dixon.

The total number of trees planted was 34,500. This number was exceeded in only one other year. That was in 1959. The species planted were: white pine, red pine, Austrian pine, Scotch pine, Norway spruce, jack pine and Virginia pine. White pine was by far the most popular with about 12,000 planted.

More acres of timberstand improvement was accomplished in Davis County than any other county in Southeast Iowa. Forty-one acres were improved to increase the rate of growth on high quality trees.

There were twenty-nine requests for forestry assistance during 1963. Two management plans were drawn up on 150 acres of timber. One hundred thirty acres was placed under intensive fire protection thru established fire breaks. The fire breaks were built with a disc. They are established to stop the spread of any fire that might occur in or near timberland and plantations.

The Bloomfield Chapter Future Farmers of America built a tree planting machine for use in Davis Soil Conservation District. The planter

was built from scrap parts. Packing wheels was an item that proved hard to find in the scrap pile. The Davis Soil Conservation District came to the rescue and purchased the packing wheels for the FFA boys. The new machine worked as well as commercially built machines. The tree planter got its first work out on the Vernetta Bride farm and Ted Dixon's farm. It is standing by for a big year in 1964.

The county has a new industry in Davis County with the first sales of Christmas trees. Some were sold in the last two years from the tree-farms of Dr. R. E. Rasmussen and Norman Hansen.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

During the year 1963, 1358 office callers came into the office for help with their farming operations in connection with lay-out of terraces, waterways, ponds, erosion control structures and farm planning. There were 964 telephone calls during the year of 1963.

Farmers in Davis County ordered catfish for 21 ponds, bass only for 6 ponds, and bass and bluegills for 12 ponds during 1963.

BIG WYACONDAH WATERSHED

The signing of the $\frac{1}{4}$ mill levy for maintenance of all watershed projects in Davis County by the County Board of Supervisors was the start which got the watershed construction work going in 1963. This was the first big step towards construction.

On June 28, 1963 at a special meeting in the Soil Conservation Office, a project agreement for Part II of the Big Wyacondah Watershed and an Operations and Maintenance Agreement for this watershed were signed jointly with the members of the Davis County Board of Supervisors and the Davis County Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Mr. William Ludwig, State Contracting Officer, was present to explain these two agreements.

October 11, 1963 the Commissioners met to choose the contracting officer for the construction of Big Wyacondah Watershed - Part II. Harold Baughman made the motion that Clay C. Barnett serve as Contracting Officer for the construction, which was seconded by Sam Botts, Jr. This motion carried. Sam Botts, Jr. will serve as Contracting Officer whenever Clay Barnett is absent from the county.

Invitations to bid were mailed to contractors on October 11, 1963 for the construction of Big Wyacondah Watershed - Part II. This covers four sites -- 27 H-1, 27-H-3, 27-H-4 and 27-H-7 -- located within the Big Wyacondah Watershed, approximately $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles southwest of Bloomfield, Davis County, Iowa. These are located on the farms of Aura Barnett, Truman Aleshire, Dale Dixon, Frank Shively, and Z. W. Hubbartt.

Big Wyacondah Watershed - Page 2

On November 18 bidders were taken on a tour of the 4 sites to be constructed in Part II. Then on November 21, 1963, the bids were opened at 11 AM in the local Soil Conservation Office. There were seven bids submitted, and the low bidder was Robert McConnell and Henry Burgher with a bid of \$16,841.66.

The contract was awarded to these men on December 19, 1963. Because of the winter season they received the stop-work order on December 20, 1963.

Now with the spring of 1964, we should see at least 4 of the Structures completed.

RECREATION AREAS

Recreation areas will be a part of the watershed development projects, but due to the District's low population in the area around Davis Soil Conservation District, a promotion and advertising program must be a part of the District and Cooperators activities.

This we are sure will develop as leadership management and technique develops. We may even find that the low population of this county may be an advantage to us. If we have space here it may bring the people seeking recreation and the peacefulness of the country.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1963 Revolving Fund

Cash on hand, January 1, 1963	\$1378.57
INCOME	
Royalties Received during the year	6217.84
Other Income	510.73
EXPENSE	
Royalties paid during the year	5181.60
National and State Dues paid (1963 and 1964)	350.00
Annual Banquet (165 Tickets)	222.75
Other Expense	1138.12
Balance on hand, January 1, 1964	\$1214.67

2-M BUDGET

This fund is made possible for the purpose of hiring a State Clerk and two (2) part-time Conservation Aids by the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee. This fund is determined on a fiscal year basis. On July 1, 1963 the Davis County Soils District was credited with \$5760.00 to be used for the salaries of the above mentioned employees.

1-MBUDGET

An account of \$500. for each Soil Conservation District in Iowa is set up on a fiscal year basis, for the purpose of Commissioners travel expenses (on duty), office expenses, meeting expenses, prizes for contests, and printing expenses.

We are most grateful to the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee for making these two (2) funds available for our use in the promotion of soil and water conservation.

LOOKING AHEAD, 1964

The District has planned to carry out the following projects in 1964:

We will sponsor two teachers (tuition paid) to Springbrook Conservation Camp.

Sponsor the speech contest for high school students on "How Soil and Water Conservation Affects My Future". Prizes for the speech contest are as follows:

Davis District	1st	\$10.00	2nd	\$7.50	3rd	\$5.00
Regional	1st	25.00	2nd	15.00	3rd	5.00
State	*1st	100.00	2nd	75.00	3rd	75.00
National	1st	500.00				

*A scholarship to the winners choice of college for \$250.00 will also be given the State winner.

A 4-H club boy or girl will be awarded prizes as follows for the outstanding 4-H record book on Soil, Water and Wildlife Conservation.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st Prize	\$10.00
2nd Prize	5.00
3rd Prize	2.00

We plan to enter the Goodyear Contest and the Des Moines Register and Tribune Awards for Conservation Farmers.

Cooperate in called meetings of the State Soil Conservation Committee and ASC-ACP. Cooperating both regional and county meetings.

Attend the Commissioners Short Course held at ISU in Ames.

Observe Stewardship Week, furnishing printed information to local churches for Soil Stewardship Sunday and hold tours with ministers of the County.

Looking Ahead - Page 2

Continue to promote the watershed approach to the total soil and water conservation program.

Attend State and National Annual meetings and pay our dues promptly.

Observe Soil Conservation Week.

Sponsor the "Queen of Conservation" contest in the district.

Hold Annual meeting of District Cooperators and the election in 1964.

Co-sponsor field days and tours of the Southeast Iowa Experimental Farm.

Assist with Agronomy School to be held by Extension Service in January and February 1964.