

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1964

of the

*Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District*

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS

VERE CORRINGTON

ARTHUR DORR

DONALD DEWITT

A Few Conservation "Firsts"



Our First District Commissioners

Charles C. Martin

James R. Fee

Louis C. Bengtson

The District's First Cooperator (Also a Former Commissioner)

J. F. Ralston

Built Terraces in 1937 (An Extension Service Demonstration)

Eldred Beeghly

20 YEARS OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

1964 marked the 20th year of operations for the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District. The district was officially organized on April 18, 1944. The Soil Conservation Service assigned a staff of technical personnel the following winter.

In the past 20 years over 1200 farmers have, at one time or another, made use of the technical services available through the district to accomplish the following major items:

1. Contour guide lines marked on.....	131,600 acres
2. Terraces constructed.....	2,599,407 ln. ft.
3. Diversions constructed.....	51,938 ln. ft.
4. Waterways constructed.....	1,065 acres
5. Flood water retarding dams.....	20 each
6. Grade stabilizing dams.....	124 each
7. Dams for livestock water.....	51 each
8. Dams for wildlife development.....	1 each
9. Hedgerow planting.....	126,646 ln. ft.
10. Planting wildlife areas.....	243 acres
11. Floodways constructed.....	2,534 ln. ft.
12. Stream channel improvements.....	26,716 ln. ft.
13. Drainage ditches constructed.....	13,107 ln. ft.
14. Tile drains installed.....	1,457,153 ln. ft.
15. Soil surveys completed on.....	208,529 acres
16. District cooperators to date.....	827 for 166,205 acres
17. Farms with basic plans.....	701 for 143,221 acres

There are 353,126 acres of agricultural land in Cherokee County and about 277,000 acres are used as cropland. 230,000 acres of our cropland has a slope of 2% or more; land that needs to be farmed with conservation practices. There are about 1,600 farms in Cherokee County.

ACTIVITIES OF YOUR COMMISSIONERS DURING 1964

12 Regular meetings of your District Commissioners

- 1- 8-64 Vere Corrington attended short course for commissioners at Iowa State University, Ames
- 3- 6-64 Attended meeting on 1965 ACP Program
- 4- 7-64 Meeting of sub-committee on watershed priorities at Sioux City (Little Sioux Works Committee).
- 5- 5-64 Inspection of the 8 completed watersheds in the Cherokee District to check for maintenance needs
- 6- 4-64 Meeting of sub-committee of Little Sioux Works Committee at Smithland
- 6- 9-64 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Sioux City
- 6-17-64 Election of district commissioner. Term of Arthur Dorr of Marcus expired. Candidates were Arthur Dorr and Leonard Degan of Cherokee. Arthur Dorr re-elected
- 9- 1-64 Regional contest to select Queen of the Furrow entry from Northwest Iowa at Cherokee. Vere Corrington in charge.
- 10-19-64 Commissioners met with Osceola District Commissioners at Sibley to go over tree selling program in that District
- 11- 6-64 Inspected Ralston and Grand Meadow Watersheds to determine whether or not to recommend them for priority consideration at the spring Little Sioux Works Committee meeting.
- 11-18-64 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Sioux City
- 11-18-64 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Awards dinner at Auditorium in Sioux City
- 11-18-64 Donald DeWitt, district representative, at recognition dinner for County Extension Director, Forrest Kohrt.
- 12-30-64 Attended ACP meeting on 1965 cost sharing program

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

- 1- 4-64 Soil and water conservation program presented at meeting of Cherokee Chapter of the D.A.R.
- 2- 5-64 Organization meeting of landowners and operators in Ralston Watershed
- 2-13-64 Opportunities in the U. S. Civil Service (including the Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service) presented at Career Day at Cherokee Washington High School
- 3- 5-64 Slides on conservation shown at Masonic Lodge at Marcus
- 3-30-64 Assisted members of Quimby Boy Scout Troop in completing requirements for merit badges in soil conservation
- 3-30-64 Assisted members of one Cherokee Boy Scout Troop working toward merit badges in soil conservation.
- 5- 4-64 Soil and water conservation program presented to Larrabee 5th and 6th grades at Martin Access Area
- 8-10-64 Conservation slides shown at meeting of Aurelia Garden Club
- 8-22-64 Aurelia Boy Scout troop on tour of Pilot Rock sub-watershed
- 10- 1-64 Classroom session on conservation planning with Cherokee High School Agriculture class
- 10- 5-64 Cherokee High School Agriculture class on tour of Pilot Rock Sub-watershed.
- 12-14-64 Program on watershed activity at Cherokee Rotary Club
- 1964 Cherokee newspapers published 29 news stories on local soil and water conservation activities.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation made available to the Cherokee District during 1964 the following technical assistance:

Work Unit Conservationist (12 months)	Harvey Lindberg
Soil Conservationist (12 months)	Thaine Hogue
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Glen Craft
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Monas Nixon

In addition to the above the District received assistance, as requested, from the Area Conservationist and his staff. The bulk of this consisted of assistance on soil surveys, engineering design and inspection and watershed surveys.

LITTLE SIOUX FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

The Grand Meadow Watershed (sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18 of Grand Meadow Township) currently has a work plan priority under the Little Sioux Flood Control Program. On the 6th of November, your District Commissioners, voted to recommend this watershed for a construction priority at the spring meeting of the Little Sioux Works Committee.

A newly organized watershed, known as the Ralston Watershed and located west of Washta, will be recommended for a work plan priority at the spring meeting of the Little Sioux Works Committee. At their organization meeting, the farmers involved voted to name it the Ralston Watershed in honor of Ford Ralston (the Cherokee District's first cooperator and former commissioner) who owns land in the upper portion of the sub-watershed.

CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN 1964

- 182,432 feet of terraces
- 5,667 feet of diversions
 - 51 acres of grassed waterways
- 2,026 acres of new contouring
- 1,527 acres of contouring re-established
- 82,898 feet of tile
- 5,187 feet of open ditch
- 3,868 feet of hedge row plantings
 - 2 acres of wildlife area planted
- 16 structures (10 of these were earth fills with pipe spillways that formed ponds large enough to support fish)
- 42 new district cooperators
- 47 basic conservation plans
- 19 conservation plans revised
- 3,520 acres of soil surveys completed
- 470 farmers received assistance from district technicians during 1964

District Clerk, Mrs. Gladys Schroeder, reports 1,181 office calls and 615 phone calls during 1964.

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

183 requests for cost sharing assistance on permanent type practices were approved by the County ASCS and referred to our Soil Conservation Service technicians.

The following disposition was made of these requests:

- 40 for terraces. 27 were completed and 1 partially completed; ground froze before contractors got to remaining 12.
- 49 for waterways. 35 were completed and it was too late in the season to complete the remaining 14.
- 5 for diversions. All were completed.
- 58 for tile. 40 were completed with 2 partially completed; 1 did not meet specifications; 15 were not done due either to lateness of season or landowners deciding not to do the job.
- 4 for open drainage ditches. All were completed.
- 3 for wildlife plantings. All were completed.
- 4 for concrete grade stabilizing structures. 5 structures were completed on the 4 referrals.
- 20 for earth dams with pipe spillways. 11 were completed with 6 being cancelled due to lateness of season and 3 cancelled as owner decided not to do the job.

5 requests covering work started in 1963 were disposed of as follows: 2 terrace jobs satisfactorily completed, 1 waterway satisfactorily completed, 1 dam satisfactorily completed and 1 diversion satisfactorily completed.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

This spring 20 farmers planted about 30,000 trees and shrubs. This included hedgerow plantings, wildlife area plantings and shrub plantings on the border of existing windbreaks. Most of the trees were planted with a tree planter rented from the Izaak Walton League. Conservation Officer Frank Starr coordinated wildlife and hedgerow planting activities. Many of the trees were purchased through the State Conservation Commission.

On June 3rd, the State Conservation Commission stocked 9 ponds in the Cherokee District with large mouth bass. In September, 3 ponds in the Pilot Rock Watershed were stocked with fingerling catfish. In October, 3 ponds in the District were also stocked with Red Eared Sunfish on a more or less experimental basis; it is believed that these are much more compatible with bass and show promise as a replacement for the bluegills that used to be stocked. These later stockings were also by the Iowa State Conservation Commission with Frank Starr, the local conservation officer making arrangements.

All of the ponds stocked were formed by erosion control dams designed by the Soil Conservation Service and installed either under the A.C.P. Cost sharing program or the Little Sioux Flood Control Program.

SIoux CITY PROGRAM FOR PERMANENT AGRICULTURE

Sponsored By

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

Harry Hull and Frank Escue of Cherokee and James Brown (Clara Kissinger's farm) of Washta were the Cherokee District representatives in this program. Raymond Henke of Quimby was the District's progress winner. These men received awards at a dinner in Sioux City on November 18th.

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS PROGRAM

Sponsored By

Des Moines Register and Tribune

Representing the Cherokee District in the 1964 Awards Program were Robert Rawson of Pierson and Marvin Warburton (the Floyd Warburton farm) of Cherokee. These men received awards from the Des Moines Register. In addition, Robert Rawson received Northwest Iowa's Regional Award in the owner-operator division and then was selected Sweepstakes Winner over all Northwest Iowa entries. A dinner was held January 19, 1965, at which Robert Rawson received regional and sweepstakes awards.

Bob is the 6th Cherokee farmer to receive a regional award in this program and the first to win sweepstakes honors.

IOWA STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Funds appropriated by the General Assembly to assist soil conservation districts in furthering their programs are administered by the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee.

On the basis of a budget submitted by your district commissioners, the following funds were allotted to and used by the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District during 1964:

Commissioners expenses.....	\$ 199.24
Office expense.....	45.30
Office supplies.....	70.02
Tuition for one teacher to Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp.....	42.00
Printing annual report.....	94.85
Prizes for contest.....	15.00
Sub-Total.....	466.41
Clerical help employed by the District (includes social security and state retirement).....	\$3,642.27
Sub-Total.....	3,642.27
State funds expended during 1964, Total.....	\$4,108.68

DISTRICT GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on Jan. 1, 1964		\$125.56
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	172.32	
Expenditures:		
Stewardship material	7.50	
Typewriter expense	35.95	
Office supplies and postage	71.87	
Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners dues	50.00	
Tuition for one teacher to Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp	42.00	
Prizes for contests	15.00	
	\$297.88	\$222.32
Balance on Hand December 31, 1964		75.56
	\$297.88	\$297.88

Note: The \$75.56 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance on Hand Jan. 1, 1964.....\$17,523.56

Maintenance payments received during 1964:

Neil Warner	45.00
Walter Mortenson	157.50
Frances Herron	20.00
Forrest Spencer	30.34
Clarence Pennington	70.00
Whitfield Adamson	127.00
James Fee	45.00
Mrs. Ralph Robeson	65.00
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00
Ralph Simonsen	48.50
D. W. Simonsen	150.00
Lewis Shea	90.00
Joe Nelson	87.00
Harold Clark	70.00
E. E. Beck	48.50
Earl Ebert	121.33

Other Income:

Interest on time certificate	409.12
Interest on Bonds	112.00

Expenditures:

C. & S. Insurance Agency (maintenance fund bond)	\$ 42.00
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Totals.....\$19,264.85 42.00

Balance on Hand December 31, 1964	\$19,222.85
	19,264.85 \$19,264.85

Note: As of December 31, 1964, the \$19,222.85 in the District Maintenance Fund is disposed of as follows: \$10,637.04 in Certificate of Deposit, \$6,000.00 in H Bonds, and \$2,585.81 in checking account at the Farmers National Bank at Aurelia, Iowa.

L. C. Bengtson, District Treasurer

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