

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TAMA COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
(IOWA)
1950

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS:

John Norton, Chairman	Tama, Iowa
George Kos	Toledo, Iowa
Forreest S. Hill	Dysart, Iowa

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL
ASSIGNED TO THE DISTRICT:

Frank P. Reed	Work Unit Conservationist
Milburn E. Sevde	Conservation Aid
H. Howard Oak	District Conservationist
G. J. Bredimus	Work Group Clerk

IOWA EXTENSION SERVICE PERSONNEL
COOPERATING WITH THE DISTRICT:

G. Gross Rogers	County Extension Director
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DISTRICT EMPLOYEE: (STATE)

Ruth Backen	Clerical Assistant
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Toledo, Iowa

INTRODUCTION

Progress in our Tama County Soil Conservation District was moderate in 1950. Factual information in the following pages indicate this. We reached some of our goals. Some we did not. With one exception we plan to equal our 1950 results in 1951, where our 1950 goals were not, and materially improve those that were low.

The goal for farm plans in 1951 has been lowered. This was done to insure enough time for our personnel to do work with neighbor groups. This had been planned for in 1950, however, increased individual applications for plans and requests for reworking old plans made a delay seem practical.

The results of our school educational program in 1950 were very satisfactory. It is such work that points the way to a time of increased demand for our work. For this reason we are working steadily on education of our young people. In 1951 we plan to include a program with 4-H Clubs.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1950	Actual 1950	Attendance 1950	Goal 1951
Conservation Education				
1. General interest meetings	4	5	113	5
2. News items	100	102		100
3. Training Schools	4	1		2
4. Demonstrations	6	10	1200	6
5. Tours	2	2	60	3
6. Contests	2	1	1400	1
7. Starting practice meetings new groups	3	0	0	2
8. Radio Broadcasts		5		12
	Goal 1950	Actual 1950	Goal 1951	

Farm Planning

1. Neighborhood groups to be located	36	-	15	
2. Groups to be organized for farm planning	6	-	10	
3. Number of applications for farm plans	30		45	
4. Number of farm plans to be written	45	45	40	
5. Number of acres to be mapped	Basic surveys completed - 460,800 acres			
6. Individual applications for farm plans	-	28		
7. Farm planning meetings with neighborhood groups	15	0	15	

Total farm plans to date - 263 including 47,858 acres

COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1950	Actual 1950	Attendance 1950	Goal 1951
1. Hold monthly meetings	12	15	43	12
2. Hold joint meetings with district commissioners in 4 districts	3	3	55	3
3. Hold annual meetings with cooperators	1	1	15	1
4. Conservation movies and slides	6	6	124	6
5. Meet with Civic Organizations	8	6	124	8
6. Commissioners meeting with Commissioners in other areas	3	3		3

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

	Goals 1950	Actual 1950	To-date	1950 Starting Practicos	Goal 1951
1. Group Organization					10
2. Contouring (acres)	1000	2,738	10,789	1,254	2,409
3. Strip Cropping (acres)	100	134	385	-	100
4. Ponds (number)	4	2	11	1	5
5. Tree Planting (acres)		.5	9.5		
6. Wildlife area (acres)	14	12.5	14.5		12
7. Terraces (miles)	4.5	2.3	7.3		5
8. Field Diversions (milo)			1.5		
9. Farm Drainage (acres)		32	333		
10. Closed Drains (L. F.)	25300	12,105	81,105		12,000
11. Outlets and Farm Watercourses (miles)		1.01	1.01		
12. Open Drains (miles)	2.5	2.9	3.8		2.1
13. Pasture Improvement (acres)		40	76		300
14. Fence Row Managment (miles)		1.43	1.43		
15. Creek Straightening (L. F.)		1500	1500		

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1. One of the outstanding events that was held in Tama District this year was the "Hay Day". This was the first event of its kind to be held in this area. We appreciate very much, the excellent cooperation of the machinery dealers in the Tama District and surrounding area in furnishing equipment for this demonstration. In spite of the rainy weather, approximately 1000 people attended the event. It should be pointed out that many persons in the surrounding soil conservation districts attended this "Hay Day".
2. We are again carrying on the Soil Conservation Work Book in all the schools in the District. This second booklet covers the second cycle in accordance with the elementary hand book issued by the State Department of Education. We wish to express our appreciation to the various school Superintendents and teachers, the County Superintendent, for their excellent cooperation in carrying out this program.
3. The annual election was held in February of this year, at which time George Kos was elected for a six year term and Forrest C. Hill was elected for two years to fill the unexpired term of Fred Breune who resigned.
4. We are cooperating with the Blackhawk and Grundy Districts with weekly broadcasts on soil conservation activities with Radio Station KXEL, Waterloo, Iowa.
5. We again entered the Goodyear Contest, sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. All we District Commissioners attended the luncheon in Des Moines and wish to express our appreciation to this Company for their interest in soil conservation work.
6. In our annual report of 1950 we indicated that we were going to use the natural neighbor group approach to organize all groups for farm planning. However, we did not get this project under way, but hope to definitely carry out this program during 1951.
7. We appreciate the guidance and financial aid which we have obtained through the State Soil Conservation Committee, which has made it possible for us to carry on a more effective conservation program.

Agencies with whom we expect to cooperate during 1951:

State Soil Conservation Committee
State Conservation Commission
Local Conservation Officer
County Board of Supervisors
Production and Marketing Association
County Superintendent of Schools
and teachers

Civic Organizations
Extension Service
U. S. Soil Conservation Service
Tama County Farm Bureau
Implement Dealers
Tama County Banks

CONCLUSION

We take the opportunity in concluding our report, to thank everyone who aided the District in 1950. It is difficult to measure the value of efforts contributed by the individuals and groups. We know the program would have been difficult to carry on without them.

We hope the following list does not fail to include all of them:

U. S. Soil Conservation Service
Extension Service
A A A Committee
County Superintendent of Schools
State Soil Conservation Committee
State Conservation Committee
School Superintendents and Teachers
Interested individuals

Again we thank you.

/s/ John Norton
John Norton, Chairman
Tama County Soil
Conservation District