

1949 ANNUAL REPORT
CEDAR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Tipton, Iowa

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District has been organized since the Spring of 1946. At the present time we have 82 farm plans in operation. The number seems small when we consider the number of farms in the county, actually however we feel that considerable progress has been made. There are farmers who have not as yet asked the district for help, but who are trying out various conservation practices.

The need for soil conservation did not develop overnight and it must be recognized that all farmers will not adopt conservation practices until they have been convinced that it will be to their interest to do so. We must remember that social changes, or conservation practices as in our case, are adopted slowly. When individuals are advised to follow certain practices, they want assurance that the recommendations are basically sound. Otherwise most individuals would prefer to stay by their present methods. Therefore as we approve each farm plan, care should be taken to make sure that it is a workable plan and one that in the years to come will do the job that it was intended to do.

The district participated in the Goodyear tire and rubber contest, and sponsored a Conservation Contest in conjunction with Cedar Co. Banks and Conservation Clubs. Also we continued to be active in cooperating with all agricultural agencies in promoting good sound soil conservation for Cedar County farms.

The Commissioners participated in two (2) inter Soil Conservation District meetings and were represented at the Short Course for Commissioners at Iowa State College.

The Commissioners have, to the best of their ability, budgeted the funds available from the State of Iowa. The \$500.00, or 1A budget, being budgeted for expenditure of mileage for Commissioners, postage, letterheads, educational posters, display material, film and newspaper mats. The 2A budget, or money set up for technical help & equipment, is being used as follows: Camera with flash attachment, light meter, file cabinet and a whirlwind terrace machine.

The District held 11 regular and 2 special meetings during 1949. Assisted in the development of 4 groups for farm planning. Also conducted 12 farm planning meetings with interested groups for the purpose of developing Farm Conservation Plans. The interest meetings were held jointly, but the planning meetings were conducted by Soil Conservation Service personnel.

The Educational and Informational work of the district was carried on by Soil Conservation Service personnel assigned to the district. This was generally done under the supervision of the County Extension Director. This work consisted of the following:

(See next page)

	<u>1949</u>	<u>To-date</u>
Field tours	2	5
Layout demonstrations	12	39
Interest meetings	6	23
Farm Group meetings	36	135
Civic & Commercial meetings	6	15
Films shown (Soil Conservation)	4	18
Meetings with schools	2	21
Meetings with teachers	2	3
Conservation Contests (scrap book and essay)	1	1
Inter Soil Conservation District meetings	2	6
News releases	42	114
Radio transcriptions	6	12

During the course of the year, Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted the district in establishing the following conservation practices.

	<u>1949</u>
Contour farming	4558 acres
Strip Cropping	296 acres
Pasture Improvement	41 acres
Terraces	6330 feet
Drainage	161 acres
Tiling	47825 feet
Grass Waterways	38670 feet
Establishment of field boundaries	2766 rods
Conservation Surveys	6070 acres

The district has been cooperating with the State Conservation Commission in developing planting areas for wildlife cover and with Iowa State College in carrying on experimental work. Experimental work including yield studies of grain crops following meadow left on the field and also where first cutting is harvested and only the second cutting left on the land. Also a comparison study on feeding value of grain from poor versus rich land.

The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given to the Cedar County Soil Conservation District by the Soil Conservation Service and their staff at Tipton, along with the local County Agriculture Extension Director. Also wish to recognize the assistance rendered by the following organizations and agencies in assisting with the soils work in Cedar County. These being AAA, Voc. Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, Farm Loan Association, Farm Bureau, Production Credit, rural and urban schools and local civic & commercial organizations. Also wish to express our appreciation for the fine support given by local papers and radio stations.