

ANNUAL REPORT

1958

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Commissioners:

Herold C. Baughman, Chairman
Clay C. Barnett, Member
Dale Blackwell, Member

Loretta Augspurger, Secretary

FORWARD

To you, the good supporters and cooperators of Davis District, this may not answer your questions -- on the otherhand, it may record facts you already know.

For instance, there is the outstanding record of P. W. Spilman, who has served as a District Commissioner for 14 years. We could, and probably should record his outstanding community services as a part of this report for future references.

Dale Blackwell, now serving his fifteenth year of official service to the District also has an outstanding record of community service.

Harold C. Baughman, currently serving as Chairman, has been serving as a District Commissioner for a number of years.

In this report, we wish to pay tribute to those who have served, and served well, to protect our District resources, the soil, water, woods, and wildlife.

We also wish to thank all of those who have contributed much to make 1958 a successful year.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES PLANNED

Prior to the first of January each year, it is the regular practice of the District Commissioners to review the past years' work, and to plan the coming years' work.

In December, 1957, the Work Unit Conservationist, Clay C. Barnett, checked the past years accomplishments with the Commissioners, -- goals were set for 1958. As the record will show, goals have been set a little higher each succeeding year.

You will note under the heading "District Accomplishments", that as a whole, the accomplishments for 1958, were higher than those of 1957.

The regular meeting of the directors of the Bloomfield Experimental Farm was held in January, the preceeding years' accomplishments studied, and plans for 1958 were made. We are proud of the Bloomfield Experimental Farm which is under the able management of Bill Southerland, assisted by LaVern Kline. The results of this farm has untold value to the farmers of Davis District. Field days were held at the Experimental Farm in July and October.

A contractors' banquet was held at the Royal Cafe, in February 1958, everyone paying for his own steak. Mr. Beem, SCS Engineer in charge of the work on the Honeycreek Watershed of Lucas District, spoke on the work in the watershed. This was very timely for the Davis District contractors, and was greatly appreciated by them.

Plans were made to have a Contractors' Field Day in September, on the Lloyd Miller Farm, 2 miles Southeast of Bloomfield, on Highway # 2.

On September 4, the Contractors' Conservation Field Day was held, on the above mentioned farm, with 3000 to 4000 people attending. The machinery dealers and others, served the guests of the field day, free barbaqued beef, prepared by Audie Redmond.

The Davis District entered the Register and Tribune Contest. Contestants selected were: Division I (owner- operator) Ed Amstutz, Division II (landlord-tenant) Wendell Ernst and Harold Snowbarger, Division III (new cooperator), John and Victor Swartzendruber.

Ernst and Snowbarger were 2nd. place winners in the State Contest. The others received District recognition.

District award winners receiving pins at the Annual Meeting for outstanding accomplishments were: Galen Cook, Leo Fitzgerald and Richard Birchmier.

The regular meeting of all Government Agriculture Agencies met in October, to plan the 1959 ACP practice program. This is always interesting and much good constructive information gets out to many cooperators as a result of this meeting. The relationship of the various Agricultural Agencies working in Davis District, could not be better.

A highlight of the year was a joint tour, held in November, of all Local Agriculture groups, newspapers and others, to observe some of the accomplishments made in the District during the past year. Guests of the Davis group on this tour were representatives of the ASC, District Commissioners and Soil Conservation Service from Scotland County, Missouri. Davis District representatives were guests of the Scotland County District for a similar tour held in December.

Another highlight of the year was the regular Annual Meeting and Election held at the Bloomfield High School in December.

Leon "T-Bone" McDonald of Stillwater Oklahoma, was the featured speaker of the meeting, Clay Barnett being elected District Commissioner, succeeding P. W. Spilmen.

P. W. SPILMAN RETIRES AS COMMISSIONER

After 14 years of service, Pearl W. Spilman retired in December, 1958, as an active commissioner for Davis District.

We are not going to give you a long narrative of Pearl's activities, but we feel that all good deeds should be recorded and credit be given where credit is due. Pearl has been recognized by the State for the outstanding conservation job on his farm and for his service to his community. He has attended 168 regular meetings of the District Commissioners, as well as many special meetings, state and District meetings, and conservation tours. Few serve their community as well as Pearl has, and we are indeed grateful. He will, however, continue to serve as an assistant commissioner to the Davis District.

BIG WYACONDAH WATERSHED

We are at a standstill on the Big Wyacondah Watershed. The watershed has been approved for consideration by D. A. Williams, administrator of the Soil Conservation Service. To date, we have not received word as to when we could expect a preliminary survey.

Since it is the policy of the District not to concentrate the conservation work in any special or particular area, no concentration of effort has been given the Wyacondah Watershed Group.

We are hoping the year of 1959 will break the ice and that things start moving. The watershed could still be disapproved, if the preliminary survey should show it to be economically feasible.

BLOOMFIELD NEWSPAPERS

Keith Hawk, editor of the local papers, has given the District excellent coverage of conservation work and activities in the District. At the Annual Meeting, each year, the Bloomfield Newspapers award plaques to the District winners of the Register and Tribune Contest. This year, plaques were awarded to Wendell Ernst, owner, and his tenant, Harold Snowbarger, John and Vic Swartzendruber for the owner-operator division, and to Ed Amstutz for the new cooperator division.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Brought forward, January 1, 1958	\$ 249.00
Expenses for the year	5143.33
Income for the year	5336.71
Brought forward, December 31, 1958	442.38

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

As in previous years, the Soil Conservation Service made its lasting contribution to the District progress.

After the completion of 26 years of Federal Service, Work Unit Conservationist, Clay C. Barnett retired on October 31, 1958. His service time included time spent with the U. S. Navy during World War I, and the balance of time with the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service. Barnett served as Work Unit Conservationist in the Davis District for a period of four years, transferring from the Polk County Soil Conservation District.

There has been a considerable increase in the amount of conservation practices planned and applied in the Davis District during the four years that Clay served as Work Unit Conservationist. He has also been recognized and given credit as being primarily responsible for the National Flowing Contest and Conservation Exposition that have been held annually since 1946.

We wish to express our appreciation to Clay Barnett for a job "well done", not only here in Davis County, but also in the other areas of the state where he has worked.

Even though Clay has retired from active service, in the Soil Conservation Service, we expect to gain much help from his past experience in his present position as a District Commissioner for Davis County.

Replacing Barnett as Work Unit Conservationist, was Verle M. Arnold of Council Bluffs, Iowa. Arnold has been with the Soil Conservation Service 13 years, serving at Atlantic, Iowa for $1\frac{1}{2}$ years, and the remainder of time at Council Bluffs. Arnold is married, a native of Van Buren County, and has four children. He is a member of the Bloomfield Methodist Church, a member of Rotary, and we are proud to have Verle and his family as members of our community.

Other personnel serving the district are as follows: Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist, Jack D. Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, Eugene Francis, Assistant Conservation Aid, Larry Harper and LaVern Weilbrenner, Part time State and SCS Aids, and Loretta Augspurger, District Secretary.

The commissioners appointed four assistant commissioners during the year. They are as follows: Sam Botts, Jr., from Wyacondah Township, Lionel Herteen, from West Grove Township, Charles Chickering from Lick Creek Township, and Pearl Spilman from Perry Township.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 1958 and to date accomplishments for the District were as follows:

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>1957-58</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
District Cooperators	59	623
Basic Conservation Plans	35	412
Terraces	90 mi.	352 mi.
Diversions	19 mi.	77 mi.
Contouring (new)	960 ac.	34320 ac.
Tree Planting	45 ac.	70 ac.
Multiflora rose	1035 rd.	9283 rd.
Sod Waterways	60 ac.	287 ac.
Open drain	6 mi.	45 mi.
" "	324 ac.	3545 ac.
Farm ponds	91	1041
Drop Inlet structures	20	66
Ponds stocked with fish	172	704

LOOKING AHEAD TO 1959

Normally the work planned on basic farm plans is greater than the work accomplished. This is due to circumstances beyond our control. Sickness and death, finances, sale of farms, and the weather are the main factors. Nevertheless, it is just good business to plan ahead and establish goals.

New basic plans written and new cooperators with the District, as well as ASC cooperators, must be taken care of during the calendar year, 1959.

Therefore, considering all these factors, goals were set for 1959,
as follows:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>PLANNED</u>
New District Cooperators	50 no.
Basic Farm Plans	35 no.
To service	400 (farms)
New Contouring	1000 ac.
Strip Cropping	240 ac.
Terraces	100 ac.
Diversions	10 mi.
Ponds	80
Structures	30
Sod Waterways	40ac.
Open drain	4 mi.
Tree Planting	40 ac.
Living fence	1500 rd.

You will notice that many items have been increased over accomplishments for 1958.

COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Following the June primary, the County Board of Supervisors appointed Mrs. Iris Hawk, Dwight ("Hap") Downing, S. M. White, Reed Inman, and Kenneth Hunter, to the County Conservation Board. The Board levied 1/4 mill tax for its use in carrying out its duties.

IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE

1958 marked the first chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America, to ever be organized in Davis County. They have received their charter, with the greatest number of Charter members that was ever organized in the State. They are now Incorporated as a non-profit organization, and are actively supporting the Soil Conservation Districts program.

They have as their goal for the year, a series of roadside parks to be used by tourists and others, to keep Davis County roads and highways clean, development of other additional recreational areas as follows: Large ponds or wildlife areas in the Mark, and Pulaski communities. Duck marshes on the Soap Creek bottom, Northeast of Bloomfield, access area to the Des Moines River for boating and fishing, further development of Lake Fisher Bloomfield Reservoir as a more pleasant park area by assisting in the construction of new park roads, tables, fire places etc., to purchase site and construct a Clubhouse.

The local club was given the name of B. F. Carroll Chapter in honor of Gov. Carroll, former Governor of Iowa, from Davis County.

In order to more adequately accomplish the goal of the League, the County Conservation Board was sponsored by the league, getting necessary petitions signed at the June primary election.

SUMMARY

In summing up the conservation activities of the District for 1958, it has been a year of progress. However, we must never be satisfied until our goal of each acre being treated according to its need is achieved.

Progress in the improvement of the District's agriculture program could not have been accomplished without the team work of other agricultural agencies and promoters of better education. These agencies are the County Extension Service, the Agriculture Stabilization Committee, (ASC), the Voc. Agriculture and FFA, Service Clubs, Lions and Rotarians, Bloomfield Jr. and Sr. C Chambers of Commerce, and local machinery dealers and contractors.

We will cooperate with the newly formed County Conservation Board to our fullest extent in the years ahead, and we expect great progress in the fields of greater knowledge and appreciation of the great outdoors of America, and what it takes to preserve it.