

Report of Progress During 1960

Clarke County Soil Conservation District

Osceola, Iowa

February 23, 1961

FOREWORD

We, the commissioners of the Clarke County Soil Conservation District are taking this means of presenting our Annual Report for 1960. For the second consecutive year, adverse weather has hampered field work. Yet, when the year ended it was found that many farmers had been able to do a great deal of conservation work. We are pleased with the progress our cooperators are making in farm conservation planning and application of practices. However, we are also aware of the fact that much remains to be done. We re-pledge ourselves as commissioners to concentrate our efforts on helping the people in our District get conservation on the land.

We wish to express our appreciation to all individuals, groups and agencies who have assisted us financially and in other ways. A big "thank you" to our cooperators and other farmers, contractors, business and professional people, Soil Conservation Service, Clarke County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, State Soil Conservation Committee, State Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation Society of America, Iowa Natural Resources Council, both Iowa and National Associations of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Osceola and Murray Vocational Agriculture Departments and F.P.A. Groups, other school officials and teachers, Clarke County Board of Supervisors and other county and city officials, Clarke County State Bank, Clarke County Farmers' Union, Clarke County Farm Bureau, 4-H Clubs, Osceola newspapers, Osceola Chamber of Commerce, Osceola and Murray Service Clubs, Osceola Woman's Club, Osceola Chapter of D.A.R., Osceola Garden Club, and all churches, both rural and urban.

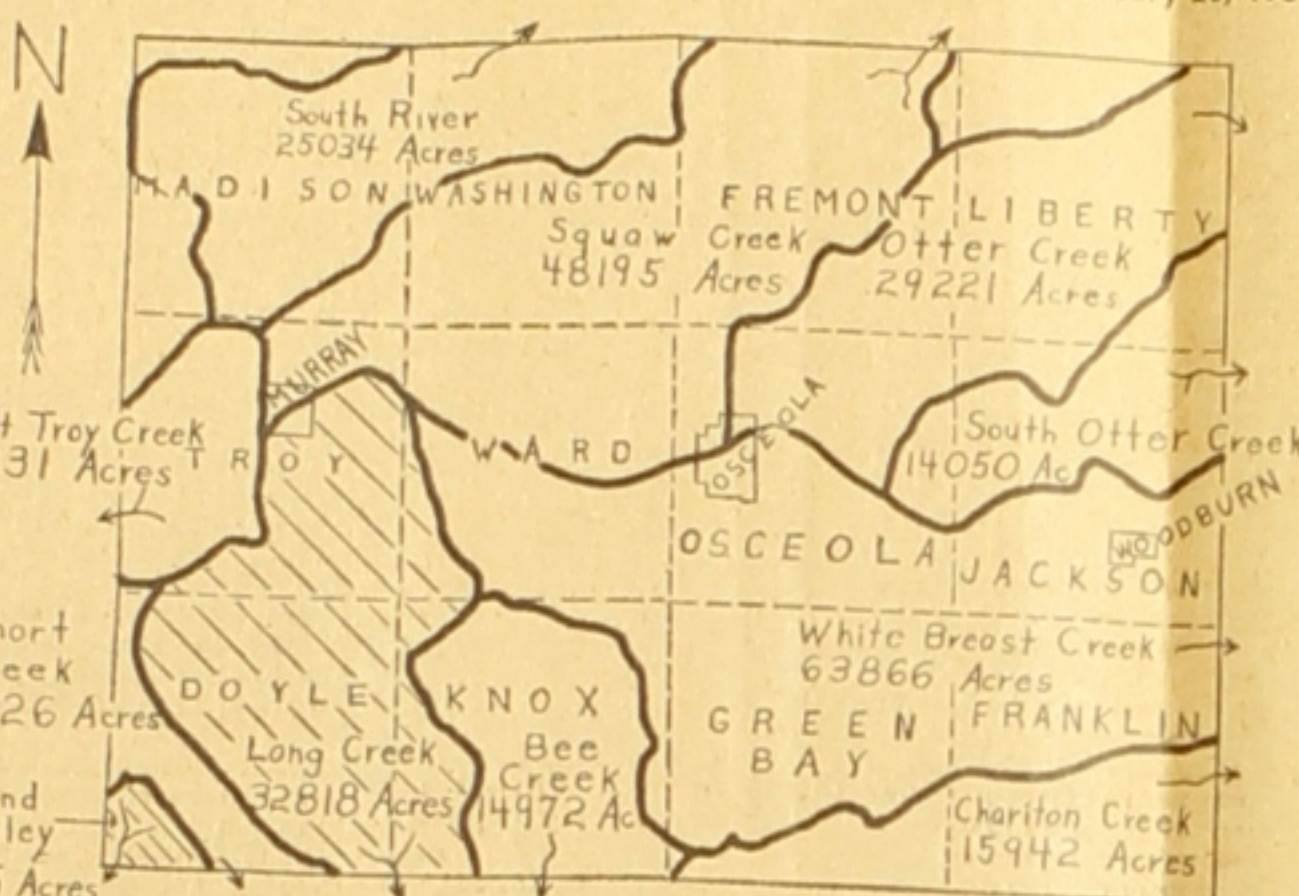
THIS MESSAGE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE COOPERATION OF THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES

Andrew Construction Co. Inc.
Tom Barr Construction Co.
Campbell Implement Co.
Clarke Electric Coop. Inc.
Clarke County Farm Bureau
Clarke County Grain Co.
Clarke County State Bank
Farm Service Co., Humeston
Farmers Produce Company
Fisher and Lynn
Tire and Battery
Garrie and Overholzer
Gracys Service Station and Construction Co.
Hale Equipment Co.
Murray, Iowa
George Hall Grain Co.
Harger Feed Store
Highway Lumber Co.
Johnson Produce & Hatch.
Jones Cafe and A. & W. Drive-In
Jones Cities Service
Keith Kent Construction Co.
Lucas, Iowa
Kimball Implement
Langfitt Elevators and Gro-Mo-Co Fertilizer Co.
Dale McKnight Construction Co.
Mateer Implement Co.
Clayton Mateer Construction Co.
Monroe and Busch Agency
Osceola Locker Service
Osceola Sale Co.
Osceola Veterinary Clinic
Price Grain Co.
Reynolds Service and Grays Oil Co.
Robinsons Department Store
E. I. Sargent Quarries Inc.
Saylor Feed & Grain Co.
Smith Oil Co.
James Smith Construction Co.
Humeston, Iowa
Steele Implement Co.
Warren Ready-Mix
Woodson Warren Inc.
Champlin Oil Company
Wetzel Oil Company
Murray Iowa
County Mutual Agency
E. B. Johnson and Carl F. Peterson

Many New Farms Added To Rolls

NEW COOPERATORS

Doyle Township
J. S. Wolfe
Edward Selsor
Noel Boley
Lowell Jackson, Owner
L. E. Reasoner, Operator
Eugene L. Foland
Clark D. Lamb
William Farr
C. M. Chew
R. A. Bennett
Gerald Siefkas
Robert Zullian
Kenneth Dugger
L. E. Adams
Franklin Township
G. Allen Heston
Robert L. McCann
R. E. Pett
Fremont Township
Ray J. Swegle
Frank & Eldon Barnard
Saylor Feed & Grain
Virgil Snye
Roy M. Scott
Cleva Frey
Clarence L. Johnson
Green Bay Township
Lynn Stuckler
Doyle S. Waller
Hail L. Landphair
Jackson Township
William B. Oehlert
R. H. Thornton
Carroll W. Crum
Newton King
R. E. Clineck
Sylvester Hayworth
Knox Township
Asher Brand
Don L. Burgess
Thomas Barr
Robert L. McCann
Robert N. Byers
Garth Siefkas
Liberty Township
Howard Miller
Madison Township
Cora J. Miller
Osceola Township
Oral Eddy
John Querrey
Samuel Edgington
Alfred Jones
Floyd McQuern
Irving A. Sparboe
Eddy & Price
Troy Township
W. R. Bell
Paul B. Loy
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This Section



District Activities

The commissioners held 12 regular and three special meetings. Chairman Fuller had perfect attendance at these meetings. Doyle Miller and Harold Brim missed only three meetings apiece. The commissioners named Jesse Burgess, Doyle Township and Russell Brierly of Jackson Township to serve again as assistant commissioners.

In their January meeting the commissioners prepared their proposed calendar of activities for the year and made it a part of the District Handbook.

In February they met with Assistant Superintendent of schools Ralph Evans to discuss conservation activities in Clarke County Schools. They also reviewed "Suggestions For the Teaching of Conservation" prepared by Mrs. Galen Benbow, principal of the Osceola Elementary school. These suggestions in addition to conservation teaching outlines furnished by the Soil Conservation Service were made available to the schools in the District.

On February 18 Adrian Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brim attended the banquet and annual meeting of the Harrison Soil Conservation District in Eagleville, Mo.

On March 3 we participated in a beef cattle and pasture improvement meeting sponsored by the Extension Service. For this meeting Soil Conservation Service personnel provided an enlarged soil map of a typical Clarke county farm. Steve Evans also used this map in a series of soil conservation meetings with 4-H Clubs.

Adrian Fuller, Harold Brim, Mrs. Donna Armstrong, Gary Johnson and Harold Anderson attended the regional meeting in Chariton on March 15. Representatives of other agricultural agencies in the district also were present.

Gary Johnson, from Rockwell City, Iowa, a 1960 Iowa State University graduate was assigned here on February 29, as Soil Conservationist, to assist with farm conservation planning and layout work. Osceola implement dealers attended the regular March commissioners meeting for information on the District program and to discuss conserva-

WATERSHED ACTIVITY

Shown on the map are the boundaries of the principal areas in Clarke County Soil Conservation District. This district is in a unique position in that most of these major streams originate within the boundaries of Clarke County. The drainage entering from any adjoining county is negligible. From this standpoint there is an excellent opportunity for watershed development.

To date no applications have been initiated for consideration under Public Law 566. However, there is considerable local interest, particularly in the Grand Valley, Long Creek and Otter Creek areas. Reference was made under DISTRICT ACTIVITIES to the organization meetings held by Grand Valley and Long Creek farmers.

Grand Valley Committee officers are Eugene Foland, Chairman, L. E. Adams, Vice-Chairman, Edward Selsor and Galen Benbow, Committeemen.

Long Creek Committee officers are Jesse Burgess, Chairman, Galen Benbow, Vice-Chairman, Francis Davis, Gaylord Dick and Lyle Sadoris, Committeemen.

Several farmers in both groups have basic conservation plans for their farms and many have established various conservation practices. Conservation surveys (soil maps) have been prepared for all farms in the Grand Valley area. Farm conservation planning meetings are scheduled there early in 1961. Additional meetings will also be held and more soil mapping done in the Long Creek area in 1961.

Under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, known as Public Law 566, each project is a local undertaking with Federal help.

The act places full responsibility for starting small watershed projects on local people who will act through their own organizations. There are also minimum requirements for a watershed application to be considered for assistance under Public Law No. 566.

Federal help is available only to assist local organizations plan and install needed flood prevention and water management measures that cannot feasibly be installed under other current Federal conservation programs.

The Soil Conservation Service has the primary responsibility for carrying out this act. Further information on watershed development is available at our District office in the basement of the Osceola Post Office.

tion activities of mutual interest.

The commissioners approved a Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the Clarke County Board of Supervisors providing for a working relationship where the county, District and farmer co-operators are involved in joint erosion control projects. Later in the year a county highway road culvert in Troy township was installed under this arrangement. The project involved raising the county road four feet to provide for a 30-inch culvert to halt serious erosion affecting the Kenneth Winters farm and the roadway. Winters furnished the culvert with cost sharing assistance approved by the Clarke County ASC committee. The county did the earth work.

On March 25 we held a joint meeting with Decatur district commissioners to discuss the possibility of a watershed in the Grand Valley area in the northwest corner of Decatur district and southwest corner of Clarke district.

On April 8 commissioners and SCS personnel from both districts met with the Grand Valley farmers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene O'Grady. At that time the Grand Valley Watershed Committee formed. The farmers in each district elected their own watershed officers.

Keith Thompson and Gary Kimes won first and second places respectively in the Soil Conservation Speech Contest held on April 27 at Liberty school in connection with Liberty township 4-H meeting. The two boys were vocational agriculture students coached by Glenn Fear, their instructor. The contest was sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners.

In their April meeting, the

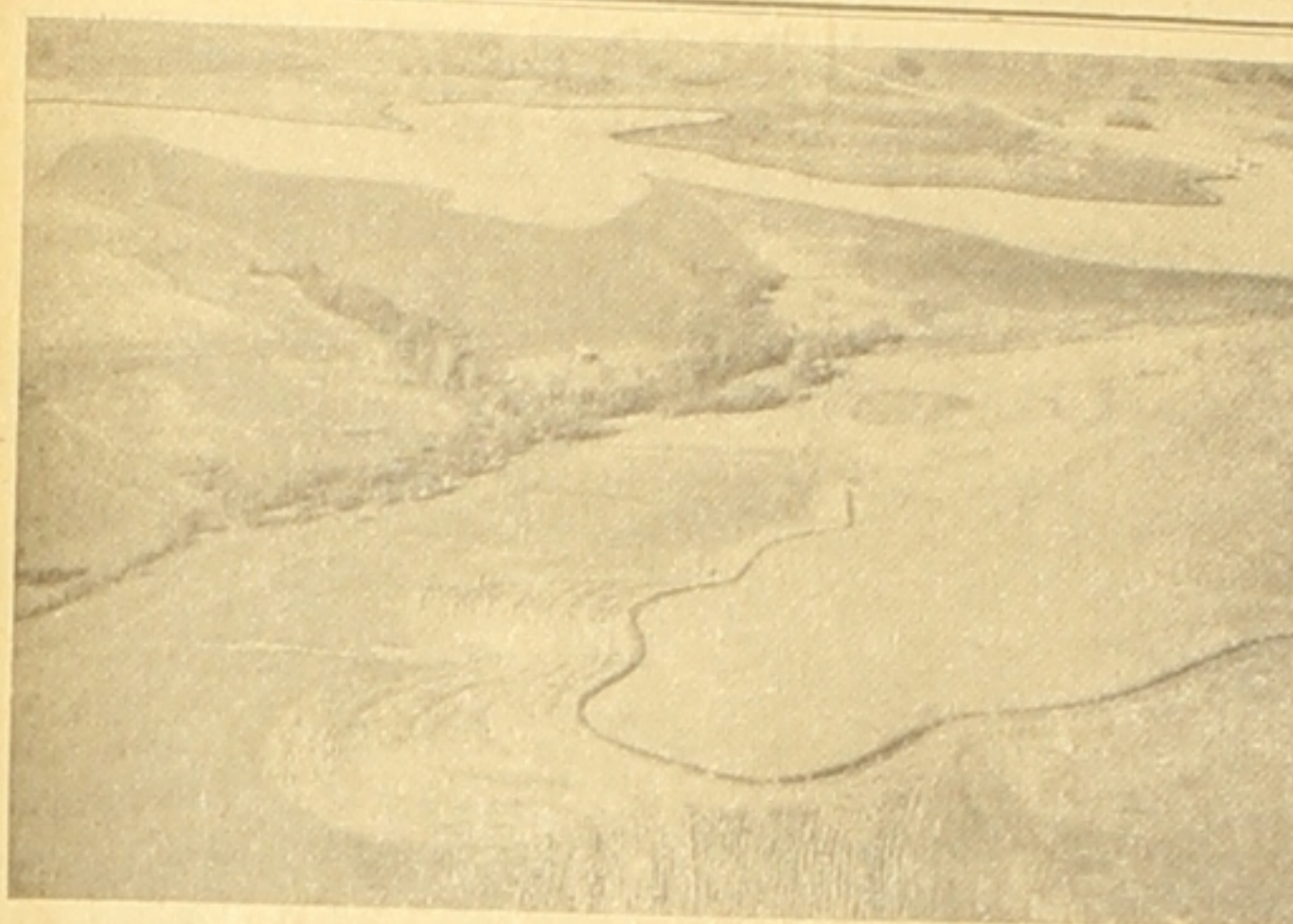
commissioners completed contest score sheets for entry in the Soil Conservation District Awards Program sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. Carl Handrick, Washington Township, was named as the outstanding farmer for the period covered in the contest, May 1, 1959, to April 30, 1960.

Soil Stewardship booklets entitled "The Spirit of the People" were distributed to clergymen or lay leaders in all churches in the district for their use in observance of Soil Stewardship Week, May 22 to 29. Several churches observed this special week in connection with regular worship services. Others used the material in connection with Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Week, June 19 to 26.

The District provided a \$5.00 award to the Osceola Go-Getters 4-H Club for having the highest per cent of members in attendance at the soil conservation field day at Beaconfield, Iowa, and a \$5.00 award to the Knox Jay Walkers 4-H Club for having the largest total number of members present at this event on June 9.

On June 28, the commissioners, the county extension director and members of the SCS staff held a watershed information meeting with Long Creek area farmers at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Burgess. At the close of the meeting the Long Creek Watershed Committee was organized.

In 1960 the "Queen of the Furrow Contest" was changed to the "Queen of Conservation Contest." This event here was held in the evening of July 4 in connection with Osceola's annual 4th of July celebration. Miss Patty Gray, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gray and Miss Linda Ray, Gonseth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gonseth were selected from a field of 14 candidates to represent Clarke district in



Aerial view of Doyle Miller farm showing farm pond, multi-flow, Rose Fence and Contoured Fields.

District Accomplishments

Practices Applied on all Farms

ACTIVITY	UNIT	1960	TO DATE
District Cooperators	No.	56	706
Basic Conservation Plans	No.	35	424
Revised Basic Plans	No.	1	
Farms Served	No.	333	
Follow-Up Contacts	No.	86	
Soil Surveys	No. of farms	28	861
Soil Surveys	No. of acres	6,380	169,725

Farm Planning and Servicing

PRACTICES	UNIT	1960	TO DATE
Contour Farming	Acres	830	34,918
Contour Strip Cropping	Acres	72	1,635
Standard Terraces	Miles	7.29	128.26
Diversions	Miles	5.32	69.65
Sod Waterways	Acres	48	1,557
Concrete Flumes	No.	0	3
Drop Inlet Dams	No.	7	62
Farm Ponds	No.	31	1,067
Land Smoothing	Acres	3	178
Tiling	Lineal Feet	0	8,710
Open Drainage Ditches	Miles	2.67	13.57
Farm Drainage	Acres	92	628
Land Clearing	Acres	140	1,378
Pasture Improvement	Acres	946	6,186
Fish Pond Improvement	No.	78	642
Wildlife Area Improvement	Acres	38	636
Multiflora Rose Fence	Rods	450	11,348
Tree Planting	Acres	10	47

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Adrian T. Fuller Chairman
Doyle Miller Commissioner
Harold Brim Commissioner
Jesse Burgess Assistant Commissioner
Russell Brierly Assistant Commissioner
Steve A. Evans, County Extension Director

Mrs. Donna Armstrong, State Employee District Secretary
..... District Clerk and Treasurer

SOIL CONSERVATION

SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Harold M. Anderson Work Unit Conservationist
Gary R. Johnson Soil Conservationist
T. J. Laing Conservation Aid
Lyle Miller Conservation Aid (Part time)
Merrill Dorland Conservation Aid (Part time)
Orval McDowell Conservation Aid (Part time)
(Note: Miller, Dorland and McDowell worked intermittently for brief periods and were paid in part from the funds provided by the State of Iowa.)

OTHER SOIL CONSERVATION

SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSISTING

Joe M. Colgan, Chariton Area Conservationist
Clarence Beam, Chariton Area Engineer
Leo Dures, Chariton Engineering Aid
Donald Peterson, Chariton Engineering Aid
Stanley Wiksell, Chariton Area Clerk
Wayne Dietz, Corydon Soil Scientist
Dale Lockridge, Corydon Soil Scientist

The Region No. 6 contest at Albia on August 1, Miss Gray won the regional contest and went on to the State Contest held in connection with the Plovers' Banquet at Guthrie Center on September 15.

This was the third consecutive year that our district has had a regional winner. Miss Gray's predecessors were Miss Peggy Fena of Murray and Miss Judy Blackley of Osceola.

Also in July, Addison Bowlsby, Don Jefferson and Earl Milligan, and Marion Milligan were chosen to represent Clarke district in the three divisions of the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program. These men received certificates of recognition at the annual Farmer - Businessmen's banquet held later in the year. These awards were furnished by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and the Iowa Farm and Home Register.

The district furnished an exhibit at the County 4-H Fair, August 16-19, featuring a map of proposed watershed areas, and the Civil Defense display. This exhibit was sponsored by the Clarke County State Bank.



Above Doyle Miller and Gary Johnson inspecting the switchgrass waterway seeding on the Ruth Heinrich farm. Switchgrass appears to be a very promising plant for this part of Iowa for wildlife cover and waterway seeding.

District Operates With 2 Budgets

The General Assembly of Iowa provides funds to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allotted to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs (as evidenced by budgets submitted by the district commissioners.)

Two separate funds are provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee. They are the IA Budget used for commissions' expenses, office supplies, printing, demonstrations and other office expenses, and the IIA Budget which is used to employ a clerk and technical help to assist with layout and planning work.

IA BUDGET

Item	Amount Expended Fiscal year 1959-60
IA Budget Allocation	\$ 500.00
Expenditures:	
Commissioners' Expense	184.23
Office Supplies	142.53
Prizes	15.00
Materials for Demonstration	14.53
Meeting Expenses	1.30
	\$ 357.59

IIA BUDGET

Item	Amount Expended Fiscal year 1959-60
IIA Budget Allocation	\$4,576.00
Expenditures:	
Clerical (full-time)	2,967.23
Technical (part-time)	1,093.10
Office Equipment	41.60
	\$4,101.93

Operating Fund

The District operating fund is a non-appropriated fund received from contributions. It is deposited in a checking account in the Clarke County State Bank. This money is used for expense which will further soil conservation but which cannot be paid from state appropriations.

Expenditures: "Friends of the Land" Magazine subscriptions \$ 5.00 Materials 5.00 Iowa Association Dues 100.00

Receipts: On hand 1-1-60 \$ 58.00 Donations 103.50

Total Receipts 161.50 Less Expenditures 110.00

Balance on hand 1-1-61 \$ 51.77

Hire's More About New Plans

(Continued from page 4)

Clarke Dugger
Kenneth Dugger
Ward Township
Don Edgington
Washington Township
Ernest E. McIntire
Kenneth Dunbar
W. H. Jones
BASIC CONSERVATION PLANS
Franklin Township
Lloyd Phillips
S. J. Blabaugh

Cleo Muselman
Dale Baker
Kenneth Reed
Fremont Township
James Macholz &
Ward Reynolds
Jay J. Swegle, Owner
Valerie Halversen, Operator
Jay J. Swegle
Saylor Feed & Grain
Wallace Tracey
Harold Schaffer
Grace Blackford
Green Bay Township
Geary Phillips
Jackson Township
Robert B. Oehlert
Russell Thornton
Carroll Crum
Knox Township
Robert Fuller
Thomas Barr

Charles Morris
Liberty Township
Ivel M. Miller
Donald D. Miller
Donald D. & Ivel M. Miller
E. E. Miller
Howard Miller
Merrill McCarty
Osceola Township
Floyd McGurn
H. E. Stroy
Irving Sparboe
Troy Township
James L. Baird
Lawrence Rowe, Owner

James L. Baird, Operator
Ward Township
W. L. & V. R. McCartney
Washington Township
Ernest E. McIntire, Owner
Lyle Baughman, Operator
Ivel LaVere Leska
Phillip Hendrichs
W. H. Jones, Owner
James Handrock, Operator



This group of Clarke county girls competed in the local Queen of the Furrow Contest in Osceola. Patty Gray and Linda Gonseth, both of Clarke county were selected to represent the county in the district contest at Albia.