

Annual Report



neola **GAZETTE-reporter** & minden-shelby **NEWS**

Pottawattamie County's Largest
Rural Weekly Newspaper

Thursday, March 27, 1980

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The Treynor Record

Neola, Pottawattamie County, Iowa 51559

Thursday, March 27, 1980

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Soil Conservation Special!

FORWARD

Forty years ago conservation farming, the application of soil and water conservation measures to farm fields, was little more than an idea.

Today conservation measures are in place on thousands of farms. Conservation farming is accepted and embraced throughout both Iowa and the nation.

Today though, the need for soil and water conservation, which was only dimly glimpsed forty years ago, is a demanding reality that stands forth stark and clear.

Conservation farming, the use of soil and water conservation practices, has made great strides in West Pottawattamie County. Proof of this rests in the pages of the following annual report. Great strides have also been achieved in the state and in the nation.

Much more though, ever so much more, remains to be accomplished. Moreover, that remaining to be done must be done as rapidly as possible. Both the soil and the water are first line national resources. It is in the national interest then that they be protected.

In contemplating that which must be done in the future, let us never lose sight of that which has been done in the past. Let future effort be cast in the same mold as in the past...voluntary action impelled by education and desire as opposed to a conservation imposed by governmental fiat.

C. W. McManamy
District Commissioner

SOIL CONSERVATION

To Southwest Iowa Farmers, we say

Thank You!



For your dedication to sound land management
and soil conservation practices.

By conserving the land you farm today, you
are assuring a bright tomorrow for this
region—the Nation's breadbasket—and for
the young men and women who will farm the
land tomorrow.

Just as the land is precious and
irreplaceable resource, so are you—
our friends and customers—valued
and appreciated.

Thank You

For letting us serve
your financial needs.



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Among the many businesses
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County Soil Conservation Report are:

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**"BLEMS"
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Limited Quantities



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We salute Southwest Iowa farmers for their
foresight in practicing soil conservation...pre-
serving our resources...assuring the future of
farming.

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FARMER DAYS



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With Goodyear

Value-Priced
Tractor Rear...
Our Best Seller!

TRACTION TORQUE

\$172⁴⁴

13.6x38 4-ply rating,
plus \$6.06 FET and old tire

Size	Ply Rating	PRICE	Plus FET and old tire
18.4x34	6-ply	\$305.56	10.73
15.5x38	6-ply	\$243.24	\$7.83
18.4x38	6-ply	\$349.44	\$12.40
20.8x38	8-ply	\$534.48	\$16.47

NEW!
Ultra Grip Radial

ASK HOW THIS
NEW TRACTOR TIRE
SAVES TIME,
SAVES FUEL,
SAVES MONEY

LIGHT TRUCK TIRE BUYS!
CHOOSE YOUR SIZE & PRICE

**Outline
White
Letter
Tracker LT**

- Dependable bias ply construction
- Uniform wear
- Blackwalls available too

\$53⁵⁸

G78x15 Outline
White letters,
Load Range C,
plus \$3.18 F.E.T.
and old tire



**Year-Round
Traction
Tire...
Tracker XG**

- Rugged, well-lugged tread
- Polyester cord body, bias ply construction

\$60⁶³

H78x15 TO
Blackwall,
Load Range C,
plus \$3.26 F.E.T.
and old tire



**Nylon
Cord
Rib
Hi-Miler**

- Five rib tread design
- Buttressed shoulders

\$44⁶⁷

700x15
Load Range C,
plus \$2.88 F.E.T.
and old tire



**TRACTOR
FRONT**



TRIPLE RIB R/S

Nylon cord body is
tough, shock-resistant.
Easy steering, too.

\$30⁴²

5.50x16 4-ply rating,
plus \$.89 FET and old tire

\$37⁵⁴ 600x16, 6-ply
rating, plus \$1.08
F.E.T. and old tire

\$44⁸⁷ 650x16, 6-ply
rating, plus \$1.23
F.E.T. and old tire

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FARM SERVICE

High flotation, heavy duty
load capacity, minimum rutting.

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95Lx15, 6-ply rating,
plus \$1.46 FET and old tire

\$50¹⁰ 11Lx15, 8-ply
rating, plus \$1.59
F.E.T. and old tire

\$69⁸² 125Lx15, 8-ply
rating, plus \$1.97
F.E.T. and old tire

\$74²⁰ 125Lx16, 8-ply
rating, plus \$2.07
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now while selection is best!!!

GOODYEAR

W Pott Soil Conservation Annual Report

PROGRESS

DISTRICT PROGRESS - 1979

New cooperators	20
Individuals and groups assisted	240
Farmers applying practices	94
Conservation acres planned	2,778 Acres
Resource plans prepared	4
Inventories and evaluations (Units of Government)	4

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Grade stabilization structures	0
Conservation tillage	1,887
Terraces	57.5

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Commissioner meetings	11
Special commissioner meetings	17
Environmental education council meetings	11
Meetings with other agencies	4
Regional meetings	2
Commissioners Annual Short Course	1 (2 days)
Commissioners Annual Conference	1 (2 days)
Resource Conservation & Development meetings	6
"208" Planning & Resource Conservation Act meetings	3
Metropolitan Area Planning Agency meetings	5
Office callers	572
Radio talks	7
Talks to schools and civic groups	5
Sixth Grade Campout (Approximately 150 students with a sponsor for every five students)	2 days
Contractors meetings	1
Watershed meetings	4
Conservation Tillage Tour	1
Annual Awards Program (To honor outstanding district cooperators)	1
"Farmers Day" (Booth in the Mall)	1 day

FINANCES

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT FISCAL YEAR 1979 BUDGET

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to the districts (sub-governmental units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by District Commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are: The 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2m Budget, which is used to employ a clerk for the office and a full time aide to help with field work.

1M Budget

Allocation	\$1,870.00
Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals)	752.68
Office supplies	134.91
Office expense	697.66
Meeting expense	20.00
Contests	41.02
Printing Expense	25.00
Demonstration Materials	72.50
Total Expended	1,743.77
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	126.23
.....	\$1,870.00

2M Budget

Allocation	\$22,252.92
Salaries (clerical and technical)	19,258.00
Clerks and Aides Travel	142.10
District Equipment	53.00
District Share of IPERS and Social Security	2,184.13
State Employees Insurance	615.69
Total Expended	22,252.92
Returned to Department of Soil Conservation	0.00
.....	\$22,252.92

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: Conservation Education materials, information programs, dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts and watershed construction.

Working Balance 12-31-78	110.81
1979 Receipts	57,502.22
1979 Expenditures	57,061.24
Balance on hand 12-31-79	551.79

The district also maintains a savings account for emergency use. The balance of that account is \$1,330.06.



Soil Conservation District Commissioners include [seated from the left] C.W. McManamy, Vice Chairman Derald Blois, Chairman Eldon Ravlin and Clint Goos. Commissioner Floyd Fischer is not shown. Standing are assistant commissioners Lloyd Brokman [left] and Louie Fahrenkrog.

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison Street, Council Bluffs (328-0951)
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek (545-3418)
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Route 5, Council Bluffs (366-1804)
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Route 1, McClelland (566-2633) *
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Route 1, Council Bluffs (526-2195)
C. W. McManamy, Assistant Commissioner, Route 3, Council Bluffs (322-8069)
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson (484-2241)
Don Untiedt (County Extension Director), District Secretary 1/79 - 6/79

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta L. Riggs, State Clerk
Kevin E. Holcombe, Engineering Aide II, 1/79 - 6/79

COUNTY EMPLOYEES

Dana Diller, County Resource Planner & Conservation Tech. 11/79 - present
Scott Osborn, County Resource Planner & Conservation Tech. 7/79 - 10/79

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Ronald Williams, Soil Conservationist 1/79 - 3/79
Brian Pillsbury, Soil Conservationist 6/79 - present
Warren A. Vorthmann, Conservation Technician
Steven Stover, Area Conservationist
Mrs. Karen Hazen, Area Clerk
Norman Koester, Civil Engineer

*Lloyd Brokman now lives at 631 Simms Avenue, Council Bluffs 328-8870



The SCS staff includes [from the left] Brian Pillsbury, Soil Conservationist; Dan Diller, Resource Planner and Technical Assistant; Oneta Riggs, State Clerk; Warren Vorthmann, Soil Technician; and Cal Cox, District Conservationist.

SOIL SURVEY

The Pottawattamie County Soil Survey is going into its third mapping season since it was resumed in 1978.

Mapping of the Missouri River bottomlands was completed in 1975, and those maps are now available at the District Office, Room 221 Federal Building, Council Bluffs.

At the present time there are 177,000 acres mapped in the district. Townships completed are Rockford, Crescent, Lake, Kane and Lewis. Boomer, Hazel Dell and Garner are 85% completed.

When spring mapping begins in 1980, we plan to work on the Nishnabotna river bottomland for the first couple of months. After that we will work from West to East on the North edge of the County, dividing time as evenly as possible between the two districts of West Pottawattamie and East Pottawattamie.

Farmers in the district will be notified by mail when the Soil Scientists are going to be in their area. If they have any questions, they should not hesitate to contact the Soil Conservation District Office in Council Bluffs.

The Soil Scientists making the survey are: Charlie Branham (Party Leader), Craig Busskohl and Steve Donath.

Charlie Branham
Soil Scientist

W Pott Soil Conservation Annual Report

WATERSHED REPORT

Twelve structures have been built in the North Pigeon Watershed. This leaves five more to be built. Most of the necessary terraces have been built, or will be built this year, so that four of the five remaining structures can be built in 1981. This will leave one road structure to be built in the next few years. These structures will benefit this community a great deal in keeping the gullies from getting larger, and will also help control silt.

Progress is being made in Simon Run Watershed, and it is hoped that a contract can be awarded for the remaining structures in the next few years. The first three structures were completed in 1977.

Activity in Twin Pines Watershed is taking place. The work plan (a blue-print of where structures will be built) is being worked on. The local people will have the opportunity to review this plan from time to time, as it is being developed. Those who live in the watershed have noticed SCS personnel working in the area for this purpose.

Ryan-Henschel and Indian Creek Watersheds have been completed, and the structures are doing the job they were designed to do.

Mamie Creek is apparently needing some local interest and leadership to surface into a project. Many benefits would be found in this area.

We now have a watershed inspector checking the structures already in operation. These are thoroughly inspected in the spring for growing trees, animal problems, and rills or erosion occurring on the dams. The number of structures made it impossible for commissioners to spend enough time on this inspection at the proper time of the year.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM [RC & D]

Another year has passed, and although our hopes were high, the Golden Hills RC & D application was not accepted this time around. However, there is good news! There is more governmental interest than last year. The appropriation was again raised. A few applications were approved last year, one being in Iowa, which made it difficult for us to get anything this year.

However, the committees are continuing with their projects. The Agricultural Committee's demonstration plot on minimum tillage has drawn a great deal of interest, and will continue another year. Narrated slides of the 1979 plot have been taken and are available to the public.

The road erosion control committee have been busy with preliminary investigation to determine the need and locations of small road structures. This would be a great help to the County if a few federal dollars were available. This report is ready to present to the County Board of Supervisors for their approval.

We have been told that, of the fifty-four applications submitted, Golden Hills is real high on the list.

We feel 1981 could be the year.

Lloyd Brokman
Assistant Commissioner

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COUNCIL

The environmental education council was very active in 1979.

Once again, the council sponsored the annual 6th grade campout at Arrowhead Park in Neola. The 150 sixth grade students from throughout the county, who attended the campout held the first weekend in May, had a chance to see real nature in progress. The students participated in a number of outdoor study activities, including a blind walk, fisheries and aquatic biology, Soils and Forestry, natural terrarium building and astronomy in the evening. Skits were put together Friday night by the students. Everyone had a good time, and hopefully the students went home more aware of their environment, as did the council members. Such a successful campout was the result of eight or more monthly meetings held by the council at Iowa Western Community College. It was at these meetings where the showing of ideas and planning took place to make the campout a reality.

Council members are now making plans for a 6th grade environmental field day to be held in May at Arrowhead Park. Sixth graders from the Underwood and Neola Systems will be participating in this year's event.

Gale Brown, Chairman
Environmental Education Council

CONTESTS

West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District hosted the Annual Southwest Iowa Soil Judging Contest for the Future Farmers of America. Twenty-five teams from sixteen schools completed in the contest.

Walnut's team #1 and #2 won first and second place respectively. Greenfield FFA received 3rd place team honors. Individual winners were: 1st place, Jeff Stuart, Walnut; 2nd place, Greg Mertz, Walnut; and 3rd place, Mike Woltman, Walnut.

Eighty-five students evaluated three soil types according to permeability, depth of topsoil, PH, topography and other characteristics. They classified the soil as to its capability for various uses, such as agriculture, recreation, development and forestry. Following the judging, a critique of each soil was given by Mark Minger and Charles Branham, Soil Scientists with the Soil Conservation Service. They explained how soils information can be used to make land use decisions.

The high enthusiasm shown by the students was a good indication of the interest we can expect from our next generation of farmers towards conservation in the years ahead.

WORLD HERALD CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

The World Herald Soil Conservation Program honors districts in Western Iowa and Nebraska for their accomplishments and performance in district activities. Your district won 1st place in 1975.

GOODYEAR AWARDS:

Don Casson of McClelland was chosen as the 1978 outstanding cooperators award presented by Goodyear. Don farms 1160 acres in York and Washington Townships. He is a good conservationist and has contributed much to the district program.

Again this year West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District was named honor district in the Southern Iowa Division at the annual commissioners conference in December. The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District also won the honor award in 1978. Since we have been



Don Casson of McClelland was the recipient of the Goodyear Conservation Award.



Lloyd Brokman received a special award from the Department of Soil Conservation.



Marvin Larsen of Underwood received the owner-operator conservation award.



Sherwood Bentley of Macedonia was recognized with the new cooperators conservation award.



Eldon Schultz and Michael Schoening of Silver City shared the landlord-tenant award for conservation.

RESOURCE CONSERVATION ACT [RCA]

The Resource Conservation Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-192) was signed into law by President Carter in 1978. This piece of legislation offers soil conservation districts the long, sought after opportunity to project budget on the basis of need, and develop a five year plan for USDA Conservation Assistance. Here again, the soil conservation districts are named in preparing the program. In 1978 the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District held a public meeting in the Central Fire Station at Community Hall in Council Bluffs, to identify local concerns and start the appraisal process.

Here are the seven resource areas and objectives identified in the over 9,000 meetings held nation-wide:

SOIL RESOURCE QUANTITY AND QUALITY: 1) Reduce soil erosion on agricultural land. 2) Retain prime and unique farmland. 3) Maintain soil quality.

WATER QUALITY: 1) Reduce the levels of toxic pollutants and dissolved solids. 2) Minimize pollution from nutrients and organic wastes. 3) Reduce sediment.

WATER SUPPLY AND CONSERVATION: 1) Increase the efficiency of water use in agriculture. 2) Increase agricultural water supplies.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT: 1) Reduce the loss of wetlands. 2) Increase in-stream water flow. 3) Improve upland wildlife habitat.

UPSTREAM FLOOD DAMAGES: 1) Reduce upstream flood damages. 2) Develop new technology to reduce damages. 3) Prevent loss of wetlands and prime agricultural land.

ENERGY CONSERVATION AND PRODUCTION: 1) Reduce energy use in agriculture. 2) Increase energy production on agricultural land.

RELATED NATURAL RESOURCES: 1) Increase the use of organic wastes. 2) Reduce downstream flood losses and sediment from construction sites. 3) Reduce the loss of prime and unique farmland to urban uses.

You are now being asked to make your comments concerning the

following U.S.D.A. Proposal Strategies:

REDIRECT PRESENT PROGRAMS: USDA would continue its 34 existing conservation programs, but it would redirect funds and personnel toward new national objectives for conservation.

CROSS COMPLIANCE: Farmers and ranchers would be required to solve conservation problems in order to receive assistance under certain USDA farm programs.

REGIONAL RESOURCE PROJECTS: USDA programs would be directed toward urgent and chronic regional resource problems of national importance. Project plans would be the basis for USDA assistance.

STATE LEADERSHIP: State governments would develop their own conservation programs. After approval by USDA, states could receive grants to ensure achievement of national conservation objectives.

REGULATION: Local, state and national regulations would be coupled with financial and technical assistance to solve conservation problems according to USDA standards.

CONSERVATION PERFORMANCE BONUS: Bonus benefits would be paid to farmers and ranchers who voluntarily solve conservation problems on their land. Bonuses could take the form of higher support payments, cost sharing, or favorable interest rates on loans.

NATURAL RESOURCE CONTRACTS: Farmers and ranchers would receive annual payments for reducing erosion, conserving water, and applying other conservation measures.

For more information, feel free to stop in at the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District Office at Room 221 Federal Building, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

Mail your comments directly to USDA. Don't be concerned about style or length. Just get your thoughts on paper and mail them by March 28 to:

USDA RCA-Response Analysis Center
P.O. Box 888, Athens, Georgia 30603

Clint Goos
Commissioner

CONSERVATION TILLAGE

Conservation tillage is a method of leaving crop residue on the soil surface to intercept the raindrops from hitting the bare soil.

Conservation tillage covers soil. Raindrops from a one-inch rain over one acre of bare soil produces energy equal to one-half ton TNT. Crop residue on the soil surface softens the blow, reducing soil erosion by one-half.

Conservation tillage saves fuel, labor and time by reducing the number of trips over the field. The last few years many farmers in West Pottawattamie County said that their conservation tillage system reduced their expenses and they still maintained yields.

Conservation tillage equipment comes in many forms, from a chisel plow to a no-till planter with fluted coulters. They all give good results. The more residue left on the surface after crop is planted, the better erosion control. It is up to each farmer to determine the system that best fits his needs.

Why don't you try a no-till on 20 acres or so this year? The SCS Technician will gladly assist you in getting started.

Cal Cox
District Conservationist

W Pott Soil Conservation Annual Report

SOIL CONSERVATION NEEDS HIGH PRIORITY

If you're one of the people who's been concerned about soil erosion on our Iowa cropland, you'll be interested in the discussions taking place at local, state and federal government levels.

Interest in soil conservation is higher in Iowa now than any other period in history, including the days of the "Dust Bowl." And government officials are now translating that interest into proposals intended to speed up soil conservation work.

Just in the last year, pilot projects have been designed by the state legislature to promote conservation tillage and windbreaks, for example. The state also has a pilot program designed to promote grass plantings for wildlife and soil conservation. More than a fourth of the counties in Iowa provided cost-share monies or funds for technical help in soil conservation work last year. On the federal level, some shifting of funds and manpower is taking place to put those resources in Midwest states, where crop production is important and soil erosion is critical.

Those things that are happening are in one way or another related to the Resource Conservation Act of 1977. It was an act passed by Congress that is intended to closely monitor soil and water resources, and the programs intended to conserve those valuable resources. An important part of the law requires that public input be considered in designing soil and water resource programs.

In Iowa, soil erosion was called the number 1 resource problem in public opinion studies made last year. Other top resource problems were water quality, land use problems, and the decline of our ability to produce food in the future.

State and federal lawmakers, and soil conservation officials at all government levels, are now making plans for soil conservation programs for the 1980's. During February and March, both the state and federal governments will be asking for public review and comment on their five-year plans. Many soil conservation districts in Iowa will be asking for similar input in the district five-year plan.

Soil conservation will likely be a lively issue in the Iowa Legislature and in Congress in 1980. Never before has there been such an effort at all levels of government to get something going on soil and water resource protection programs.

It's time to make your ideas known on sensible ways to protect our land. See your soil conservation district commissioners about their plans, and watch for announcements on public review of state and federal plans.

William J. Brune
State Conservationist, SCS



Walnut's Chapter won this FFA Southwest Iowa Soil Judging Contest.

STATE COST-SHARE

Through appropriations of State funds by the Iowa Legislature the past several years to the Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, and proportioned to the 100 districts (or counties), additional conservation practices have been applied that otherwise could not have been accomplished.

In 1979 the West Pottawattamie County Soil Conservation District received \$65,000, all of which has been allocated to landowners to share the cost of terrace construction on a 50% cost-share basis. The funds we receive do not meet all of the requests for assistance. An additional \$11,000 was received by the district to assist landowners with spring construction.

All landowners, who are district cooperators, are eligible for cost-share assistance. They must agree to maintain the practice for ten years, and have a conservation farm plan with the district.

Landowners planning on applying conservation practices this year should first stop in at the district office, Room 221 Federal Building in Council Bluffs and sign a cost-share application; their contractor must be secured to do the work before approval is made.

The State Cost-share agreement procedures are set by Iowa law, and not by your district governing body. Your commissioners are only the administrators of the law.

Eldon Ravlin
District Chairman

WORKING WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

District Commissioners are elected every six years in the General Elections held in November. We have five Commissioners and two Assistant Commissioners.

The District is involved with Environmental Education, Metropolitan Area Planning Agency (MAPA), The Western Iowa Conservancy District, The Southern Iowa Conservancy District, Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), Region 13 Soil Conservation Districts, The Resource Conservation Act (RCA), and "208" Planning.

The District works with other organizations such as: Iowa Department of Soil Conservation, Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration, Extension Service, National Association of Conservation Districts, County Board of Supervisors, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS), Rural Development Committee, Agriculture Research Service (ARS), News Papers, Radio, Television, Schools, and many others.

Our jobs are becoming more important with new laws being passed and new programs being initiated, such as the Iowa Conservancy District Law, Resource Conservation Act (RCA), & "208" Planning, and Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D). We work with all of these organizations, as well as running our own fundamental organization.

The County Board of Supervisors has employed a Resource Planner to assist the District in carrying out the above programs. This is funded from the Rural Assistance Program.

Clint Goos and Cal Cox have been used as Resource People in assisting the County to develop a Sub-Division Ordinance for Pottawattamie County based on soil capabilities.

The District is working close with the city in reviewing urban development plans for erosion control measures. We hope this will aid in reducing the sediment problems during urban development.

The Commissioners wish to extend their gratification to all organizations for their cooperation in helping make the district a success.

Floyd Fischer
District Commissioner



Conservation tillage tour.

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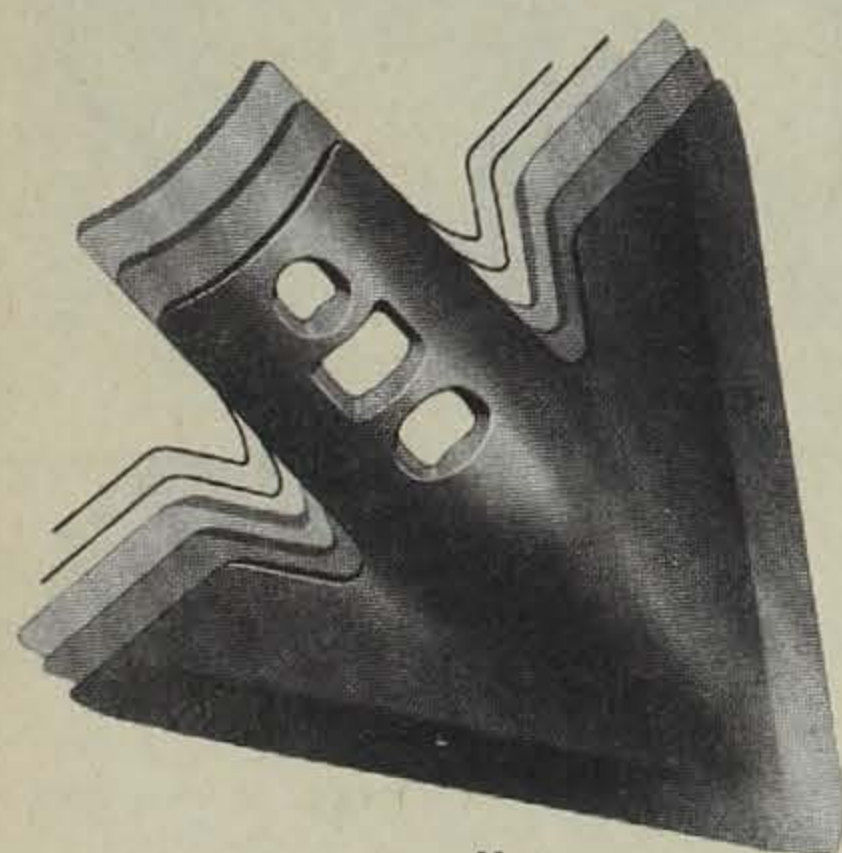
I.H. 1460 Combines

USED EQUIPMENT

F504D	\$3800
F856D	\$10,300
F1026D, hydro	\$10,500
F1066D, cab	\$13,500
F1456D	\$10,700
F350G, W.F.O.H.	\$2500
I.H. 510 drill 12'	\$2560
MF 43, grain drill 13	\$1800
I.H. 550, 5-14 plow	\$1150
I.H. 470 disk, 18'7"	\$2300
I.H. 490, disk 24'7"	\$5500
I.H. 490, disk 24'10"	\$6300
MF 750D, combine, cutter & table	\$18,000
I.H. 810, header 15'	\$3500
I.H. 744 cornhead	\$1200
I.H. 1450 Cadet w/loader, 14 hp	\$2450
I.H. 1000 Cadet w/mower, 10 hp	\$1500
Ariens riding mower, 8 hp	\$450

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Terracing, Contour Farming Reclaim Land

Unwisely, wasteful gullies can be healed and reclaimed through proper conservation practices. Runoff waters from the hillsides must first be controlled by terraces and contour farming. Sometimes structures may be needed at the outlet end of a gully.

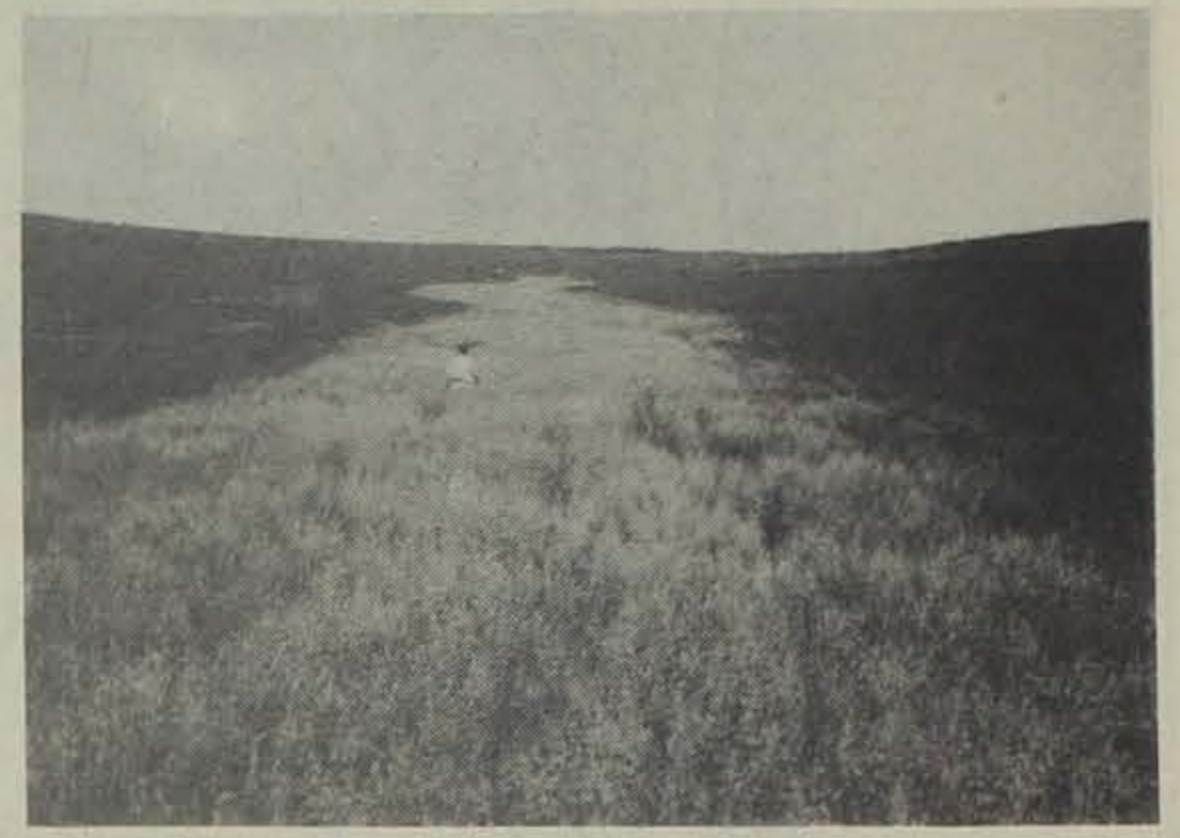
Following the installation of these and other corrective measures the ragged walls of the gully can be dozed in the entire area given a saucer shaped profile. In this process trees and brush are also removed.

Once properly shaped, a thick rooted grass such as brome grass or reed canary grass is planted. This permits the waterway to still serve as an outlet for surplus runoff water but without allowing the bottom of the waterway to become eroded.

Once properly established, grassed waterways are ordinarily left in grass but may be easily crossed with farm machinery. Thus the conservation treatment of a gully area reduces erosion, siltation and land waste. At the same time, it facilitates the overall farming operation.



Proposed waterway on farm in Boomer township, 1950.



Grassed waterway with oats, brome, alfalfa.

Cooperation Makes Watersheds Work

The watershed program provides one of the most effective tools ever made available for soil and water conservation. Quite simply the watershed philosophy embraces the principle that a number of land owners working together as it were can achieve a much greater measure of conservation much more quickly than the same number working individually.

The watershed program recognizes that all of the landowners in a watershed...all of those acres which drain into a common waterway...have a central interest. That interest is retaining the soil and water on the slopes and controlling the siltation, the flooding and the erosion which frequently takes place in the main stream areas.

Recognizing the validity of this approach the federal government has joined hands with the land owners in a watershed who have organized and petitioned for a watershed program. In general terms, the landowners put the needed practices on their own acres. They also provide rights-of-way for the structures needed for mainstem and tributary controls.

Federal funds then pay for the structures (dams to some) needed on the streams and tributaries proper. The Soil Conservation Service provides the engineering and technical assistance needed in carrying the project forward to completion.

Several watershed projects have been completed in West Pottawattamie district. Several more are in various stages ranging all the way from preliminary planning to near completion stage.

These watershed projects provide protection for the slopes within their boundaries and for the downstream areas through which the mainstem flows. The overall soil and water conservation program of the district has profited immensely from the watershed projects.



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