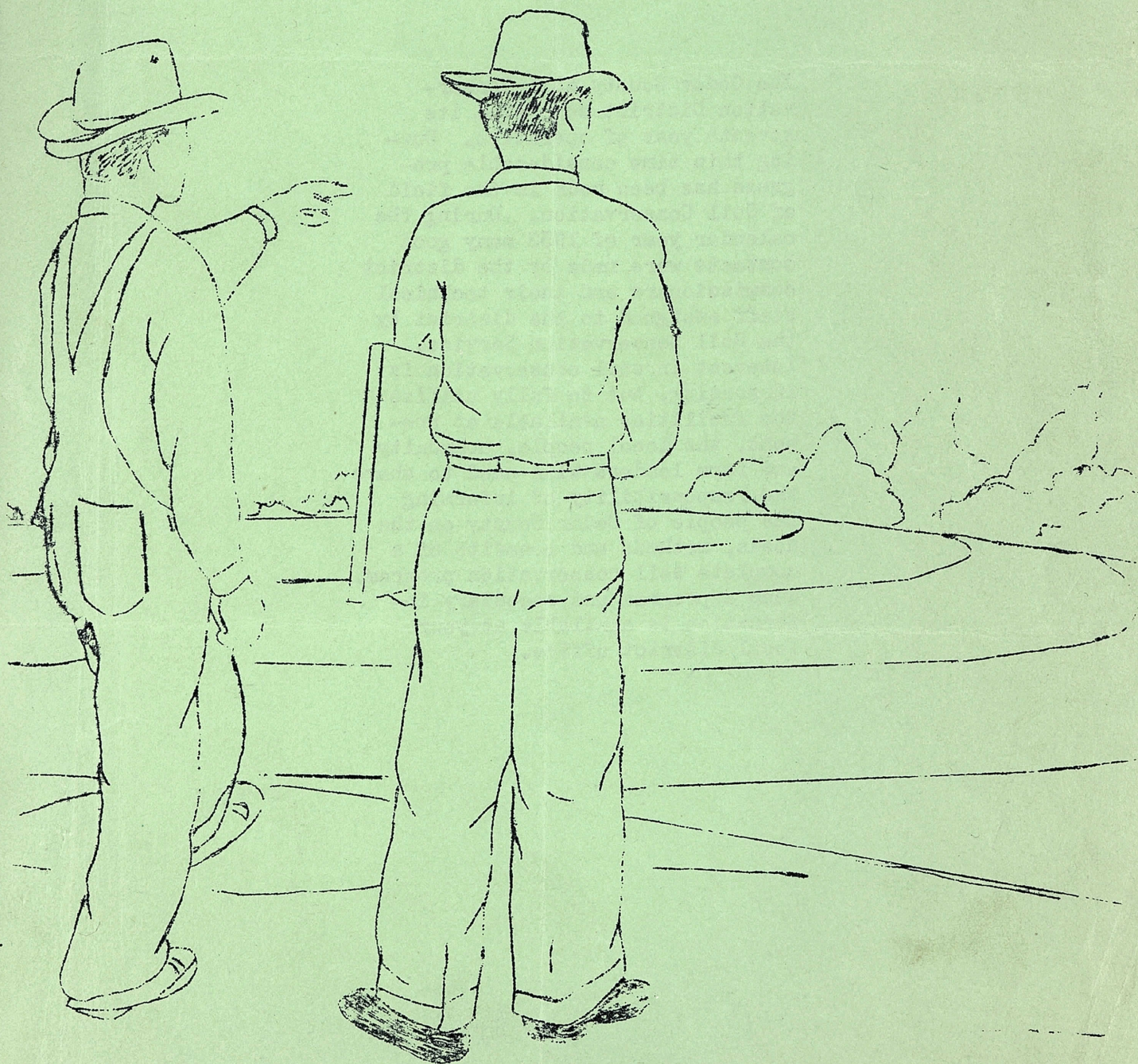


CEDAR COUNTY  
SOIL CONSERVATION DIST  
ANNUAL REPORT

1953



The Cedar County Soil Conservation District completed its seventh year of operation. During this time considerable progress has been made in the field of Soil Conservation. During the calendar year of 1953 many good contacts were made by the district commissioners and their technical staff assigned to the district by the Soil Conservation Service. Interest in soil conservation is increasing, but to fully utilize the facilities available at present, the local people, community and farm leaders will need to share the responsibility of informing the people of Cedar County on the needs, methods and benefits of a complete soil conservation program. Such a program and necessary information is available at your local district office.

## FOREWORD

Once again we, commissioners of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District, report to the people and the assisting agencies on the conservation progress of the past year, the seventh year of operation for this district.

Efforts expended by various agencies in soil conservation work are coordinated by the district for real progress in effective conservation of our soil and water.

We especially appreciate the cooperation of the P.M.A., Extension Service, all vocational agriculture departments, in the county, the ~~implement~~ <sup>implement</sup> dealers who provided door prizes for the annual meeting last year, and all other groups or individuals who have worked with the district.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The annual meeting which was held in March was well attended. W. J. B. Boatman, Area Conservationist, was the principal speaker. He gave an inspirational talk on the harvesting and use of quality roughages.

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District again sponsored a scrapbook contest for the Cedar County school pupils in grades 5 to 8 inclusive. There were 40 entrants.

Earl Elijah, State Senator, awarded the prizes at the County Eighth Grade Commencement exercises.

It was decided to sponsor a county wide air tour in July. Response was so good that it was necessary to take two days to accommodate all passengers. Eight rural teachers decided to take this same tour in August; a total of 76 took this tour.

The commissioners held twelve monthly meetings to carry out the district's business and various activities.

Robert Kelly was one of five ex-district commissioners receiving an award for outstanding work in promoting soil conservation. This award was made at the seventh annual district commissioner's conference at Ft. Dodge, September 20, 1953.

Forty-four cooperators responded to a request that they subscribe to the Iowa Soil & Water magazine. Half of the subscription price of this magazine remained in Cedar County to be used to help promote soil conservation at home.

#### SOIL CONSERVATION FARM PLANNING Don Williams, Work Unit Conservationist

During the past year 67 farmers signed requests for assistance, 43 conservation farming guides were written and complete farm plans were worked out with 19 farmers. The district now has 336 cooperators and 211 complete farm plans.

Interest has been good and is increasing every year, not only in Cedar County but over the entire nation. However, we have little more than scratched the surface, a tremendous load remains; much can be done by organizing small groups of farmers to develop and carry out their conservation plans.

We will make real progress by working together.

#### PUT CONSERVATION ON THE LAND Clarence Beyer, Conservation Aid

A new all-time record was established during 1953 by the Cedar County farmers in putting soil conservation on the land. This was accomplished with no increase in technical assistance furnished to the district by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service. Favorable weather conditions together with the cooperation of farmers and contractors in giving several days advance notice has made this increased layout possible.

#### SUMMARY OF 1953 APPLICATION

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Contouring.....             | 4496 acres          |
| Contour Strip Cropping..... | 117 acres           |
| Pasture Improvement.....    | 93 asres            |
| Farm Drainage.....          | 406,006 lineal feet |
| Surface Drains.....         | 0.8 mile            |
| Terracing.....              | 0.9 mile            |
| Waterway Development.....   | 13.5 acres          |
| Field Boundaries.....       | 1346 rods           |
| Structures.....             | 2                   |
| Farm Ponds.....             | 3                   |

## EXTENSION SERVICE

Howard A. Hamilton, Cedar County Extension Director, has acted as secretary of the district and has been charged with the responsibility of promoting the educational phrases of Soil Conservation. This has been done through soil conservation meetings, individual contacts, and other meetings. Some phrase of soil conservation was stressed at practically every educational meeting held in the county during the year. Mr. Hamilton ran across a little poem written by Dr. Loudermilk where he states that if all of us could see the effects of drought, floods, pestilence and starvation among millions caused by dissipation of the soil resources we would urge that an Eleventh Commandment be added which would go something like this - - -

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt protect thy fields from soil erosion and thy hills from over-grazing by thy herds, so thy descendants may live in abundance forever.

If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land their fertile fields shall become sterile stones and gullies, and their descendants will decrease in numbers or perish from the face of the earth forever."

Are you a faithful Steward?

## SOIL CONSERVATION PAYS

Centuries of decayed vegetation left on the land and in the soil made it rich and productive. We must not and need not waste it now.

Nature's methods of conserving the soil are published in all languages and tongues for everyone to study. We can adopt a system of mixing roots and leaves of grasses and legumes into our soil every time we work it for a crop. This system builds organic matter, decreases the amount of commercial fertilizer required, helps prevent drought damage, helps control soil erosion, makes the ground easier to work and makes farming more profitable.

Preaching soil conservation pays. Practicing soil conservation pays. The land either stays where it is or goes down the river; let's keep it where it is and improve it.

The Commissioners have budgeted the funds available from the State of Iowa to the best of their ability.

There was expended from the \$500.00 or the 1A Budget \$383.37 which was used as follows: (1) prizes for the Soil Conservation Scrapbook Contest, (2) newspaper mats, (3) pictures, (4) postage, and (5) commissioner's mileage.

\$1032.11 was spent for extra technical help, clerical assistance and for new equipment. This is known as the 2A Budget.

COMMISSIONERS:

Wm. W. Wertzbaugher, West Branch, Iowa  
Geo. R. Kiser, Wilton Junction, Iowa  
J. S. Smith, Stanwood, Iowa