

ANNUAL REPORT

CEDAR COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Tipton, Iowa

January 1, 1947 to December 31, 1947

The Commissioners of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District wish to present this report to all parties concerned as a means of, showing their accomplishments to-date, present status, future obligations and their appreciation for results obtained by agencies of the U. S. Department of Agriculture cooperating and assisting the District.

The District was organized in February of 1946, and received full time technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service as of February 1, 1947. This technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service was utilized in the late winter and spring of 1947 in conducting 12 field demonstrations and the laying out of lines for contouring and contour strip cropping on prospective Farmer-District cooperators.

The Commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given to the local District by the Soil Conservation Service and their staff at Tipton, Iowa, for with this type of assistance assigned to the District on a full time basis and with only the responsibility for Soils work much more can be accomplished. At present the work load is such that the District could gainfully use an additional employee to assist district cooperators in the application of their Conservation plans to the land, thus leaving the Farm Planner more time to devote to developing Farm Conservation Plans with owners and operators in the District. We also wish to acknowledge the assistance given by the local Agriculture Extension Director for the assistance given in planning and carrying out the educational activity on Soils Work. The Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service are cooperating in conducting the educational activities, both meetings and field activities.

Other agencies and organizations taking part in the soils work in Cedar County Soil Conservation District were the A.A.A., Vocational Agriculture, State Conservation Commission, rural and urban schools, Farm Bureau, National Farm Loan Association, Production Credit and various local civic organizations. We wish to express our appreciation for the support and enthusiasm for Soil Conservation work shown by the local newspapers. They have given us their loyal support and have aided very much in enabling us to perform our duties as District Commissioners

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District has undertaken, along with Iowa State College, an experiment to determine the yields of the following crops after plowing under first and second crops of clover.

The plot size shall be equivalent to 4 rows x 12 rows of corn (14' x 40' for 40" spacing). Experiment shall be planned and fertilizer treatments put on at oats seeding time or top-dressed early in the spring on the clover crop.

Treatments.

1. Both clover crops removed - no fertilizer
2. Both clover crops removed - 120 #/A P_2O_5 (600 #/A 0-20-0)
3. First crop removed only - no fertilizer
4. First crop removed only - 120 #/A P_2O_5
5. No cuttings removed - no fertilizer
6. No cuttings removed - 120 #/A P_2O_5

The above treatments shall be replicated 6 times. Plot area is .0129 acre and total area required will be approximately 0.5 acre.

The Commissioners wish to further this type of experimental work by including in the experiment the use of a 2-year Alfalfa-bromegrass meadow. They feel that this would be of more value than the work on red clover, because they realize that a majority of the land in Cedar County should have 2 years of meadow in the rotation. Also carrying on experimental work on the feeding value of crops raised on poor or over cropped land compared with good or properly managed land. We are interested and quite concerned about the nutritional value of crops raised and feel that a contribution can be made by conducting this type of research work with the State College.

The district has entered into an agreement with the Soil Conservation Nursery division and obtained 180 lbs. of certified Fischer Brome-grass. This has been released, under agreement to 2 cooperators for the purpose of increasing seed production.

Farm Planning did not get under way till the middle of July in 1947. During the remaining months of 1947, 20 Farm Plans were prepared and approved with the assistance of Soil Conservation Service personnel assigned to the District. This total represents 2965 acres under agreement with the District. Also conservation Surveys were prepared on 18,050 acres during the year, making a total of 18,700 Acres survey to-date.

Soil Conservation practices established on the land as results of Farm Plans and technical help from the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service are the following:

✓ Contour Planting	2,048 Acres
✓ Contour Strip Cropping	150 Acres
✓ Terraces Constructed	$\frac{1}{4}$ Miles
✓ Waterways constructed	17,360 L.Ft.
✓ Reorganization of Fields	1,500 L.Ft.

Practices planned as results of Farm Plans, but not applied:

Contour Planting	1,650 Acres
Contour Strip Cropping	222 Acres
Lining of Pastures	196 Acres
Fertilizing of Pastures	196 Acres
Seeding of Pastures	196 Acres
Farm Drainage	539 Acres
Farm Drainage (Tile)	379,400 L.Ft.
Reorganization of Fields	86,910 L.Ft.
Terraces	$\frac{1}{8}$ Miles
Outlets & Farm Watercourses	83,900 L.Ft.
Soil Saving Dams	1 each

The District has received written application for assistance from 87 farmers, to-date, which have been approved for farm planning. Of this total 66 farms representing 13,403 acres remains to be planned. At present quite a few groups of farmers have petitioned for assistance, but are awaiting further action by the Commissioners.

The following educational and informational activities were conducted during the year:

News articles released	30
Tours (Outside County)	3
Method Demonstrations	12
General Educational Meetings	
Township F.Bureau meetings	12
Rural school teachers	1
Rural Schools	6
Civic & Commercial Org.	2
Vocational Agriculture	11
Interest & Organ. Mtgs. for groups	14
Farm Planning Meetings	6
Veterans training Meetings	9

We, as District Commissioners, believe that the adoption of Soil Conservation practices should be left on a voluntary basis, but also realize that they should be applied as rapidly as funds, personnel and farmers interest will permit. The time is the near future and not some 25-30 years from now.

Cedar County Soil Conservation
District Commissioners

Arnold L. Meier

Arnold L. Meier, Chairman

Commissioners

Arnold L. Meier, Clarence, Iowa
Robert Kelly, Clarence, Iowa
Floyd T. Fawcett, West Branch, Iowa