

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1968 - June 30, 1969

The 1-M and 2-M budgets are provided by the State of Iowa

1-M Budget Allocation	\$ 500.00
Carryover from 67-68 fiscal year	<u>191.66</u>
Total Allocation	<u>691.66</u>

Expenses

Commissioners expenses	166.25
Office Supplies	140.49
Printing Annual Report	91.25
Prizes for contests	25.00
Office expense	<u>42.15</u>
Total expenses	<u>465.14</u>

Fiscal year balance returned to State	
Committee office 6-30-69	226.52

2-M Budget Allocation	5,061.69
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Salary, FICA, IPERS, Travel, Insurance - Total expended	5,061.69
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DISTRICT GENERAL FUND

Balance on Hand 7-1-68	634.62
Income	<u>88.50</u>
Total	<u>723.12</u>
Expense	<u>224.80</u>
Balance on Hand 6-30-69	<u>498.32</u>

DISTRICT WATERSHED MAINTENANCE FUND

Balance on Hand 7-1-68	\$27,591.06
Watershed Maintenance Payments	2,282.77
Interest	<u>1,185.00</u>
	<u>\$31,058.83</u>
Expenses	<u>151.75</u>
Balance on Hand 6-30-69	<u>\$30,907.08</u>

Disposition of the \$30,907.08 is as follows:

\$19,000.00 in Certificates of Deposit

\$10,000.00 in H Bonds

1,907.08 in Checking Account

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT MARKS 25 YEARS

This year, the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District Commissioners submitted their silver anniversary report on the accomplishments for 1969.

The District was officially organized on April 18, 1944 with Louis Bengston, C. C. Martin and James Fee elected as the first governing body.

Harvey Lindberg was assigned to Cherokee County in October 1944 as the first farm planner and Glen Craft as the first technician in January 1945. Glen Craft retired in March 1968 and Harvey Lindberg retired in December 1968.

Ford Ralston of Washta signed the first farmer agreement with the Soil Conservation District in February 1945.

Cherokee County farmers have installed an impressive amount of soil and water conservation practices in the past 25 years. To date, there are 865 farm owners who have signed cooperative agreements with the Soil Conservation District. If all the terraces installed in the past 25 years were laid out in a continual line, they would reach for 550 miles. Over 90 farm ponds have been constructed and more than 100 erosion control structures. Nearly 1,400 acres of Cherokee County are in waterways seeded to grass and more than 90,000 acres are protected by contouring.

This conservation on the land involves people and Cherokee County farmers have received considerable recognition for their soil and water conservation farming. In the 25 years, the District has received The Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Program Area award eight times. Those men recognized in this manner include James Fee, Pete Carsten, Herb Althaus, Vere Corrington, Art Dorr, Ralph Kludas, Clifford Chapman, Harvey Harrison, Keith Fee, Eldred Beeghly, Forrest Spencer, Robert Florine, Ralph Patterson, Herbert Peterson, John Husman, LaVern Gustafson, Lawrence Hohbach, Duane Hollenbeck, James Bush, Robert George, Ronald and Royce Mortenson, Melvin Robinson, Joe Eisenmenger, and Whitfield and Darrell Adamson. In 1964, the District was also honored for having the Sweepstakes Winner in the

Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register.

The farmer recognized was Robert Rawson of Pierson, Iowa.

Nine watershed projects have been completed in Cherokee County and plans are completed on the tenth. The small watersheds are organized for the purpose of controlling soil and water erosion within a complete drainage area. This involves the cooperation and participation of all the neighbors in a small drainage area who go together to solve the problems of soil and water conservation which go beyond the efforts of an individual landowner.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

	This Year	Total to Date
Terraces	47,784 feet	2,902,540 feet
Grass Waterways	58 acres	1,385 acres
Ponds	1 each	94 each
Concrete Structures	6 each	119 each
Tile Drains	94,006 feet	1,894,881 feet
Diversions	650 feet	56,354 feet
Drainage Ditch	833 feet	30,703 feet
Wildlife Planting	8 acres	262 acres
Contouring	300 acres	93,089 acres
District Cooperators	22 each	865 each
Basic Plans	7 each	733 each
Plans Revised	9 each	

IN RETROSPECT

By: Bernard Braband, DC

1969 (as no one will need to be reminded) was a year of sufficiency of moisture. This was reflected in the great amount of drainage done in the county. Farmers saw the need and this became a priority for them. Having an adequacy of moisture resulted in bountiful yields also. Farmers were short of storage and drying space. (This reminds a person of the biblical character who tore down all his granaries to rebuild more and greater ones to store his bountiful harvest).

When you think back on 1969 to try to visualize what you did differently to bring about such good yields, you will have to admit that it was all because of adequate moisture.

This brings about the realization that of all the management practices we can use to bring about a good return in crop yields, the one important ingredient is moisture. Therefore, any moisture conservation practices that can be used such as contouring, terracing or mulch tillage and the combination of these practices where needed are important to good crop production.

Don't overlook the need for soil and water conservation. There are too many years in Northwest Iowa when too little moisture is the case during the growing season.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES FOR 1969

The Cherokee County Soil Conservation District observed its 25th anniversary in 1969. This report is dedicated to the conservation fore-sight of its three original commissioners elected to serve in April, 1944. These men were James R. Fee, C. C. Martin and Louis C. Bengston.

Harvey Lindberg retired after serving 25 years in the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District and a total of 35 years with the Soil Conservation Service beginning with the CCC(Civilian Conservation Corps) in the 1930's.

Miss Cathy Meloy of Cherokee was the District soil conservation speech contest winner. She also won third place honors in the regional contest at LeMars.

Dan George worked part-time as conservation aide in the summer.

A combination ASCS, Extension, FHA, and SCD booth was set up at the county fair. Theme of the booth was to give information on rural water systems.

Paul Meylor, Leonard Degan and Richard Anderson were the County winners in the Des Moines Register Contest.

The Whitfield Adamson-Darrell Adamson, Lewis Shea-Joe Eisenmenger and McWilliams-Melvin Robinson farms were the County and Area winners of the Sioux City Program ^{For} of Permanent Agriculture.

One set of America the Beautiful pictures was taken to Southeast Asia for teaching purposes.

Outdoor conservation science classes for the Meriden-Cleghorn schools were held at Rainey Knob County Park on May 13th and for the Marcus Junior High School at the Area Martin Access/on May 14th.

An air survey over the county determined the flood damage caused by the runoff of the snow melt in the spring of 1969.

The Commissioners held 10 regular monthly meetings and one special meeting during the year. Commissioners also attended two regional commissioners meetings at LeMars.

The District Conservationist presented a slide talk to the Spring Township Farm Bureau and the Aurelia Womens Club. A talk on the proposed rural water system was given at the Cherokee Rotary Club.

The District Conservationist served on a panel at a town hall meeting called by the Cherokee Community Action Committee to discuss the Cherokee flood problem.

Two meetings were held with the County Board of Supervisors with Wallis Tonsfeldt, Area Conservationist and John Worster, Area Soil Scientist, to discuss possible standard soil survey for Cherokee County.

An Area Water Pollution Control meeting was held at the Sheffield Hotel in July.

The District Clerk, Gladys Schroeder, attended the Annual Conference for Soil Conservation Commissioners at Hotel Savory, Des Moines, Iowa in September.

PERSONNEL

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Vere Corrington	Cherokee, Iowa	Chairman
Arthur Dorr	Marcus, Iowa	Member
Donald DeWitt	Washta, Iowa	Member

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Mrs Gladys Schroeder	Quimby, Iowa	District Clerk
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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Bernard L. Braband (Feb. 1969 to present)	District Conservationist
Monas C. Nixon	Conservation Technician
Alex H. Paul (Sept. 1969 to present-Cherokee and O'Brien County)	Conservation Engineering Technician

With technical assistance on request from:

Wallis Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist
John Worster	Area Soil Scientist
Vernon Meyer	Area Engineer
Fern Delbridge	Area Clerk

STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Bill Farris, stationed at LeMars, Iowa	District Forester
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ROW CROP PLANTING PICTURE BEING CHANGED BY MULCH TILLAGE

Mulch tillage machines utilizing the system of planting the crops directly in the residue of last year's crop with no other ground preparation other than chopping the stalks is making a fast change in Cherokee County according to Bernard Braband, DC.

To obtain the reaction to mulch planting, the comments of two conservation farmers are noted. Leonard Degen of Aurelia started mulch planting this year and Don Carlson of Cherokee is a veteran.

Leonard Degen planted 300 acres of corn this spring with a till planter. He confessed having doubts about the operation because it is his first experience with the planter. Degen chopped his stacks and disced ahead of planting, although he believes it was a mistake to disc as the planter works best in land which has not been disturbed. Degen further remarked how effective the planter worked when planting directly in alfalfa with nearly knee high growth.

As a parting comment, Degen said his fuel consumption after planting 300 acres of row crop this spring has been quite low, compared to conventional operations.

Don Carlson of Cherokee has planted row crops on a minimum tillage basis for so long, he can't compare the results he gets to conventional planting. Vic Carlson, Don's father, began listing planting in 1940 and Don carried on until changing to the till planter in 1964.

This same till planter has planted 500-600 acres of row crop for seven seasons and the original sweeps are still in use. "Compare that to plow share wear", Carlson states.

Carlson commented that the corn and soybeans planted with the till planter emerge uniformly as the seed is placed in moist soil with no cloddy dry spots as is so often the case with conventional land preparation.

Carlson uses his till planter on a great variety of soils from heavy river bottom land to light textured soil. The planter works successfully in all the soil types.

Carlson's yields have been consistently as good as yields obtained by conventionally planted row crops and in dry years he reports better yields.

Carlson has so far seen no need for deep placement of fertilizer as experienced by conventional "plow-down" application. By broadcasting dry fertilizer after planting, he finds the cultivation by the special "till" cultivator will plow the fertilizer sufficiently deep.

Carlson commented that little or no runoff is observed with this type of planting and no dust blowing has taken place.

According to experiments conducted in soil and water conservation, contour farming operations with a till planter are nearly as effective as terraces used in conjunction with clean tillage on gradual slopes, according to Braband.

Leonard Degan uses 38 inch row spacing on the contour. All applications of fertilizer, seed, herbicide and insecticide are accomplished in one trip. Leonard says it is hard to visualize that all the crop is in after two trips across the field, once chopping stalks and the next for planting.

Don Carlson has added a tool of his own design for press wheels following the till planter. Shown are Evan and Paul Carlson "helping" dad out at the ends of the field. Don also plants on the contour using 38 inch row spacing.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank related agencies and service organizations and businesses for their continued support to the local soil conservation movement.

Especially we wish to remember the ASCS, Extension Service, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, State Conservation Commission, the County newspapers, Radio Station KCHE, County Board of Supervisors and the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce Community Action Committee. Also the many people who individually gave of their time, talent and experience to further the local program.

Without the interest of the entire community, development is not possible.

Vere Corrington, Chairman

Arthur J. Dorr, Commissioner

Donald L. DeWitt
Commissioner