

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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PROGRAM HAS WIDE SCOPE — — —

Hardin Soil District Issues Annual Report On Year's Events

The Hardin Soil District, with headquarters at Eldora, has compiled a report of the year's activities to coincide with "Soil Conservation Week" June 15-22.

The Hardin District was organized in 1945, five years after the first district was organized in Iowa. Material from the report follows.

120 AGREEMENTS

One hundred twenty land owners signed conservation agreements for complete treatment of land for soil and water practices. It involves 28,000 acres.

The district completed 52 complete conservation plans in the county and this involves 12,480 acres.

The district also revised 20 plans covering 4,080 acres.

So far, the district has signed up 880 land owners involving 200,000 acres in the county this year.

Last year, the district gave individual service to 1,200 land owners.

The district office also received 88 B group requests.

In individual practices, a total of 150,000 feet of tile was installed and 28,000 feet of grass back-sloped terraces were constructed, making the total to date of more than 12 million feet of tile in the county and more than 100 miles of terraces.

There's been quite a bit of interest this year in tree planting, the office reports, especially to encourage wildlife. Planting is around farmsteads and at more remote farm spots.

The district has 102 test plots in the county where new types of seedings are tried.

Probably the most important single activity last year was the 1968 Iowa Plowing Matches and Conservation Days at Eldora, but three other events sponsored were an art, speech and beauty contest.

TEACHERS CAMP

The district and Pine Lake Wildlife Club sponsored two teachers, Mrs. Mildred Miller and Mrs. Leona Froning, who attended the Springbrook State Park conservation camp.

The Eldora Chamber of Commerce and the district sponsored a booth at the Iowa State Fair. The district hosted a meeting of the Iowa Chapter of the Soil Society of America drawing about 450 persons. In addition, the district supplied 2,500 books to schools in the county with the help of the Hardin County Conservation Board.

Primary goals last year were to develop a program toward minimum tillage. An inventory of all municipal park recreation areas was completed and 4,000 copies distributed.

The district is also studying the needs for tile drainage in the western portion of the county.

Chairman of the Soil District Commissioner Board is Carroll Hobson of Eldora. The other two are Kermit Whitehead, New Providence, and Caleb Knutson, Radcliffe. The two assistant commissioners are Paul Primus of Steamboat Rock and Ted Cutler of New Providence. Charles McCarty heads the office. Staff members include Dean Miller, conservation technician; Earl Griffith, soil conservationist; Joe Shore, conservation planning aid, and Diane Neubauer, office clerk.