

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1963 - Eighteenth Annual Report - Federal Bldg., - Burlington, Iowa

ASSISTANCE FROM SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AVAILABLE

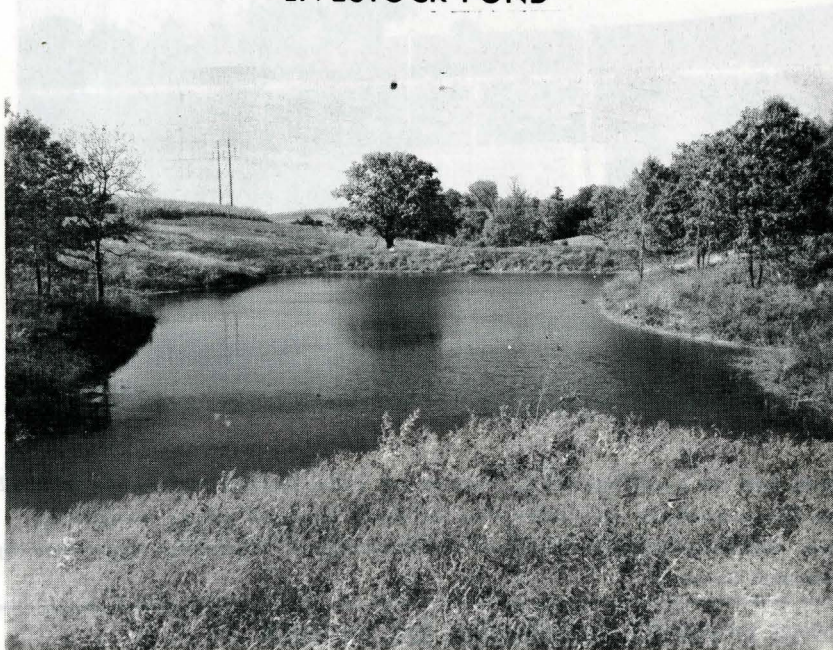
Farmers in general, have the know how and are able to cope with most problems that come up from day to day. They also will adopt new practices that seem sound in order to increase production, save labor or conserve our natural resources. I would say that we are efficient. The people, of our nation are better fed than those of any other country in the world. We are even able to maintain a reserve that becomes burdensome at times.

There are problems that do come up that we, as farmers, can't solve by ourselves. I am thinking of the accomplishments listed in this report. Perhaps there are areas where we as farmers need help in solving our problems as severe sheet or gully erosion, needed livestock ponds, toewalls or terraces that will do the job expected, or a field with soil that is not producing as it should.

Here is where the personnel of the Soil Conservation Service can be of assistance. They are well qualified to advise and help any one solve these perplexing problems. Money and time can often be saved by asking for this technical advice. The practices listed here are no doubt doing the job they are supposed to do, with a minimum of expense, but they must be maintained and serve in accordance with their intended use if they are to prove their worth. I am glad I was able to serve the District these last six years as Commissioner and I wish to thank all of those that have helped this District toward its goals.

Theodore Berning, Chairman

LIVESTOCK POND



Livestock pond and erosion control structure on Harold Wallman farm in Pleasant Grove Township.

1963 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRACTICE	UNITS	1963	TO-DATE
Brush and Weed Control	Ac.	28	444
Conservation Cropping System	Ac.	294	24,090
Contour Farming	Ac.	280	28,711
Diversion	Lf.	2,370	30,698
Farm Ponds	No.	12	423
Erosion Control Dams	No.	12	307
Grassed Waterways	Ac.	20	430
Land Clearing	Ac.	199	619
Open Ditch	Lf.	1,600	764,634
Pasture & Hayland Renovation	Ac.	187	4,973
Pasture Planting	Ac.	300	1,243
Pipeline for Livestock Water	Ft.	1,314	36,409
Terrace Gradient	Ft.	5,375	516,833
Tile Drain	Ft.	286,149	2,235,830
Tile System Structure	No.	19	127
Tree Planting	Ac.	37	200
Wildlife Habitat Development	Ac.	181	506
Woodland Improvement	Ac.	7	7
Fish Pond Stocking	No.	10	391
Obstruction Removal	Ac.	27	27

New Cooperators 35
Basic Plans 30

Revised Plans 21
New Items 75

Follow-up 101

EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE



Drop box on road cuvert, serves as tile outlet and grade stabilization structure at lower end of long grassed water course on Mrs. Martha Schwaller's farm in Washington Township, operated by Leonard Calgren.

1963 DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The District calendar of events and work plan completed and approved by the Commissioners.

Memorandum of Understanding between Des Moines County Soil Conservation District and Extension Service revised and signed.

Theodore Berning, Chairman of District Commissioners and Harold Linder, Assistant Commissioner attended Short Course at Ames on January 8 and 9.

Leonard J. Larson, Party leader of the Watershed Group met with interested parties at Burlington and explained what was expected in way of financial assistance from the community in order for the Soil Conservation Service to build the proposed desilting basin on the Yellow Spring Creek. The need is around \$72,000 to purchase land to be covered by the earthen structure and flooded by water.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners meeting at Fairfield attended by Work Unit Conservationist, State Clerk and the ASC County Committee.

Tiling contractors meeting held at Burlington, attended by contractors from four Counties, Henry, Lee, Louisa and Des Moines.

Work Unit Conservationist attended ASCS program planning meeting for 1964 Program year.

Safety meeting attended at ASCS Office. Captain of local fire department conducted the meeting.

An approval by Des Moines County District Commissioners for publishing of 2500 Conservation Needs Reports. We still have a quantity on hand.

A meeting held in local office and plans made for planting trees and shrubs at Fairgrounds by 4-H boys.

Miss Debbie Murrell of the Danville High school was awarded first prize in the 1963 Soil Conservation Speech contest in the county. The District Commissioners enjoyed Debbie's speech which was held and judged at their April monthly District meeting.

The Work Unit Conservationist took part in the Annual Burlington High School career day. Students from surrounding schools in Iowa and Illinois attended.

Stewardship bulletins were sent to 60 Des Moines County Ministers for their use in preparing Sermons for Rogation Sunday on Stewardship of the soil.

Work Unit Conservationist attended county defense board meeting with secretary of Civil Defense board attending.

Annual Reports mailed and hand distributed to 900 individuals and organizations.

Commissioner, Art Corman was appointed to represent local Commissioners as one of the judges at the beauty pageant "Queen of Conservation", contest at the Louisa County Fair and served in that capacity.

The Soil Conservation Service provided the District with a quantity of Emerald Crown Vetch seed for seed increase. Horace Sutton sowed the seed on about three acres of land and obtained a very good stand.

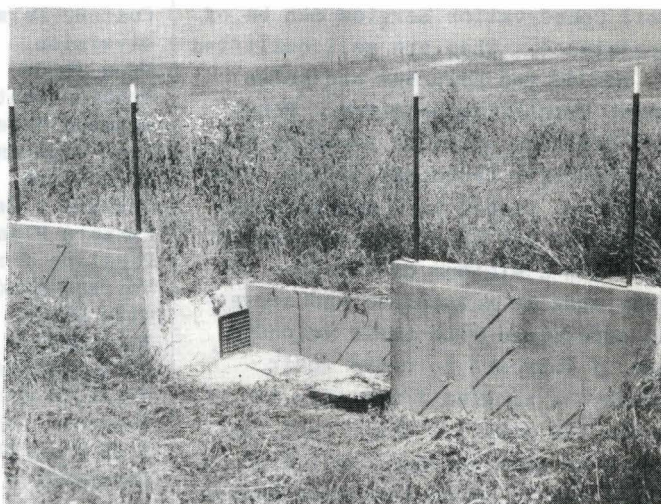
National farm safety week observed by holding safety meeting.

John Maddy, Agronomy specialist for Soil Conservation Service inspected special seedings within the county.

Jim Howell, vocational agricultural teacher at Mediapolis, attended conservation workshop near Luther, Iowa, and reported to Commissioners at the October monthly meeting.

(Continued on page 4)

TOEWALL



Grade stabilization and tile outlet structure on the farm of Walter Fritz in Union Township.

DISTRICT PERSONNEL



Seated left to right: Theodore Berning, Chairman, Eugene Schulte, Commissioner, standing: James C. Hodges, Secretary, Arthur Corman, Commissioner, Horace Sutton, Treasurer.

AREA ADVISORY PERSONNEL

Lyall Mitchell	Area Conservationist
Marion Clark	Area Agricultural Engineer
Allen Hidelebaugh	Area Soil Scientist
Mrs. Margaret Dickey	Area Clerk

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS



Left to right: Harold Linder, Richard Charbonneaux, Lloyd Schmeiser.

We, The District Commissioners of Des Moines County wish to extend our thanks to all who helped in obtaining the application on the land of conservation practices listed in this report. We especially appreciate the assistance of the following organizations

Extension Service, Office of Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, County Committee of Production and Marketing Administration, Burlington Hawkeye, K B U R, Farm Service Spokesman, Soil Conservation Service, County Engineering Department, County Board of Supervisors, County School System, Des Moines County Banks, Contractors, Long Creek Conservation Club, County Conservation Officer, Seed, Fertilizer and Lime Dealers, Farm Home Administrator, Area Forester, Ministerial Association of Des Moines County.

WORK UNIT PERSONNEL



Seated left to right: R. H. Audsley, Work Unit Conservationist, Jack Jacobs, Conservation Technician, standing: Walter Brown, Conservation Aid and part time State Aid, Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf, State Clerk.

STATE FUNDS

1 M Budget

Mileage	\$147.06
Office Supplies	200.36
Printing	117.25
Demonstration	1.69
Office Expense	175.88
Contest	15.00
	<u>\$677.24</u>

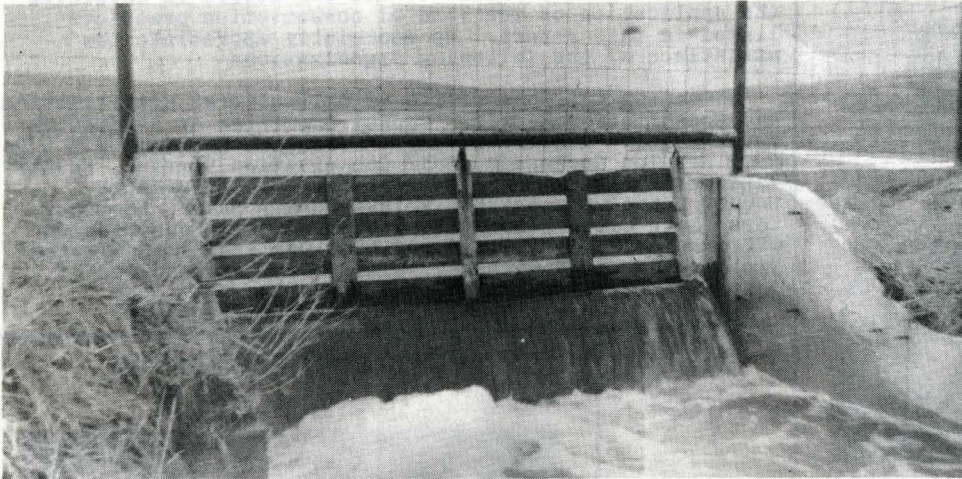
2 M Budget

Clerk and State Aid	\$4,360.69
---------------------	------------

TELEPHONE CALLS — 592 OFFICE CALLS — 1,113

The 1M and 2M Budget was made possible thru the State Conservation Committee, provided by Iowa State Legislature. Our thanks and appreciation for this assistance.

EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURE



Weir notch in operation as a tile outlet and grade stabilization structure on Russell Seymour's farm in Danville Township.

(Continued from page 2)

Nominating committee for Commissioner election set up. Walter Eyre, Jack Pilling and Homer Woodward on the committee.

The nominees to be placed on ballot. Curtis Darbyshire and Harold Yohe. Selection of judge and clerks made for February, 1964 election. Kenneth Redfern, judge, Roy Anderson and Jack Pilling clerks.

County TAP meeting held with Agricultural Committee of the Burlington Chamber of Commerce attending.

Two Conservation films were made available and shown at local ASC meeting attended by Work Unit Conservationist.

Twelve District monthly meetings held. Theodore Berning, Chairman, never missed a meeting.

Twelve Technical Action Panel meetings held during year.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

The combination of climate and soils gives Iowa some of the highest average crop yields in the world. Some of us realize that the limit to high yields is water. We can plant corn thicker and apply more fertilizer but we can not increase the rainfall.

Some farmers on level land are increasing yields by irrigation with a few extra inches of water during the growing season.

If the farmer on level land can increase net income by applying extra water above that which fell on the land during June, July and August, doesn't it seem logical that contouring could increase the yield by holding more water on the hillside from the rains during the same period.

Tests comparing contouring and straight row planting of corn over a nine year period by hundreds of farmers in four states gave an average 12% increase for contouring. A nice increase to be gotten with very little if any extra cost.

We all know that part of the fertilizer we apply washes off with the soil and top soil contains more fertility than subsoil. You will get more benefit from the fertilizer if you keep it in the crop field instead of washing into the neighbors land or into your pond.

Nitrogen content of the water in some ponds below fertilized crop fields has been found to be high enough to kill fish. Is it any wonder we have a good crop of moss and scum in our ponds? Would it not be sound business to keep this fertility on the fields where we can grow crops from it?

We sincerely hope that the continuous row crops grown on the level land of the county with the use of insecticides, herbicides, and high amounts of fertilizers will continue to produce high yields without any need of fear or thought of damage to future production of the soil.

We are convinced that too intensive cropping of the sloping land without adequate conservation practices will eventually destroy the higher production of the sloping land of the state. The steeper the slope the greater the hazard and the more care necessary to protect the land from erosion.

by R. H. Audsley, Farm Planner