

Fayette County Farmers Take New Interest In Control Of Gullies

Annual Report

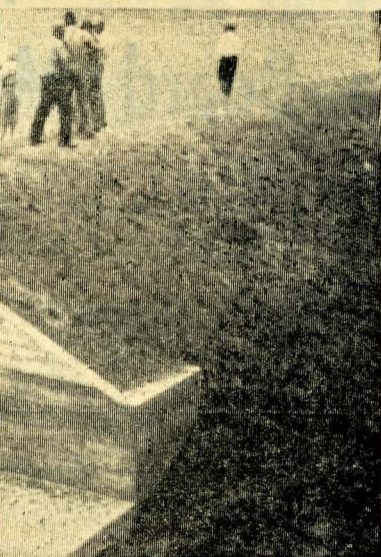
"Fayette County farmers have taken a new interest in gully control structures," reports Earl Kerker, U. S. Soil Conservation Service. "SCS technicians assisted in 1964 with the design and layout of 3 reinforced concrete structures used to stabilize waterways."

The largest structure installed was on the Leslie Lauer farm near Eldorado. The structure is clearly visible about 500 feet west of highway 150 north of the Turkey River. Plans for this drop spillway called for 16.4 cubic yards of concrete and 1,142 pounds of reinforcing steel. This made a structure with a notch 18 feet wide and 3 feet deep which drops the water 4 feet.

The structure on the Dale Minger farm near Wadena was used to control a six foot gully which was rapidly approaching cropland. Minger's project called for 12 cubic yards of concrete and 900 pounds of reinforcing steel. Water drops 5 feet through a 12 foot by 2 foot notch.

A concrete toewall was built on the Herb Vagts farm northeast of West Union to control a gully about 1,200 feet long. Brush and grass were removed from this gully and a crossable grassed waterway was constructed. The toewall on Vagts farm used 4 cubic yards of concrete and 150 pounds of reinforcing steel to built a notch 12 feet by 1½ feet that drops the water 2 feet.

"I have talked to three farmers who are interested in constructing structures in 1965. While these are rather expensive projects, they are often the best method to control a gully. In addition, there is cost-sharing available through ACP on concrete erosion control dams," Kerker concluded.



Farmers listen as County Extension agent explains a concrete drop spillway structure near Walena. This structure was built on the Minger farm.



the Melvin Molokken farm in established 68 acres of strip farm.

District Governing Body

Carl Lueder, Fayette	Chairman
Alfred Stewart, Oelwein	Commissioner
Albert Bodensteiner, West Union	Commissioner
Melvin Wangsness, Fayette	Secretary
Leslie Anderson, Castalia	Assistant Commissioner
Ervin J. Burrack, Arlington	Assistant Commissioner
E. W. Maurer, Fayette	Assistant Commissioner

District Employees

Lois L. Heick	District Clerk
J. L. Cline	State Aid (Part Time)

U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service

Earl J. Kerker	Work Unit Conservationist
Howard K. Boyle	Soil Conservation Technician
J. L. Cline	Conservation Aid (Part time)

Administrative, engineering, agronomy and soils specialists were also available through the Area Office as needed in the district.

District Accomplishments

This Year		Total	
July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1964			
No.	Acres	No.	Acres
District Cooperators	33	782	140,419
Conservation Plans	31	6,678	458
Revised Plans	5	1,605	82,711
Farms Serviced	622		
Farms Applying one or more			
Conservation Practices	363		

Highlights of District Activities

The district commissioners held 12 meetings during the year to conduct the business of the district. At these meetings, all new cooperators, conservation plans, revised plans, and cancellations developed during the year were reviewed and approved.

A summary of the information program includes 44 news stories, 38 radio talks, 1 tour, 1 exhibit, 2 contests, and 2 demonstrations.

Paid dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts.

Albert Bodensteiner was elected to a six year term as district commissioner. A dinner meeting, prepared and served by the wives of commissioners, was held in connection with the election. George Browning, Iowa State University, was the featured speaker.

Soil Stewardship material was supplied to clergymen in the county.

"Queen of Conservation" contest was held with the cooperation of the Farmers Grain Dealers in the county. Dawn Rau, Arlington, and Linda Cummings, Clermont, were selected as the Queens. Winners were announced at the Town and Country Barbeque in West Union.

The district cooperated with other northeast Iowa districts in sponsoring a booth at the Dairy Cattle Congress.

Norman Kilburn, West Union, was the winner of the conservation speech contest co-sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners, Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance Company and the Fayette County Soil Conservation District. Jerry Jellings, Oelwein and Anthony Luzom, St. Lucas, were second and third place winners.

A tour of conservation practices was held. About 40 people saw recently completed conservation projects.

Major Practices Applied July 1, 1963, to June 30, 1964

Conservation Cropping Systems (Acres)	1,177
Contouring (Acres)	2,225
Crop Residue Use (Acres)	686
Diversions (Feet)	600
Farm Ponds (Number)	3
Field Border Planting (Feet)	9,834
Grade Stabilization Structures (Number)	1
Grassed Waterways (Acres)	21
Drainage Mains and Laterals (Feet)	2,240
Pasture Improvement (Acres)	126
Contour Strip Cropping (Acres)	239
Terraces (Feet)	13,563
Tile (Feet)	1,252,272
Tree Planting (Acres)	24.5
Wildlife Area Improvement (Acres)	29

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1963 - June 30, 1964

1M Budget	
Commissioners' travel expenses to commissioners, regional and state meetings and other travel in the county on district business	\$ 398.83
Office Supplies	51.84
Materials for Demonstration	20.00
Office Expense	28.60
TOTAL	\$ 499.27
2M Budget	
Salaries for clerk and technician	\$4,902.21
Revolving Fund - January 1, 1964 - December 31, 1964	
Balance on hand, January 1, 1964	\$ 45.35
Receipts	330.59
Total funds available	375.94
Miscellaneous Expenses	322.89
Balance on hand, December 31, 1964	\$ 53.05

GUIDE JET

In December 1964, a United Air Lines Caravelle jet, loaded with newsmen and guests, landed at Dulles Airport near Washington, guided by tiny computers in the jet. The computers guided the plane to the airport's local-

izer beam, controlled speed and altitude during the approach and descent, then eased the plane onto the runway.

The Japanese attacked for the first time with kamikaze suicide planes in the Battle of Leyte Gulf.