

Cherokee County
**SOIL
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

*Annual Report
for 1955*

BY YOUR
COMMISSIONERS
VERE CORRINGTON

J. F. RALSTON

ARTHUR DORR

Let's Build Them In 1935

Let's build them in 1935. The first of August in Northwest Iowa. With this low rainfall and the first of August in Northwest Iowa. With this low rainfall we had just yielded our harvest. That the same harvest that the rest of the country was a smaller corn crop.

If we go into the 1935 crop year with our available soil moisture as a low odd, we cannot build a better harvest than we have had in the past. We cannot turn out the same every time. It is possible that even, we can take steps to insure that the rainfall we do get is not wasted.

It has been said that our soils generally can absorb water at the rate of one inch per hour. If we get two inches of rain in an hour, that will happen. One inch will soak into the ground and the other inch will run off. (Probably taking some up with it, so much of water that may be badly needed by our crop.)

Coniferous trees can provide storage space for an inch of water. If you have two inches of rain in one hour, they could hold that extra inch until it has had time to soak into the ground.

Plants, for example, some farmers to that changed crop. (Probably) that can store two inches of water until it has had time to soak into the soil.

At the present low odd, our soils have plenty of room for that extra water, and an extra inch of water will increase your corn yield by at least five bushels per acre.

A farmer's system costs about \$18.00 per acre. Do you know of a better investment?

Let's build them in 1935.

Let's build them in 1935.

Let's Build Them In 1956

Rainfall was particularly low between the middle of June and the first of August in Northwest Iowa. With this low rainfall we had less available soil moisture than at the same time in 1954. The end result was a smaller corn crop.

If we go into the 1956 crop year with our available soil moisture at a low ebb, adequate rainfall becomes a must if we are to have high corn yields.

We cannot turn on the rain every time it is needed; however, we can take steps to insure that the rainfall we do get is not wasted.

It has been said that our soils generally can absorb water at the rate of one inch per hour. So, if we get two inches of rain in an hour, what will happen? One inch will soak into the ground and the other inch will run off (probably taking some top soil along), an inch of water that may be badly needed by our corn crop.

Contour corn rows can provide storage space for an inch of water. Given two inches of rain in one hour, they could hold that extra inch until it too had time to soak into the ground.

Next, let's add some terraces to that contoured corn field; terraces that can store two inches of water until it too has time to soak into our soil.

At the present low ebb, our soils have plenty of room for that extra water; and an extra inch of water will increase your corn yield by at least five bushels per acre.

A terrace system costs about \$18.00 per acre. Do you know of a better investment?

Cherokee District's Commissioners

Ford Ralston of Washta, Arthur Dorr of Marcus and Vere Corrington of Cherokee served as District Commissioners during 1955. Ford Ralston served as chairman and also as Cherokee's representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee. Louis Bengtson, a former commissioner, has continued to assist our district by serving as treasurer. Forrest Kohrt, County Extension Director, served as the District's secretary during 1955.

Regular monthly commissioners meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Other activities of the Commissioners during 1955 included:

February 1, 1955	Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Cherokee
February 2, 1955	Meeting to explore possibilities of holding State Plowing Match at Cherokee
February 21, 1955	Meeting on State Plowing Match (Herb Plambeck here)
March 8, 1955	Met with ASC Committee to discuss 1956 County Program
March 18, 1955	Meeting on organization of State Plowing Match
March 29, 1955	Iowa Association of District Commissioners meeting at Primghar
April 28, 1955	Meeting to discuss Northwest Iowa Experimental Association goals
May 17, 1955	Meeting with Herb Plambeck of Station WHO
June 2, 1955	Sub-Committee meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee
June 2, 1955	Meeting of State Plowing Match Committees
June 6, 1955	Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting
August 15, 16, 17, 1955	Pilot Rock Plowing Match — assist with judging and awards

August 18, 1955	State Plowing Match and Conservation Field Day
September 11, 12, 13, 1955	Annual Conference of District Commissioners at Des Moines, Iowa
November 1, 1955	Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Recognition Day in Sioux City, Iowa
November 8, 1955	Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting
November 9, 1955	District ASC Meeting at Storm Lake, Iowa
November 15, 1955	Special meeting Little Sioux Works Committee in McMasters Watershed
November 22, 1955	Met with ASC Committee on 1956 County Program
November 29, 1955	Vere Corrington and Pete Carsten made tape recording for radio program
December 13, 1955	Watershed Tour with Congressman Hoeven and party

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson — Cherokee, Iowa

December 31, 1955

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1955	\$ 405.39	
Received from State		
Soil Conservation Committee	143.32	
Received from District Cooperators	4.00	
Received from Sioux City Chamber of Commerce (Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture)	100.00	
Cost of Treasurer's Bond		\$ 12.50
Stamps purchased		60.84
Paper, envelopes, stencils purchased		43.18
Purchased share of stock in Northwest Iowa Experimental Association		10.00
Pilot Rock Contour Plowing Award		16.65
Pamphlets and Publicity		15.50
Membership in Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners		105.00
	\$ 652.71	\$ 263.67
Balance on Hand December 31, 1955		389.04
	\$ 652.71	\$ 652.71

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1955	\$5,595.10	
Watershed Maintenance Payments Received:		
Doyle Simonsen	150.00	
Rosa Brewer	125.00	
F. O. Mortenson	210.00	
P. M. Peterson	90.00	
To Cherokee County Recorder — Fees		\$ 16.20
	\$6,170.10	\$ 16.20
Balance on Hand		
(of which \$5,000.00 is on time deposit)		\$6,153.90
	\$6,170.10	\$6,170.10

BY: L. C. Bengtson
District Treasurer

Iowa State Plowing Match and Conservation Field Day

A Highlight of 1955 Activities

Co-Sponsored by:

Cherokee County Soil Conservation District

Agricultural Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce

Station WHO

Iowa Association of District Commissioners

State Soil Conservation Committee

At the January, 1955 meeting of the Cherokee District Commissioners, it was voted to work toward bringing the 1955 Iowa State Plowing Match and Conservation Field Day to Cherokee County.

Chairman Ralston visited with Russel Froyd, Secretary of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce. He, in turn, discussed it with the Directors of the Chamber of Commerce who voted to give it their full support. A joint committee was then set up to find a satisfactory site. As soon as a satisfactory site was located, other civic organizations were asked for assistance. Upon receiving assurance from all that they were heartily in favor of the proposal, an invitation was sent to Station WHO, the State Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the State Soil Conservation Committee inviting them to hold the 1955 plowing event and field day near Cherokee.

The Agricultural Bureau of the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce agreed to provide active direction and support in promoting and organizing the 1955 Iowa State Plowing Match and Conservation Field Day. Lyle Polson of Bushlow Implement Company agreed to serve as general chairman for the event. The following civic groups agreed to assist on the various works committees: Aviation, Cherokee Flying Club; Program, Cherokee Kiwanis Club; Police and Parking, American Legion; Educational Exhibits, County Extension Director; Housing, Cherokee County Farm Bureau (Womens Committee); Information Center, American Legion Auxiliary; Construction and Signs, Industrial and Manufacturing Bureau of Chamber of Commerce; Parade, Retail Bureau of Chamber of Commerce; Queen, Civic Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce; Equipment, Farmers, Dealers and Sioux Ranch Company; Field Committee, District Commissioners and Cooperating Farm-

ers; Contest Fields and Conservation Demonstrations, Soil Conservation Service. The Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association made their grounds available for the event and assisted in many ways.

Members of the Executive Committee included the Chairman of the District Commissioners, County Extension Director, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of the Agricultural Bureau of the Chamber of Commerce, representative of the Soil Conservation Service, President of the Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association and one of its directors, the general chairman of the event and the two farmers on whose land the contests were held, Karl Gesland and Bill Turner.

Winners of 1955 state titles in level land (Lyle Mason) and contour (Kenneth Clark) plowing are both Cherokee County farmers and cooperators with the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District.

Soil Conservation Service

During 1955, the Soil Conservation Service provided the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District with the following technical staff;

- 1 Work Unit Conservationists (12 months) — Harvey Lindberg
- 1 Soil Conservationist (12 months) — Charles C. Claas
- 1 Conservation Aid (12 months) — Glen Craft
- 1 Conservation Aid (8 months) — Monas Nixon
- 1 Conservation Aid (1½ months) — James Warrender

Harvey Lindberg has been with us for eleven years and Glen Craft nine and one-half years. Charles Claas has been with us for a year and one-half. Monas Nixon came to Cherokee on May 1, 1955. James Warrender left us in February of 1955 to accept other employment.

In addition to the above, we received part time assistance from Area Conservationist George Lamp, from an Engineering Specialist, Soil Scientist, and the Little Sioux Flood Control Design Staff.

State Soil Conservation Committee

The State of Iowa, through the State Soil Conservation Committee, makes funds available to the Cherokee District to pay the salary of a district clerk. Mrs. Gladys Schroeder of Cherokee is presently employed in this position.

In addition, up to \$500.00 in state funds per year is available to the District for the purchase of needed office supplies, printing, exhibit material and commissioners expenses.

State funds are allotted to the District on the basis of a budget submitted annually by the commissioners.

Spreading Information On Soil and Water Conservation

During 1955, Soil Conservation Service Technicians presented information on soil and water conservation and flood control to the following groups (slides were shown at most of these meetings):

1. MEETINGS

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| January 13, 1955 | Agricultural Class of Pierson Adult Education Program |
| March 11, 1955 | Quimby Ladies Garden Club |
| March 21, 1955 | Science Classes of Cherokee Junior High School |
| May 9, 1955 | Marcus Township Farm Bureau |
| July 12, 1955 | Group interested in joint drainage project (Afton and Pitcher Townships) |
| October 4, 1955 | Farm Bureau Committee Women (leader training session) |
| November 7, 1955 | Silver Township Farm Bureau |
| November 10, 1955 | Group interested in joint drainage project |
| December 16, 1955 | 7th and 8th grades of Marcus Public School |

2. TOURS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| June 20, 1955 | Farm Bureau Womens Committee — toured watersheds in Cherokee and Woodbury Districts |
| October 11, 1955 | Farm Bureau Womens Committee — toured watersheds in Robeson and Fee neighborhoods in Cherokee District |
| October 26, 1955 | Aurelia High School Agriculture Class — toured watershed in Fee neighborhood |

Summary of Practices Installed During 1955

Contouring	8,570 acres
Terraces	19 miles
Contour Fence	520 rods
Reorganization of Fields	15,161 rods
Tile Drainage	174,164 Ln. Ft.
Constructed Waterways	4 miles
Hedgerow Plantings	192 rods
Concrete Drop Spillway Dams	2 each
Earthfill Dams with Drop Inlet Spillways	2 each
New Cooperators during 1955	52 each
Farm Conservation Plans	50 each
Total number of District Cooperators	557

1. Frank Bierman and Son of Tilden Township did an excellent job of building their own terraces last spring.
2. Boyd Ward of Correctionville did a top notch job in constructing an earth dam with drop inlet spillway on the Brice Vollmar farm north of Washta.
3. Two well constructed reinforced concrete drop spillway dams were put in on the Cliff Chapman farm west of Cherokee by Lundell Construction Company of Cherokee.
4. A well constructed earth dam with pipe drop inlet spillway was installed on the Dean Simonsen farm by Roy Robinson of Cherokee.

Of the 557 farmers cooperating with the District, 476 have developed complete conservation plans for their farms. These 476 farms are grouped in Cherokee's sixteen townships as follows:

Afton Township	22
Amherst Township	16
Cedar Township	16
Cherokee Township	32
Diamond Township	18
Grand Meadow Township	44
Liberty Township	18
Marcus Township	4
Pilot Township	52
Pitcher Township	37
Rock Township	43
Sheridan Township	14
Silver Township	51
Spring Township	22
Tilden Township	31
Willow Township	56

Little Sioux Flood Control Program

During 1955, work was completed in the small watershed located in the Peter Carsten-James Fee neighborhood. This work included some terrace construction, gully bank sloping and fertilizing and seeding. This small watershed is an excellent sample of effective control of soil and water losses through neighborhood cooperation. Over 400 acres of cropland in this small watershed is now terraced.

Major gully control structures were installed as planned in the small watershed in the Ralph Robeson neighborhood during 1955. This included a concrete drop spillway on the Forrest Spencer farm; a gully control and flood detention structure on the Ralph Robeson farm and two structures of this type on the Brice Vollmar farm. Some waterway work and terrace construction remains to be done before work in this watershed is complete.

The Little Sioux Works Committee also granted a construction priority for work in the small watershed in the Harold Clark-Roy Little neighborhood.

Elected chairman of the Little Sioux Works Committee, at their June meeting, was Ralph Wilcox (Woodbury County District Commissioner). Art Halversen (Monona County District Commissioner) is vice-chairman and Kermit Kloppenberg (O'Brien County District Commissioner) is secretary. Ford Ralston is Cherokee's representative.

Some excerpts from minutes of the Little Sioux Works Committee meetings are:

1. Increased use of terraces has made it possible to reduce number of structures needed in small watershed and has sharply reduced cost of treating these watersheds; watersheds will not be considered for treatment unless needed terraces are installed.
2. Contractors now have more experience with this type of work and unit prices on work done have gone down.
3. District Commissioners should plan to inspect completed watersheds at least once a year and visit with watershed farmers to make sure that maintenance on structures are taken care of before any serious damage is down.
4. That basin terraces be included in the control measures installed in small watersheds (where needed) with flood control funds. Basin terraces are level and much larger than standard terraces; they are used to reduce runoff and erosion from extremely steep slopes.
5. The use of erosion control structures in county road development and improvement should be encouraged.

Agricultural Conservation Program

As in the previous year, Soil Conservation Service technicians had technical responsibilities for certain practices included in the ACP cost sharing program. During 1955, technicians spent 149 man days in carrying out their responsibilities under this program. The time was mostly spent on planning, supervising installation and checking tile drainage systems, terraces, constructed waterways and erosion control dams.

The Cherokee County ASC staff has a real interest in soil and water conservation and is making every effort to promote increased use of conservation practices. It has been a pleasure to work with them.

Wildlife Conservation

Multiflora Rose plantings were made on three District Co-operators' farms by Cherokee Boy Scout troops.

This is a cooperative program sponsored jointly by the State Conservation Commission represented by Conservation Officer Frank Starr, the Little Sioux Rod and Gun Club, the Cherokee District and the Cherokee Boy Scouts. It is an annual program and plans are to continue it in future years.

To date, the State Conservation Commission has stocked fish (bass and bluegills) in six farm ponds on District Cooperators' farms. The ponds were formed by the construction of erosion control and flood detention dams.

Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture

The Cherokee District again participated in this program, an annual event. It is sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce.

Local judges selected Harvey Harrison, Grand Meadow; Keith Fee of Quimby and Clifford Chapman of Cherokee as the team to represent the Cherokee District in this contest; all having excellent conservation programs on their farms. Melvin Green of Cherokee was selected as the farmer making most progress during 1955 toward a complete conservation plan on his farm. The Cherokee District Team was also selected as an Area winner in this contest.

At a dinner program in Sioux City on November 1st, the above men received certificates commemorating their achievements and the Cherokee District was presented with a plaque and a check for \$100.00 in recognition of having an Area winning team. This dinner was attended by conservation minded farmers from Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa.

Clifford Chapman of the Cherokee District team, is office manager of the Cherokee County ASC Office as well as being a top notch conservationist. Keith Fee is the son of James Fee who was a member of the Cherokee District's winning team back in 1947.

Pilot Rock Plowing Match

The Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association held its annual plowing match and 4-H Fair on August 15, 16, and 17. Both contour and level plowing contests were held. The district assisted with the plowing events. This event was also a district contest to qualify entries to the State Plowing Match. A total of more than 100 entries competed in the various plowing events. The Cherokee District furnished the trophy for the sweepstakes winner in the contour division.

Northwest Iowa

Experimental Farm Association

By Forrest J. Kohrt, County Extension Director

During the summer of 1954, representatives of ten northwest Iowa counties got together to discuss needed agriculture research for this area of Iowa. Paul Kohns and Ford Ralston represented Cherokee County at these meetings.

The representatives from the ten counties set a goal of raising \$50,000.00 to purchase land for the needed research. Part of their goal was to sell shares of \$10.00 each and pro-rate the quotas for each county according to the acres of Galva-Primghar-Sac; Marcus-Primghar-Sac; and Moody Soils in each county. On this basis, Cherokee County's quota was \$6,500.00 and to date, 516 shares of stock have been sold or \$5,160.00 of the quota amount has been raised. The Cherokee District is one of these 516 shareholders.

During the summer of 1955, the first voters (anyone buying one or more shares) meeting was held at Primghar. Official delegates from the qualified voters were elected at this time. Those elected were Whitfield Adamson and Emil Lundsgaard from Cherokee County.

To date, forty acres of land have been purchased by this group. The land is located in Lyon County and a Cooperating Agreement has been set up with the Research Department of Iowa State College to start work on this ground in 1956.

The group is still looking for eighty acres of land to complete the project. The land does not need to have buildings and should preferably be located in northern Cherokee or O'Brien Counties. If this land can be found in some other area it will also be considered.

Goals for 1956

- 60 New District Cooperators
- 60 More farms with complete conservation plans
- 8,000 More acres soil mapped
- 8,600 More acres on the contour
- 40 More miles of terraces
- 2 More miles of hedgerow plantings for wildlife protection
- 13,500 More rods of contour field divisions
- 7 More large gullies stopped with erosion control dams
- 4 More miles of gullies sloped and seeded into good grass waterways

It is also anticipated that our Soil Conservation Service technicians will be called on to survey and check about 150,000 feet of tile.

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