

Clarke Co. Soil & Water Conservation District

FORWARD

We, the Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, submit our 25th Annual Report for 1971 of progress and activities of our soil and water conservation program. We wish to thank all the agencies, cooperators, and the many other groups whose assistance made our District achievements possible.

We wish to salute the people of the District in town and in the country for working toward our goal through progress of our watershed construction work, which is the most effective tool we have in combating pollution, floods, erosion, and adding quality to our environment, water supply and general well being of our country.

Our goal is a plentiful supply of pure water for every citizen of Clarke County. It will take the effort and desire of all of us to make this possible.

District Activities

The Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation District has made substantial progress in all phases of conservation during the past year. We, the commissioners of the District, would like to summarize some of these activities for you so that you may understand how the district is helping everyone in the community by providing a better environment in which to live.

The District Commissioners held 12 regular and three special meetings during the 1971 fiscal year. Jack Ames served as Chairman with Doyle Miller and Richard Gonseth filling the other two commissioner positions. Adrian Fuller, Jerry Kelly, Lowell Moran, Milan Welker and Dr. Fred Wood all served as assistant commissioners.

Because of a change in the Soil Conservation District law, the number of commissioners was increased from three to five. Therefore, at the bi-annual election held March 8, three commissioners were elected instead of the usual one. Jerry Kelly was elected for a six year term, Merrill McCarty for a four year term and Jack Ames for a two year term. Doyle Miller has four years left on this term, and Richard Gonseth has three years left. Following the election, Richard Gonseth was appointed chairman and Adrian Fuller, Lowell Moran, Dr. Fred Wood and Milan Welker were appointed as assistant commissioners.

On August 10, 1970, Keith Ticknor assumed the position of District Conservationist to fill the vacancy left by Clarence Ford.

In September Jack Ames, Doyle Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Garner and Keith Ticknor attended the Annual District Commissioners Conference in Waterloo. Brad Waller, Clarke County Conservationist, declared the state winner. The district also received a 25 year certificate at this meeting.

Mrs. Roberta Stephenson, fifth grade teacher in Osceola, attended the Teachers Fall Conservation Workshop in October at the state 4-H camp near Luther. The Farmers Cooperative Elevator paid Mr. Stephenson's expenses for the two day workshop.

In October Leland Dolecheck, Vocational Agriculture instructor in the Clarke Community School, was selected as the regional winner in the Outstanding Teacher Award Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune. Mr. Dolecheck and his wife were guests of the commissioners at the annual award banquet held at Corning, November.

The District purchased and distributed conservation workbooks to the schools for use in the 5th and 6th grade science classes. Many other booklets and pamphlets were made available in the district office for student use when needed.

The district also provided assistance and guidance to the high school social studies class in hosting a pollution symposium from an eight county area. The symposium, held in December, featured speakers from varying backgrounds in business, research and politics.

The District Commissioners in cooperation with the County Board of Supervisors held a public meeting in December for the purpose of discussing establishment of a sanitary landfill in the county. A committee consisting of county and city representatives was selected with Bill Lear as chairman. Since the meeting, two sites have been drilled for a possible landfill and other plans are being carried out to develop the landfill.

The commissioners were also instrumental in starting action for the development of a rural water system that is expected to be extended throughout the county in the future.

Richard Gonseth, Doyle Miller and Keith Ticknor attended the two day commissioners short course at Iowa State University in January.

Doyle Miller and his wife attended the National Convention in Chicago of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts held during February.

Marion Siglin attended the February commissioners meeting to discuss the soil conservation bill and to obtain the commissioners feelings for the bill.

Earl Mateer was selected as the outstanding conservationist in Clarke County for 1970. His name was entered in the Good-year Conservation Awards contest.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed May 16-23. Material furnished by the district was used in church services throughout the county.

Chuck Jackson from the Murray Community School was declared winner of the local soil conservation speech contest. This year's topic was, "Soil and Water Management Benefits My Community".

District Operates With 2 Budgets

The District operates with two budgets provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee from State Appropriations.

1-M BUDGET	
Yearly appropriation - 1970-71	\$500.00
Balance carried forward	41
Commissioners Expenses (Mileage, meals)	\$314.25
Office Supplies	49.57
Printing	100.00
Prizes for contests	7.50
Material for Demonstration	15.00
Office expense	14.09
Total expended	\$500.41
Balance	\$0.00

1-M-B BUDGET	
Balance carried from Fiscal 1970	\$13.57
Commissioners mileage	\$13.10
Balance to release	\$4.47

The District fund is non appropriated, therefore we must rely on donations from our local cooperators, businessmen and friends to supply this fund.

The District fund is used for paying State and National dues, which amounts to \$250.00, promotional activities such as local awards, contest prizes, conservation booklets for local schools and expenses which cannot be taken from the state budget.

Balance on hand July 1, 1970 was \$135.87, income was \$813.55, expenses were \$605.57, balance on hand June 30, 1971 - \$343.85.

R.C.&D. Activities

The Southern Iowa Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) accomplished a major step by being approved for operations. This means that plans for project proposals can be completed and funds expended for carrying out these projects. Multi-county planning by the RC&D steering committee has broken down county barriers allowing broader objectives and unified planning, benefiting a greater number of people.

The Clarke County Steering Committee consists of Jack Jeffreys, Chairman, Robert Toland, Vice Chairman, Melvin Goeldner, Secretary-Treasurer, Elva Wolfe, Doyle Miller and Clayton Scott. Melvin Goeldner is also Secretary-RC&D Steering Committee.



Eroded hill sides as shown in the above picture can be shaped and seeded to form permanent waterways that can be used for hay or pasture production.



Our pastureland presents the greatest challenge to the farmers of our area, for it is the one thing that is misused the most. However, pastures could be renovated so they could carry their full capacity through the hot summer months, with probably the minimum of expense to the farmer. This is one area of the total conservation picture where there is a great need for work to continue.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Keith Ticknor	District Conservationist
T. J. Laing	Conservation Technician

OTHER SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSISTING

Erwin O. Aust, Shenandoah	Area Conservationist
Richard W. Birchmier, Shenandoah	Civil Engineer
Lawrence L. Dorgan, Creston	Civil Engineer
John R. Nixon, Creston	Soil Scientist
Louis A. Boeckman, Creston	Soil Scientist
Balnche V. Oline, Shenandoah	Area Clerk
Margaret C. Haley, Shenandoah	Area Clerk

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth	Chairman
Doyle Miller	Member
Jack Ames	Member
Jerry Kelly	Member
Merrill McCarty	Member

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Adrian Fuller	Assistant Commissioner
Milan Welker	Assistant Commissioner
Lowell Moran	Assistant Commissioner
Fred Wood	Assistant Commissioner
Bruce Berven, County Extension Director	
Mrs. Arlene Garner, State Employee, District Clerk and Treasurer	
Dale L. Chidester, State Employee, Conservation Aid, full time, share with Decatur County	



This field, planted up and down the hill with conventional tillage methods, has been seriously damaged by a moderately heavy rain.

District Accomplishments FARM PLANNING AND SERVICING

ACTIVITY	UNIT	FISCAL 1971	TO DATE
District Cooperators	No.	33	835
Landowners or operators assisted	No.	454	
Landowners or operators applying practices	No.	281	
Conservation plans Prepared	No.	27	553
Conservation Plans Revised	No.	4	
Inventories & Evaluations Prepared	No.	6	
Group Plans Prepared	No.	2	
ASCS: ACP & REAP Referrals Serviced	No.	136	
Office Callers	No.	869	
Telephone Calls	No.	733	

CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Contouring & Stripcropping	Ac.	810
Critical Area Planting	Ac.	243
Multi-Purpose Dam	No.	1
Ponds & Erosion Control Structures	No.	44
Diversion Terraces	Ft.	5560
Farmstead Windbreaks	Ac.	5
Grassed Waterway	Ac.	37
Pipeline	Ft.	6901
Parallel Terraces	Ft.	3090
Drain, Tile	Ft.	22148
Tree Planting	Ac.	65
Land Adequately Treated	Ac.	5199



Personnel of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation office are, left to right: Dale Chidester, Keith Ticknor, Arlene Garner and T. J. Laing.



Commissioners of the Clarke County Soil and Water Conservation office are, left to right: Merrill McCarty, Adrian Fuller, Jerry Kelly, Jack Ames, Doyle Miller, Lowell Moran and Richard Gonseth.

Watershed Activities

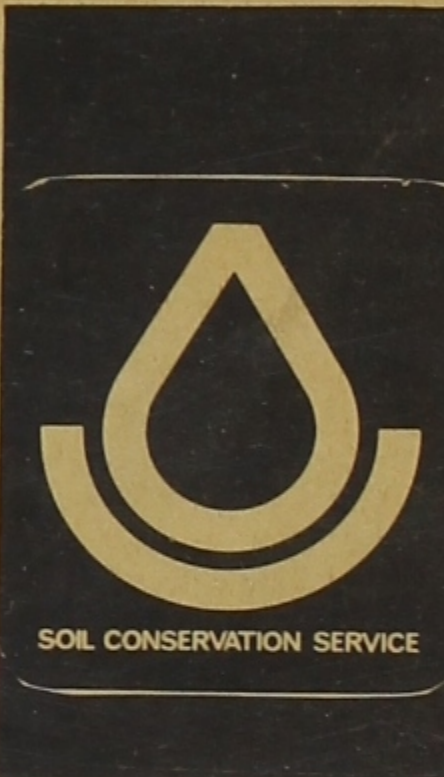
Positive results are now being realized from the many years of leadership by the commissioners in watershed development. The White Breast Watershed Preliminary Investigation report was presented to the public at a meeting held March 30, 1971. Over 100 people attended the meeting and voiced their desire to continue with the proposed \$2 million dollar project. The watershed boundaries have been expanded to include approximately 7600 acres in Lucas County. The Lucas County District Commissioners, the Lucas County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Conservation Board have become additional legal sponsors of the watershed. The board of directors under the leadership of Howard Ruble, have increased their members to 17. Those serving as directors at the present time are Howard Ruble, Chairman, Richard Gonseth, Sec.-Treasurer, Kenneth Johnson, Ernest Winter, Don Short, Louis King, Charles Rodgers, George Nelson, Bill Oehlert, Bill Danner, Don Dale, Hugh Carroll, Doyle Waller, Lloyd Phillips and from Lucas County, Bill Boyd, Jack Obermeier, and Harold Leonard.

The Long Creek Watershed has organized during this year as a result of leadership by both the Clarke and Decatur County District Commissioners. A board of directors volunteered to serve. They are Ken Sickle, Chairman, Richard Beers, Sec.-Treas., George Wilson, Lowell Moran, Bob Fuller, Roland Fuller, Terry Robins, C. I. Jackson, Charles Gorsline, Randol Cox and Hubert Duff. Work is being completed on an application for assistance under the PL 566 watershed program.

We feel that the watershed program is the best program available for rural development by providing flood control, recreation, and city and rural water.

In Appreciation

The Clarke County Soil Conservation District Commissioners and the Soil Conservation Service personnel extend a special thanks to the ASCS, County Extension Service, FHA, Local Service Organizations and all other persons or groups who have assisted us in our conservation efforts. We also wish to thank those who have contributed financially to the District so that our program can be successfully carried out. We realize that the conservation job can not be done by only a few, but is the responsibility of everyone. We will be looking forward to your continued support in the future.



In contrast to the picture at the left, this field planted across the slope with mulch tillage equipment shows little or no damage after the same rain. Mulch on top of the ground, along with the rows running across the hill hold water in place to prevent erosion.