

Mills Co. Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT - 1964

P.O. Box 190

MALVERN, IOWA

Phone 624-8364

1964 District Highlights

In January, Duane Sell was named as the outstanding Soil Conservation District Cooperator to represent the District in the Goodyear Awards Program.

State and National dues were paid in February to the Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

The seeding contract for seeding Pony Creek Part I was awarded in March. Two hundred booklets, "The Story of the Land" were ordered for distribution.

In May, a seed increase plot of Emerald Crownvetch was established on the Myron Jones farm. Allan Seim resigned his duties as Soil Conservator to return to Iowa State University. The Soil and Water speech contest was won by Deborah Sell. She also represented the district in the regional contest at Clarinda.

The contract for constructing Pony Creek Part II was awarded in June to the Moody, Casey and Palmer Const. Co. Special coverage was given to Soil Conservation Week by the Glenwood Opinion-Tribune and the Malvern Leader. David Breitbach assumed the duties of Soil Conservator with the Soil Conservation Service.

In July, a Soil Judging Contest for 4-H members was held on the Millard Gee farm.

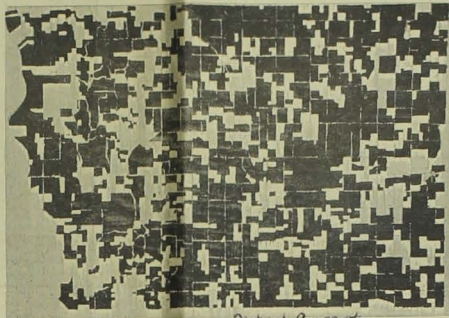
During the County Fair in August, the Mills County and Regional Queen of Conservation Contests were held. Phyllis Green and Judith Assmusen were the county winners and Sherry Teachout of Farragut was the regional winner.

In September, two scholarships were offered to teachers interested in attending the Teachers Conservation Training Course.

In October, one hundred booklets, "Making a Home for Wildlife on the Land" were ordered for distribution.

One of the biggest highlights of the year was the addition of 56 new District Cooperators. This makes a total of 968 farmers or nearly 92 per cent of all farmers in the county that have expressed their interest in Soil Conservation by signing a District Agreement.

The 56 new cooperators added during the past year were: Myron Rohrborg; Millard Gee; Hobert Jackson; Earl Dolan;



Dark Areas Show Farms Under Conservation Plans



Tree Planting on Morris Terry Farm

Richard Henderson; M. D. Vetterick; Floyd Hillyer; Robert Glynn (2 farms); Charles Ellison; Clyde Astrope (2 farms); Charles Burson, Sr.; Everett Blackman; Guy Haynie; S. G. Stonebraker; Violet A. Morgan; Laura C. Good; John Knight; Clair Ankland; Mrs. Marvin Johnson; Joseph E. Griesamore; Dr. M. L. Scheffel; P. Fred Peterson; Merrill Sowers; Loretta Robling; Lyle Williams; Earl McGee; Otha Dickersbach; Jennie Andrews; Paul Roentfeldt; Maude Bateman; George Hunt; Sherrill Dasher; J. E. Mayhew; Stanley Engle; Margaret Hammer; Robert Wyant; Gertrude Pollet Coby; George Lacey and Chester Plava; Walter Mulvania; John W. Roe; Mrs. Mary Hacker (2 farms); Elia Thomas; Jack Taylor; Mrs. Alice Aiscope; Rosannah Guilemetta; Robins-Harmon; R. C. Good; Frank Stout (2 farms); Martin Blum; and Karl Mintie.

The New Look for 1965

Early indications are that Bench terraces, Cut and Fill terraces and Tree planting will be among the most popular conservation practices used by land owners during the coming year. However this is understandable being that they are all relatively new practices in this area. There is a definite need for all three of these practices in Mills County and it appears that our farmers, as in the past, will be among the first to take advantage of new and better methods of doing things.

Bench terraces got their real start in the County during 1964 when several farmers in all parts of the County had them constructed on their farms. So many farmers have expressed so much interest in this type of terrace that we plan to conduct several field tours so they can be explained and observed first hand. Notices of these tours will be printed in the County papers at a later date.

Tree planting will get its big boost this year mainly due to the fact that we have a new District Forester, Ben Howells, who has his office in Red Oak.

Persons interested in planting trees this year should either contact Howells or the Soil Conservation Office in Malvern. We have been promised the use of a tree planter which will be available to farmers without charge. Due to a time factor involved we would like to have all of the tree orders in as soon as possible so they can be ordered for delivery on the same date. This will help Howells to make more efficient use of the planter in his District.

This will be the first year that we will attempt to harvest seed from the Emerald Crownvetch seed plot located on the Myron Jones farm. We are hoping that it will be a success so we can start other plots similar to this one in Mills County.

Our program and activities have been expanded to give more assistance to people living in the urban areas as well as the rural areas of the County. To mention a few of the special services we have, Soil information available for many uses as well as assistance in the development of recreation areas, and erosion problems occurring within urban areas. We hope that townpeople will feel free to make use of our service along with the farmers.

Pony Creek Watershed Progress Report

by Dennis Downing

March 31 will mark the seventh year of activity since forming the Pony Creek Watershed. During this time, 92 public meetings plus many tours and special meetings were held in preparation for actual construction.

The original work plan made provisions for 23 structures. To date, surveys and plans have been completed for nearly all of these structures. Actual construction to date has completed eleven of the 23 structures in addition to the structure completed this year by Mills County. A contract for 7 new structures is to be let this spring.

The first seeding contract was let in the spring of 1964 and heavy rains destroyed all of the seeding a short time later. These structures were reseeded in the fall from PL 566 funds. The remaining three structures that were constructed this year will be seeded in the spring of 1965.

It is estimated that the entire project will be completed within the next three years and when completed, there will be one eighty-three acre lake, a thirty-nine acre lake

and a twenty-three acre lake plus the smaller ones ranging from one to three acres in size.

The development of the Pony Creek Watershed will present many possibilities for recreational development including parks, fishing, camping, picnic areas and just plain enjoyment of the out-of-doors.

A lot of hard work has been put in by the various groups and individuals to bring Pony Creek Watershed to the present stage, especially farmers who have applied needed conservation practices on the uplands to supplement the structures. Great progress has been made in applying conservation to the land but additional work still needs to be done before the watershed can be completely effective.

We extend a Thank You and appreciation for your cooperation in making this progress in construction to date. Let us continue with this cooperation and in a few short years, we will see our dream come true.

Waubonsie Creek Report

by Raymond Yates, Chairman

During the past year the Waubonsie Creek Watershed Board has been busy contacting farmers and setting up meetings to discuss basic Conservation Farm Plans.

To become eligible for structure planning under Public Law 566, it is necessary to have at least seventy-five percent of the needed conservation applied to the land and fifty percent of the land under basic Conservation Farm Plans.

The contacts made so far have been rewarding being that nearly 100% of those attending the meetings expressed a desire for a farm plan. The SCS has been giving priority to these farms so that our goals can be met as soon as possible. During the past year twenty-one plans were completed.

The thing that we in the watershed must remember is that it is our watershed and only by our expressed interest and actions can we expect it to become a reality.

Members of the Waubonsie Creek Board are Raymond Yates, Chairman; Harold Tackett; Morris Bateman; Ben Jackson and Carl Lorimer.

Conservation Goals Achieved

"Mr. Richard Hammers is the forty-second conservation farmer this year to prepare a complete soil and water conservation plan for his farm. With the completion of this plan one of our main district goals for 1964 was accomplished."

This statement was made this past week by Albert Washburn, Chairman of the Mills County Soil Conservation District, as he and Commissioners Dale Lincoln and Myron Jones reviewed 1964 accomplishments.

In addition, states Mr. Washburn, 56 new conservation farmers signed up to become cooperators of the District, and 10 other cooperators revised their plan to do additional conservation work.

According to Washburn, our Mills County Soil Conservation Service men Keith Glandon, David Breitbach, Leo Van Fosson, Gerald Bower, and Lawrence Jones deserve much of the credit for our progress this year. These men assisted over 200 of our conservation farmers in the preparation of farm plans, providing technical assistance in the planning and layout of conservation practices, and providing soil survey information.

The following are the accomplishments made by conservation farmers during the year and to date:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 1964

New Cooperators	No.	56
Basic Farm Plans	No.	42
Revised Farm Plans	No.	10
Planned Cooperator Contracts	No.	177
Grassed Waterways	Ac.	38.6
Field Drainage Ditch	Ft.	14,100
Title	Ft.	33,602
Diversions	Ft.	5,050
Structure	No.	13
Terraces	Ft.	343,122
Tours, Talks, Exhibits, Contests	No.	13
Services Provided on Conservation Planning and Application	No.	1,285
Land Owners and Operators Applying One or More Practices	No.	124



Bench Terraces of Dale Linville Farm

Financial Report

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our state representatives and land owners who have shown their confidence in soil and water conservation work by making funds available to help carry out our District program.

1963-1964 STATE BUDGET

1-M Fund		
Office Supplies	\$	59.47
Printing		100.00
Office Expense		52.23
2-M Fund		
Technical Assistance		2,674.24
Clerical Assistance		2,620.00
State Retirement		131.46
Federal Retirement		191.92
Total Disbursed		\$5,879.32

REVOLVING FUND

Balance on hand Jan. 1, 1964 (Malvern Bank)	\$	802.92
Time Certificate (Mineaola Bank)		400.00
Land Owner Contributions		739.45
Reimbursements from I.M.		116.66
Interest on Time Certificate		16.00

Total cash on hand and receipts \$2,075.03

DISBURSEMENTS

Office Supplies, Postage, Equipment	\$	33.05
Utilities		16.00
Dues, Subscriptions, Donations		183.50
Posters, Contest		64.48
Field Supplies and Equipment		47.65
Printing, Bulletins, Booklets		66.50
Pony Creek Expenses (water permits)		30.00
Insurance (District's equipment)		46.00
Total Disbursements	\$	487.48
Time Certificate (Malvern Bank)		400.00
Time Certificate (Mineaola Bank)		400.00
Balance cash on hand Dec. 31, 1964		787.55
Total		\$2,075.03

District Commissioners

U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Personnel

State Personnel

Area S.C.S. Personnel Assisting

Albert Washburn	Chairman
Myron Jones	Commissioner
Dale Lincoln	Commissioner
Rew Burgoon	Assistant Commissioner
Carl J. Green	Assistant Commissioner

Keith Glandon	Work Unit Conservationist
Allan Seim	Soil Conservationist (until June 1)
David Breitbach	Soil Conservationist
Leo Van Fosson	Conservation Technician
Gerald Bower	Conservation Technician
Lawrence Jones	Conservation Technician

Edith Powles	
William Haroff	

Secretary	
State Aid	

Ted Pawlowski	Area Conservationist
Blanche Oline	Area Clerk
Phyllis Curry	Area Clerk
Lewis Clark	Soil Scientist
Howard Hall	Area Engineer