

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Council Bluffs, Iowa

1972

FOREWORD

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District takes this means to report the accomplishments in Soil and Water Conservation during the year 1972.

One of the true values of the trips to the moon has been a true look at this Earth of ours. A look at it as it really exists. A sealed spaceship of fertile soils and abundant water. Soils that are not farm soils, urban soils, not his soil, not my soil; but OUR soil. Our water, our resources.

All of us must wisely use and preserve these precious resources, for if we fail, we will all suffer the penalties for our neglect.

In the past few years, the skill and knowledge gained by the District and the Service has been applied on a wider scale, to cover the conservation of all soils; not only agricultural soils, but all soils.

The concern that has been felt by farm people for many years is now being shared by urban people as well. The urban people, especially the young, are suddenly concerned about soil and water conservation, for which the District is most pleased. The District, the Service, and its farm co-operators have been concerned about these matters for over 27 years.

The District and the Service stand ready to assist all citizens in the intelligent implementation of their concern, as it has so successfully done for 27 years.

Stanley Grote
Assistant Commissioner
West Pottawattamie SCD

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman, 1222 Harrison St., Council Bluffs
Derald Blois, Vice-Chairman, Honey Creek
Floyd Fischer, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Lloyd Brokman, Commissioner, Rt. 1, McClelland
Clint Goos, Commissioner, Rt. 1, Council Bluffs
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner, Carson
Stanley Grote, Assistant Commissioner, 367 Kenmore Ave., Council Bluffs
Phillip Lustgraaf, Assistant Commissioner, Rt. 4, Council Bluffs
Harvey Moss, Assistant Commissioner, Macedonia
Cliff Johnson (County Extension Director) District Secretary

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Oneta Riggs, Clerk
Gerald Waters, State Aid

	DISTRICT PROGRESS		Goals for 1973
	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	
New Cooperators	23	32	25
Farmers Assisted	241	300	300
Farmers Applying Practices	111	145	140
Conservation Plans Prepared	36	29	30
Conservation Plans Revised	20	21	30
Groups Assisted	6	8	3
Group Conservation Plans	6	3	10

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Terraces	171,300 feet
Farmstead Windbreaks	7.4 acres
Structure for Water Control	35
Grade Stabilization Structure	7
Critical Area Planting	81.8 acres

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meetings held	14
News Stories Published	6
Office Callers	402
Phone calls	985
Radio talks	6
Television Shows	2
Talks to Schools and Civic Groups	14

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District had three Resource Plans in cooperation with the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service:

- "Land Use Guide for Council Bluffs"
- "Watershed Operation and Maintenance"
- "Farmstead and Feedlot Windbreaks"

FINANCIAL REPORT

Soil Conservation Districts receive funds from the State of Iowa to assist them in carrying out local programs. These funds are allocated to districts (sub-governmental units) by the Department of Soil Conservation on a need basis evidenced by work loads and budgets submitted by district commissioners.

The allocation is broken down into two separate funds. They are the 1M Budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M Budget which is used to employ a clerk and part-time employee to help with field work.

1M Budget

Allocation	\$700.00
+ additional allocation	\$100.00
Commissioners expenses (mileage & meals)	\$474.98
Office supplies	\$183.53
Office expense	\$ 8.28
Printing expense	\$ 16.96
Speech Contest Prize	\$ 5.00
Teacher to Conservation camp	\$105.00
Meeting expense	\$ 5.27
 Total expended	 \$799.02
Returned to Dept. of Soil Conservation	\$.98
	<u>\$800.00</u>

2M Budget

Allocation	\$6,495.00
Salaries - Clerical and Technical	\$3,914.82
Clerks Travel	\$ 50.89
Districts share of IPERS & Social Security	\$ 309.93
State Employees Insurance (2 pmts. in Fiscal Yr. 1972)	\$ 5.34
 Total expended	 \$4,280.98
Returned to Dept. of Soil Conservation	\$2,214.02
	<u>\$6,495.00</u>

The District has a revolving fund to help them finance programs for which the 1M and 2M budget funds cannot be used. Some of the programs are: conservation education materials, information programs, and dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts.

Working Balance 12/31/71	\$792.56
1972 Receipts	\$ 28.11
1972 Expenditures	\$499.36
Balance on hand 12/31/72	\$321.31

SCD*SCS PARTNERSHIP

Since 1935 the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has been the technical arm of the United States Department of Agriculture, assisting soil conservation districts. West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District (SCD) has shared this partnership since 1944.

A normal work unit staff consists of a full-time district conservationist, a full-time conservation technician, and part-time help from area and state specialists in engineering, soils, biology, watershed work, and management. These people are assigned to the district by the federal government for help.

Cal Cox, District Conservationist, manages the work unit assisting the District Commissioners. His main job is planning individual farms, group projects, resource plans, watershed application, both urban and rural. He also has the reporting, recording, and promotional chores.

Don Barnhart (Barney), Conservation Technician, is the real contact man with the farmer. He carries out a big chore of field service to cooperators in getting their conservation plans established. He follows up on plans, encouraging land users to apply conservation work. With the help of the contractor or farmer in surveying, he spends much of his time in designing practices for erosion control.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES ASSISTING THE DISTRICT

Cal Cox, District Conservationist	Leon Foderberg, Area Conservationist
Donald Barnhart, Conservation Technician	Norman Koester, Area Engineer
Richard Godfrey, (Soil Conservationist	
Sept. 1971-Sept. 1972)	

CONSERVATION TILLAGE SYSTEMS

Conservation Tillage, which can reduce soil erosion 65-95% is taking off faster than any agricultural practice since hybrid corn. That's the assessment of the Soil Conservation Service which says the once-across-the-field method of ground preparation and planting was used on 3 million Iowa acres in 1972, compared to 500,000 acres in 1968.

No-tillage, sometimes called Zero tillage, slot planting, or slit planting means that seed is planted directly into a cover of crop residues blanketing the entire field. In one trip across the field, the farmer simultaneously plants the seed, puts on fertilizer, and adds herbicides.

The conservation angle is that only 10% of the surface soil is disturbed in the whole operation. Conservation tillage with grassed backslope terraces (where needed) will reduce soil loss from water erosion by 95%. It also aids in the control of wind erosion.

SCS Chief Agronomist, R. D. Blakely says, "If the no-till principle of complete ground cover had been understood and followed on the Great Plains earlier this century, the dust bowl and the dirty thirties would never have happened."

WHAT YOUR DISTRICT DOES

Soil and Water Conservation District programs create new wealth in rural and urban America.

They reduce waste and damage in the use of soil, water and related natural resources.

They reduce flood hazards and the silting of rivers.

They develop new and improved water supplies for all.

They create additional private employment opportunities.

They add to fish, game and wildlife population.

They promote privately owned recreational space and facilities.

They contribute substantially to the beauty of the countryside.

For the benefit of those concerned with watershed treatment and water management we might add:

They co-sponsor nearly all the small watershed projects in the country.

They establish and administer regulations limiting rates of soil erosion in the district under the Iowa Conservancy District Law.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

"Since man arrived on this earth and began to assemble increasingly complex social groups, he has been forced to recognize that living with others requires the forfeiture of individual prerogatives in order that the group might survive and prosper. It behooves us to develop policy that assures us that the very size of society will not destroy the natural context in which we live. Land use is the crux of this problem."-----Governor Robert D. Ray of Iowa. (NACD Tuesday News Letter, December 12, 1972).

WATERSHED REPORT

Watershed progress depends upon the cooperative effort of the people in the watershed. Those who realize the benefits of land treatment to their farms are willing to apply the necessary terraces and are not waiting for the neighbor or to see who gets a structure. None of us ever get anything for nothing and can't expect a watershed to be successful without land treatment, cooperation, and hard work.

Ryan-Henschel Watershed will be completed and closed out in 1973 with the completion of two road structures, in cooperation with the Pottawattamie County Board of Supervisors.

Indian Creek Watershed easements are now all completed and the contract for 11 structures will be signed in the spring of 1973. This will complete Indian Creek Watershed and add some protection to the city of Council Bluffs.

Simon Run Watershed Work Plan completed. The Simon Run Watershed Directors are in the process of obtaining easements and the first contract to construct 4 structures is scheduled for 1974.

North Pigeon Watershed had much activity with its first contract (\$187,839.84). Six structures were included in the first contract. Two structures were tied together to make 5 structure locations. Four of these locations were largely completed, with the fifth site well began, but somewhat bothered by the adverse fall weather. The next contract would put this watershed well on its way to completion.

Twin Ponies Watershed study completed and awzits work-plan in 1973. Meetings here continued to show interest in this watershed.

Mamie Creek has again shown more interest with hopes of progressing toward a work plan.

Pollution seems to be the most used work right at the present. Watershed programs fit this particular situation to curb the problems in pollution. If the nation would need a central point to try all phases of conservation, certainly Western Iowa would have it all to offer. With the deep soil that can be brought back to fertility with modern fertilization methods, certainly we have a garden spot for conservation. Our potential in the beef cattle lines has only scratched the surface here in our area. This also fits the picture of conservation.

CONTESTS

The Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program is presented each year. Local winners are chosen by a committee from the Districts Governing Body. The names of the local winners are then submitted for the regional contest.

The awards winners in the three divisions are as follows:

Henry R. Stone, Honey Creek, has applied and maintains 27 acres of contour farming: .5 acre of waterway and 3.5 miles of terraces. (Division I--Owner operated or family operated farm).

Harry Husz and Robert Chambers, R.R. #1, Council Bluffs, have applied and maintains 83 acres of contour farming; 197 acres mulch tillage; 2 acres of tree planting; 4.75 miles of terraces and 1 acre waterway. (Division II--Tenant operated farm).

R. C. Asmus and Robert Young, R.R. #1, Council Bluffs, have applied and maintains 1.95 miles of terrace, and 91 acres of contour farming. (Division III--New Cooperator within the last two years).

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District in Cooperation with the Environmental Education Council sponsored the 1972 annual Soil Conservation Speech contest. The topic was "Better Soil and Water Conservation through Community Action".

A prize of \$5.00 was presented to the local winner Jim Perkins, 9th grade student at Woodrow Wilson Junior High. Jim took third place in the regional competition held at Harlan, Iowa, June 11, 1972.

The west Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District awarded a tuition paid scholarship to Mrs. Darlene Feldman, 5th grade teacher, Tri-Center School, Neola, Iowa, to attend the 1972 June session of the Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park, Guthrie Center, Iowa.