

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Clay C. Barnett, Chairman

Harold C. Baughman, Member

Dale Blackwell, Treasurer

Loretta Augspurger, Secretary

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Charles Chickering

Sam Botts, Jr.

Lionel C. Herteen

P. W. Spilman

1960

SCS PERSONNEL

Verle M. Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist

D. Eugene Francis, Conservation Aid

Larry Harper, Conservation Aid (part time)

Teddy Dixon, Conservation Aid (part time)

Loretta Augspurger, State Clerk

FORWARD

At best, reports are dry, uninteresting, and lack character and personality. But, on the other hand, they are as necessary as the shoes we wear. Certain times of the year, they are needed, and save embarrassment.

Size of the report isn't important, because if this were true, the "cow could catch the rabbit" -- as the Pennsylvania Dutchman would say.

We do appreciate the assistance given the Davis District, by the Davis County Papers, Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Service Clubs, FFA, County Extension Service, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee and Farmers' Home Administration.

The most important of all, is the financial assistance given the District by the State, through the 1-A and 2-A funds. Without this help, the District would be without it's secretary and a part time technician. Without this help, the District's accomplishments would be reduced by at least 20 per cent.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

Twelve regular meetings were held during 1960 in addition to the Annual Meeting, tours and attendance to the State and National Soil Conservation District Commissioners Meetings.

Clay C. Barnett and Mrs. Barnett, attended the State Meeting of the National Association of District Commissioners, in February, 1960.

Commissioner, Harold C. Baughman, and Mrs. Baughman, attended the Iowa Association of District Commissioners' in Davenport, Iowa during the year.

TOURS AND MEETINGS

During October 1960, a tour was held with the Rotary and Lions Service Clubs, consisting of 70 members and 45 farmers and guests.

The West Grove Methodist Church Ladies Group served a grand chicken dinner and Dr. Geo. Browning, Director, Experimental Station, Ia. State University gave the conservation address.

In November, a joint tour of SCS, Extension Service, ASC and Soil Conservation District personnel made an all-day tour of conservation farms where new practices had been established. The group met at the Royal Cafe, in Bloomfield, for lunch. 28 attended this tour.

Many other program planning and workshop meetings were held by the District Commissioners and cooperating agencies.

We cooperated with the County ASC Committee in developing a conservation booth at the Davis County Fair, during August 1960.

1960 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Cooperators	Number	57
Basic Plans Written	Number	35
Contouring	Acre	2061
Conservation Cropping Systems	Acre	5809
Grassland Renovation	Acre	601
Tree Planting	Acre	27
Land Grading	Acre	40
Drainage Structures	Number	3
Road Risers	Number	3
Drop Inlet Structures	Number	14
Toe Wall Structures	Number	2
Terraces (Standard)	Mile	36
Terraces (Cut and Fill)	Mile	12
Diversion	Mile	16
Grass Waterways	Acre	118
Mains & Laterals (Drainage)	Mile	15
Surface Field Drain	Mile	8
Drainage Improvement	Acre	794
Acres Soil Mapped	Acre	12680

"QUEEN OF CONSERVATION - 1960"

The original, "Queen of the Furrow" Contest, sponsored by the Davis Soil Conservation District was changed to "Queen of Conservation" for the year, 1960.

The county contest was held during the Drakesville Old Settlers' Reunion, July 22, 1960, in Drakesville, Iowa

14 Davis County girls participated in the Contest, with Miss LaVere Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Smith, being chosen winner, and Miss Carolyn Sullivan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan, as her attendant.

These two girls advanced to the Regional Contest, which was also held in Davis SCD, this year. This Regional Contest was held on August 19, during the Davis County Fair.

SPEECH CONTEST

The Speech Contest for the District, was won by David Swaim, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Swaim, Sr., and he was also runner-up in the State Contest held at Davenport, Iowa, during the Iowa Association Soil Conservation District's Annual Meeting.

WILDLIFE

The winter of 1959 and 1960 was so serious from the standpoint of deep, wet, snows, that most of the food and cover was covered too deeply for quail to survive. Many rabbits were smothered in burrows and squirrels were unable to get to the ground to uncover food they had buried, earlier.

Very few ponds had fish kill, and large pond fishing was the best in the county. In 1960, 45 farm ponds were stocked with large-mouth or black bass, bluegill and channel catfish. 23,000 fish all together, including 2800 channel catfish. Channel Cat were stocked in ponds of one surface acre of water or more in size.

FORESTRY REPORT

This year, was a good year for tree planting in Davis County. A total of 25,000 pine trees were planted.

Those who planted this year were: Phil Babcock, John Robinson, James Bailey, Howard Grey, Robert Boetman, Dr. R. E. Rasmussen, Norman Hansen, Carlon Carey, Harry Wagler, and Lloyd Wheeler. These people have placed land into producing a crop which is not in surplus.

In seven or eight years, these trees will be Christmas tree size. A thinning can be made at this time, which would net a good profit. In fifteen years, another thinning can be made for fence posts. Pine fence posts can be successfully treated by soaking them in "penta". In 20 years, the trees will be pulpwood size. A series of pulpwood thinnings could be started at this time. At present, there is a pulpwood mill in Southeast Iowa which has imported pine pulpwood from S. Dakota. They are paying a premium for Iowa Grown pine. Pine has a longer fibre than native woods.

Eventually, about 200 to 250 trees, per acre, could be left to develop into sawlogs. Davis County has a large number of acres which can be profitably devoted to raising pine trees. Pine plantations will make an additional crop, provide off-season work, and improve the value of a farm for sale purposes. A potential buyer of a farm would place more value on a crop of pine than on an eroded or brushy area. Only one timber management plan was drawn up in Davis County, in 1960.

Now is the time to start managing your woodlot for greater profit. High quality trees are becoming more scarce. Properly managed woodlots, will produce high quality timber which will net more money, per acre in the long run. The sooner you practice good forestry, the sooner your lazy acres will become profitable acres.

Bruce Plum

District Forester

WATERSHEDS

Present indications are that the work plan for the Big Wyacondah Watershed will be started, this year.

Considerable land treatment work, contouring, terraces, waterways, etc., was completed in the watershed during 1960. Much more work remains to be done, though and farmers in the Big Wyacondah Watershed are being encouraged to apply these needed practices as rapidly as they can.

Interest has been shown regarding possible watershed development on Soap Creek, Fox Creek, and Carter Creek, but to date, no formal petition for assistance has been made by farmers living in these areas.

CHANGES BEING MADE

Grade A dairy enterprises are on the increase. Twenty-five milking parlor setups, twenty of which are now shipping milk to the St. Louis Mo. Milkshed, the balance to Des Moines and England Dairy Company, in Bloomfield. These dairymen own in excess of 1500 dairy stock.

Since 1956, when we had a severe drouth - having only one inch of rainfall for a 6 month period, we have been increasing our roughage type livestock as follows:

<u>KIND</u>	<u>1958</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>1960</u>	<u>increase</u>
Beef & Dairy Cows	17,484	18,806	19,827	2343
Feeders - pastured	927	1,040	1,258	331
Sheep	33,820	37,721	38,796	4974
Hog and feeder cattle have increased very little.				
Hogs	2,250	3,064	2,888	638

Many of the lambs and beef calves are fed "out" on Davis County Farms, using a large amount of the grain produced.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Balance	\$1225.16
Income	4335.36
Expenses	4142.64
Balance	1417.88

Dale Blackwell, Treasurer

CONCLUSION

The most valuable resource of this District, is the soil. Gold is more spectacular, iron, has in two generations, made men much wealthier, copper has opened up great possibilities of advancing techniques, but -- it is the soil which produces the lasting and essential wealth of the nation.

"Good food, grown of good soil, properly prepared, will do more than all the medicines in the world to make live longer and happier for the average individual" -- states Jonethan Forman, M. D.

We are not really taking our job of stewardship serious enough. Progress is slow, because we do not accelerate our promotion, education and application phases of the program. This, we must do in the 1960's. Farmer and businessman - alike!

The preceding report was read and approved during a regular meeting of the Davis County Soil Conservation District Commissioners. Said meeting was held on March 1, 1961, in Bloomfield, Iowa

Way A. Barnett
Chairman

Dale Blackwell
Commissioner

Harold C. Baughman
Commissioner

Loretta Augspurger
Secretary