

1956

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District  
Iowa S.C.D. 39  
Council Bluffs, Iowa

Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman, William C. Strohbehn, and Lawrence Dittmer; Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, hereby submit our thirteenth annual report.

In compiling this report we are very conscious of the fact that we are entering our 4th year of drouth. We feel more and more that a complete planned and applied conservation plan on our farm is one "must" that we as farmers can do to protect ourselves in this period of extreme drouth. We must make every effort to hold the rain where it falls and not allow it to run off carrying with it our topsoil and fertility.

For your consideration we list the following accomplishments in the District

| <u>Practice</u>         | <u>Unit</u> | <u>Applied 1956</u> | <u>Now on the<br/>land</u> | <u>Remaining<br/>to be done</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Contouring              | Acres       | 4,946               | 80,759                     |                                 |
| Terraces                | Miles       | 122                 | 1,542                      | 8,037                           |
| Diversion               | Miles       | 2                   | 27                         | 101                             |
| Open drainage           | Miles       | 6                   | 59                         | 133                             |
| Grass waterway          | Acres       | 74                  | 1,376                      | 4,274                           |
| Gully control structure | No.         | 3                   | 45                         | 1,350                           |
| Land smoothing          | Acres       | 244                 | 456                        |                                 |
| Basic farm plans        | No.         | 50                  |                            | 984                             |
| District Cooperators    | No.         | 61                  |                            | 770                             |

### Cooperation

During the past year the West Pottawattamie District has cooperated with all agencies and we in turn have enjoyed the finest of cooperation.

Under the cost sharing assistance of A.C.P., we have seen permanent type conservation practices being applied faster than in previous years. We feel that the County A.S.C. Committee and Office Manager have been very helpful in urging farmers to apply needed conservation practices.

The Extension Service and Extension Council has been very cooperative with the District Commissioners. Our Extension Director has assisted with tours and contests and serves as secretary at our commissioners' meetings.

The funds received from the State of Iowa have enabled us to hire a full time office secretary as well as additional technical assistance. We are very grateful for this assistance.

### Commissioners Activities

As in the past all commissioners were in attendance at all regular and special meetings. We also were in attendance at various local, regional and state meetings.

The West Pottawattamie District was host to an eight District meeting in Council Bluffs, in January.

A businessmen twilight tour to view erosion problems and accomplishments was held in June. The Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce assisted us in sponsoring this tour.

Interest in Indian Creek Watershed the latter part of the year resulted in a request for Watershed Assistance under Public Law #566, being forwarded to the State Committee for their consideration. The Pottawattamie Board of Supervisors, and the Council Bluffs City Council were co-sponsors of the request for assistance.

Stewardship Sunday was observed in many of the churches in the District. Special emphasis will also be placed on Stewardship Sunday in 1957.

Several meetings were held with the County Board of Supervisors on road structures. Most of these meetings were also attended by Commissioners of the East Pottawattamie District. We feel that in many cases cooperation can be developed between the farmers and the county on these structures.

The District participated in the World Herald, the Des Moines Register and Tribune, Good Year Tire and Rubber Company and the "Queen of the Furrow" contests.

#### The Job Ahead

The Commissioners again would like to stress the necessity of continuing full speed ahead with the terracing, contouring and proper land use program needed on all farms in the District.

We anticipate that more watersheds in the District will organize and request assistance under existing watershed legislation in the near future.

The goal of the District remains the same; that every farmer have a complete soil and moisture conservation farm plan established on the land. Every acre used according to its capabilities, with treatment for its protection, should be the goal of every farmer.

This report was prepared by Louie Fahrenkrog, Wm. C. Strohbehn and Lawrence Dittmer of the West Pottawattamie Conservation District.

2/28/1957

Submitted by

Louie Fahrenkrog  
Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman