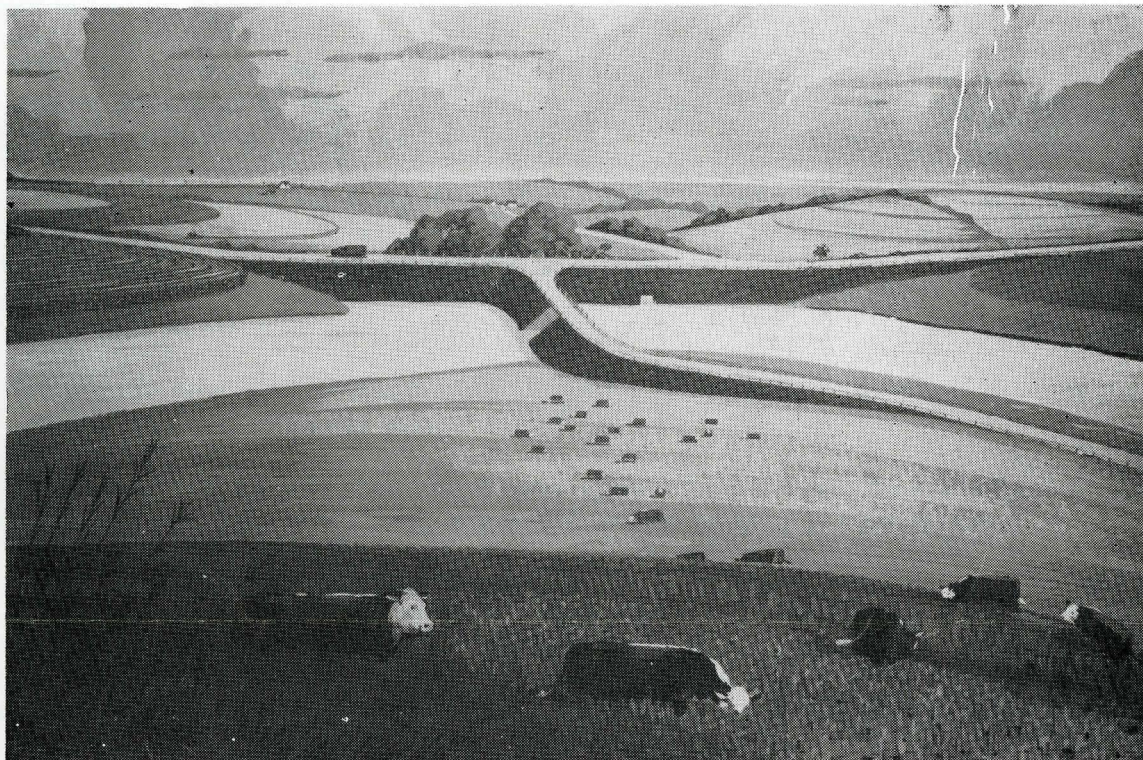


1955 1955

Mills County Soil Conservation District

P. O. Box 567 Malvern, Iowa Phone 2321

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER



DAM AT CONAWAY CORNER. MULE CREEK WATERSHED.

District Commissioners

D. N. McGrew, Chairman
Emerson, Iowa
J. F. Wearin, Jr.
Hastings, Iowa
S. C. Lincoln, Sr.
Pacific Junction, Iowa
Richard S. Goos, Secretary
Malvern, Iowa
Lillian A. Campbell, Treas.
Malvern, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Ray W. Jones
Unit Conservationist
Richard L. France
Farm Planner
B. Jack Wederquist
Conservation Aid
Gerald I. Bower
Conservation Aid
Lawrence A. Jones
Conservation Aid
Richard G. Larsen
Conservation Aid

OUR GOAL: A COMPLETE CONSERVATION PLAN ON EVERY FARM

ANNUAL NEWS LETTER

Malvern, Iowa
Jan. 1, 1956

Greetings to the Farmers of Mills County and all others interested in Soil and Water Conservation.

We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District again join with the District Personnel to submit in this news letter some of the high lights of the year, Summary of Activities and our Financial Report.

This type of report which we inaugurated last year met with very favorable comments. Since it will be sent to every farmer in Mills County regardless of whether he has a farm plan, we feel we can better report the District activities.

We would appreciate your comments concerning this type of report. Drop us a card.

During the year a Farm Planner was added to the District Personnel. His name is Richard France. He has proved his ability — you will like him.

If you have not already made his acquaintance, stop at the office in Malvern and he, along with others of the Personnel, will do their best to be of service to you.

In our 1954 letter we mentioned having a dry year, 1955 was even dryer. We had a good oat and wheat crop and a good early cutting of hay, but extreme drought and heat about ruined the corn. This condition was more serious in the southwest part of the County. The average corn yield for the County was about 20 bushels per acre. Many farmers reported terrace channels out-yielding balance of field by 30 to 35 bushels per acre.

Fields most seriously damaged were those where corn followed alfalfa brome. The fertility was present, but the alfalfa roots had depleted the soil moisture the previous year.

About 1000 acres were irrigated in the County most of it hurriedly prepared for, after the crop was already suffering. The increase in yields varied from none to 150%.

Comments from Ray W. Jones indicate that profitable irrigation requires considerable engineering and planning. It is not just a matter of pumping water into a field. The first requirement is — a dependable water supply, the second is — a soil and topographic map and the last the ground must be leveled to grade as needed.

Soils vary in the amount of water they can hold, rate that they can receive water and in the frequency of application.

So far eighteen applications for irrigating assistance in 1956 have been received at the office. These represent about 1600 to 1800 acres.

If you expect to irrigate for the first time this year, start early, secure reliable assistance and do a good job.

Your District Commissioners neither recommend nor condemn the practice, for only time will prove the value of irrigation in western Iowa.

Considerable recognition was given to the Mills County Conservation program in 1955. Perhaps more than we deserved. Data released in February 1955 by the State Office of Soil Conservation Service showed the Mills County District as being one of the top Districts in miles of terraces and also was the leading District in acres of grass waterways.

The Warren Gregory farm in Rawles Township received recognition in the July 3rd R.F.D. column of the World-Herald for the outstanding conservation program and gully control work.

During the year 21 Tours were made with an attendance of 496 persons. Many groups were from out of state and nearly all tours included the Mule Creek Pilot Watershed.

The Keystone Steel Company made one radio transcript in the District and the Iowa Farm Bureau made a TV film and transcription for use on a large number of TV stations.

One of the highlights of the year was the shooting of a full length movie in kodachrome in Mills County by the Bert S. Gittins Advertising Agency for the Allis-Chalmers Company. The title of this film is "With Our Own Hands" and shows the typical development of a watershed project such as Mule Creek Pilot Watershed. B. Jack Wederquist and Adolph Schultz had leading parts in this picture. The premiere of this movie will be in Boston on February 7th at the National Meeting of Association of Soil Conservation Districts. The film will be shown in Mills County some time in March 1956.

Farmers in Mule Creek area are aware of the progress on the dams, and to you other farmers of the County, we report progress on the dams to be almost two years ahead of schedule. Nineteen structures are complete, one structure is under contract, and contracts for the last four structures will be let in April 1956.

However, with drought conditions, the farmer practices — such as terraces, waterways and diversions have not progressed at an equal pace. We are hoping for better moisture conditions and with added incentive payments we would hope to increase the application of practices.

OUTLOOK FOR 1956

From funds allotted to us from all available sources we hope to have personnel equal to six full time men. This will be more than we had last year, but our work load is also larger, in fact, the requests for new plans, revised plans, layout work, follow up work, irrigation assistance and ACP compliance checking would require personnel equal to eleven full time men.

This simply means that some of the seasonal work will not receive its full share of attention as mentioned last year.

You can help with this situation if you will make appointments with the Technicians prior to the busy season, for work that you plan to do, thus the work can be grouped by Townships, saving both time and traveling expense. A one week notice is much better than a phone call after the dozer has driven into your yard.

In 1955 we received generous cooperation from Soil Conservation Service, State Conservation Committee, State Conservation Commission, County Board of Supervisors, Extension Service, Farm Bureau, A.S.C., Churches and Civic Groups and Commercial interests.

We thank them and hope that our accomplishments have justified this assistance.

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

	1955	To Date
District Cooperators, Number	78	482
Acres	19,082	110,001
Farms Serviced, Number	336	
Acres	60,480	
Soil Surveys, Acres	6,193	192,556
New Contouring, Acres	6,100	76,549
Terraces Completed, Miles	86.3	2,157
Drainage, Open Ditch, Miles	1.4	103.1
Drainage, Tile, Lin. Ft.	1,000	35,668
Sod Waterways, Acres	207.4	1505.4
Diversion Terraces, Miles	2.9	43.5
Group Demonstrations, Number	21	137
Attendance	496	2,304
Conservation Information Meetings, Number	17	176
Attendance	270	7,708
News Articles	12	240
Radio Broadcasts, Number	1	26
T.V. Broadcasts, Number	1	5
Commissioners Meetings, Number	8	126



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1955 —		
Malvern Bank		\$1,292.46
Balance on hand January 1, 1955 —		
Mineola Bank		690.01
Farmer Contribution —		
Terraces	525.47	
Drainage	2.81	
Other	177.72	
Total		706.00
State 2-A Budget		2,460.00
State 1-A Budget		484.05
A.C.P. 5% — (Personnel)		3,655.67
Total		9,288.19

DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen —		
State	500.00	
A. S. C.	3655.67	
District	63.72	
Total		4,219.39
Clerical —		
State	1960.00	
District	591.01	
Total		2,551.01
District Operations —		
State	\$484.05	
District	998.89	
Office Supplies	31.65	
Postage	51.00	
Fuel & Utilities	710.89	
Dues & Subscriptions		
to Organizations	156.25	
Field Supplies	50.69	
Printing	141.40	
Photographic Supplies	160.88	
Office Equipment	70.98	
Insurance	75.70	
Meetings	33.50	
Total		1,482.94
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		8,253.34
Balance Cash, Dec. 31, 1955 — Malvern Trust & Savings Bank		344.84
Balance Cash, Dec. 31, 1955 — Mineola State Bank (Special Fund)		690.01
TOTAL		\$9,288.19

We would also like to express our appreciation for a job well done — to Ray W. Jones, Unit Conservationist; Dick France, Farm Planner; Lillian A. Campbell, Office Clerk and Treasurer; Dick Goos, Secretary; and Conservation Aids, B. Jack Wederquist, Gerald I. Bower, Lawrence A. Jones and Dick Larsen.

In conclusion let us refer you to an article in the February issue of "Crops and Soils." The article, "How to store more moisture in the Soil" was written by Vernon C. Jamison, a soil scientist of the Agriculture Research Service, U.S.D.A. He is stationed at Columbia, Mo.

We quote in part, "The severe drought of recent years has impressed us with the importance of moisture storage in our soils for the use of crops.

With moisture in short supply it is unwise to miss chances to store natural rainfall by not having the soil in a condition to absorb water which falls on it. Equally unwise is the failure to follow practices which will store and use soil moisture efficiently." — Unquote.

The Mills County Conservation District hopes to be of greater service to you during the year 1956.

Yours for more Conservation.

D. N. McGrew, Chairman
District Commissioners.



LOST SOILS - LOST SOULS

**MILLS COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
MALVERN - IOWA**

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