

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT
of the
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Council Bluffs, Iowa

1970

FOREWORD

Due to the cutback in funds available for conservation work, the accomplishments were not as great as in previous years. Cooperators used all funds allotted and some projects had to wait for the coming year.

Education as to the proper ways to save and conserve our water and soil remains our main objective. Speakers, films and slides are available free of charge for use to all schools, churches, clubs, and organizations. With people and industries moving into the country, the reshaping of the land often has drastic effects on drainage, runoff and streamflow. Soils that were well drained under crops or native plants may become poorly drained and even unstable when the surface is overlaid with industries, houses and pavement. Soil conservation know-how (information) today can eliminate these problems.

Every citizen can do his part by taking a few minutes to look around his farm or home, no matter how small or large it may be, and take inventory of what he can do to save our soil and water now and for future generations.

We wish to express our appreciation for assistance in promoting soil and water conservation to the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County Board of Supervisors, Agricultural Research Service, all news media, all banks, Area 13 Media Center, school boards, superintendents and teachers in the District, and all District cooperators.

At the 25th anniversary dinner of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District held at Underwood February 25, 1970, 3 commissioners were elected: Derald Blois of Honey Creek, 4 year term; Floyd Fischer of Route 1, Council Bluffs, 6 year term; Robert K. Petersen of Minden, 2 year term. Three new assistant commissioners have been selected since then--they are Stanley Grote, 367 Kenmore Avenue, Council Bluffs, Lloyd Brokman of McClelland, and Clint Goos, Route 1, Council Bluffs.

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

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

STATE EMPLOYEE

Mrs. Mona Mackey, Clerk

DISTRICT PROGRESS			Goals for 1971
	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>24</u>
New cooperators	21	24	
Farmers assisted	278	194	200
Farmers applying practices	123	84	90
Conservation plans prepared	44	30	35
Conservation plans revised	23	26	25

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

Terraces	217,575 feet
Tile	48,356 feet
Pipeline for livestock water	2,880 feet
Waterway	2,400 feet
Land leveling	55 acres
Drainage field ditch	2,550 feet
Farmstead windbreaks	6
Erosion control structures	4
Feedlot runoff control	1

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meetings held	13
News stories published	12
Office callers	214
Phone calls	392
Radio talks	6
Talks to schools and civic groups	6

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 District has shared this partnership since 1944. (SCD)

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
Don Barnhart, Conservation Technician
Leon D. Foderberg, Area Conservationist
Norman Koester, Area Engineer

MINIMUM TILLAGE SYSTEMS

The use of herbicides have made possible the many minimum, optimum short cut, or reduced tillage practices that are becoming so popular today.

Some of the benefits of minimum tillage are:

1. Reducing the number of tillage operations, thereby reducing cost.
2. Helps to minimize the compaction because of fewer trips across the field.
3. It discourages the growth of weeds between the rows and creates a more favorable medium for the spread of corn roots.
4. Mulch on the soil surface saves soil by acting as an umbrella in preventing raindrops from reaching the soil reducing water and wind erosion.
5. It increases the water-holding capacity of the soil. The rough surface with mulch cover increases water intake and reduces evaporation.

Mulch tillage systems are becoming more popular in the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. This should be given serious consideration by all conservation minded farmers.

We would like to know if you are using minimum tillage methods, and what types. Please keep the office informed.

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 State Soil Conservation Committee 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	\$500.00
+ additional allocation	\$ 80.00
Commissioners expenses (mileage & meals)	\$263.52
Office supplies	\$ 72.38
Printing expenses	\$200.00
Meeting expenses	\$ 37.37
	<u>\$573.27</u>
Returned to Dept. of Soil Conservation	\$ 6.73
	<u>\$580.00</u>

2M Budget

Allocation	\$4684.00
+additional allocation	\$ 720.00
Salaries -- Clerical and Technical	\$4841.42
Equipment repairs	\$ 104.00
Clerk's travel	\$ 31.25
District's share of Social Security and IPERS	\$ 401.81
	<u>\$5378.48</u>
Returned to Dept. of Soil Conservation	\$ 25.52
	<u>\$5404.00</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.

1970 Receipts	\$1164.00
1970 Expenditures	\$ 947.08
Balance on hand 12/31/70	\$ 216.92

WATERSHED REPORT

① 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.

Simon Run watershed work plan was completed and approved in 1970 as was our hope. Survey and design work to be done in 1972.

Contract has been let on 4 small structures in Ryan-Henschel watershed. This leaves 2 road structures to complete the first watershed in West Pottawattamie District.

The Indian Creek watershed is waiting for one more easement which is forthcoming soon. The remaining 11 structures will be completed in one contract. Engineering surveys to begin soon after all easements are obtained.

North Pigeon watershed has reached the point where 6 structures are ready for bid letting; work scheduled to begin this year. Easements have been completed and signed in most instances.

Twin Ponies watershed study should be completed this coming 1971. Educational procedures are in progress.

Mamie Creek watershed is trying to maintain balance and develop a work plan.

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.

Some time back, the saying was, "Be it ever so humble, there is no place like home." Now it seems it would be more fitting if it were "Be it so humble, that my summer home be on the edge of a lake." Here again potential seems to be here at home in our own watersheds.

AWARDS

Cooperators honored for outstanding achievements in soil and water conservation are:

Floyd Fischer, Route 1, Council Bluffs, was selected as 1969 Outstanding Cooperator in the Goodyear Contest.

District winners in the Register and Tribune contest:

Darrel Geise of Underwood in owner-operator division. Darrel farms 186 acres on this farm and has installed 5 miles of terraces, 15,000 feet of tile and other conservation practices to conserve soil and water.

Esther Carpenter-John Konz of Neola in landlord-tenant division. There are 280 acres in this farm and the 7 miles of terraces have healed the many small ditches making more efficient farming possible. All corn grown is fed to the 2000 hogs marketed each year.

Clint Goos of Route 1, Council Bluffs in new cooperator division. Clint farms 280 acres and has installed 4 miles of terraces. He uses mulch tillage methods for effective soil and water conservation.

Carpenter-Konz were selected winners in the 10-county Region in western Iowa. They received an award at the Regional banquet at Earling in December.

Best Foreman's Soil Conservation District
2nd Federal Building, P. O. Box 930
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

For report of the Best Foreman's Soil
Conservation District program as approved

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District
238 Federal Building, P. O. Box 936
Council Bluffs, Iowa 51501

Your support of the West Pottawattamie Soil
Conservation District program is appreciated