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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BLOOMFIELD, IOWA
1953

The District Governing Body:

Harold Baughman, Bloomfield, Iowa, Chairman
Dale Blackwell, Bloomfield, Iowa, Commissioner
P. W. Spilman, Bloomfield, Iowa, Commissioner

THE ANNUAL REPORT

For 1953

This report is made by the District Commissioners of the Davis County Soil Conservation District for the purpose of acquainting the general public with activities and accomplishments of the District during the year.

As prelude to this annual report, we the District Commissioners, would like to take this opportunity to say "thanks" to all the agriculture agencies for their fine cooperation and assistance. The Farmers Home Administration, the Extension Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation and the Soil Conservation Service. We also want to thank the chamber of Commerce and the Business Men of the Community for their cooperation and especially thank the Bloomfield Republican and Democrat for assistance given in the publicity of meetings and tours throughout the year.

There have been a number of pictures and articles printed in the newspaper including a progress map of Davis County. This map shows the area mapped by the Soil Scientist of the Soil Conservation Service. By this map the technicians are able to determine the land use and the land capabilities of each acre. There is about 316,000 acres in Davis County and about a 120,000 acres are mapped.

The Soil Conservation District has basic or completed farm plans on about 66,000 acres or 334 farmers have basic or (complete plans) on their farms. Another 22,000 ^{Acres} have initial plans or in other words are in the process of having farm plans written for their farms. 97 farms are in this class. This accounts for 88,000 acres of the 120,000 which have been shown mapped, the balance of which has either been mapped at request or blocked in between farms to make a more complete survey of the area.

It has been the goal each year to write 40 or 50 basic or complete farm plans.

2.

It has been the Annual practice to start the year by having conservation schools for the benefit of those who have farm plans or who wish to have them written.

In 1953, we had 3 of these schools, the first of which was a school on Farm Credit, with B. W. Lodwick, State Director of the Farmers Home Administration, acting as chairman of the panel, with other members; Edward Burchett, a local banker, Harold Baughman a local farmer, Marvin Hargrove, G. I. Instructor, E. E. Dickey, Secretary-Treasurer of the National Farm Loan Association, Warren Langfitt, associated with the Centerville National Bank, and Mr. M. H. Elson, Vocational Agriculture Instructor.

The Second school was on Research and Findings of Iowa State College and Experimental Farms with Dr. Richard Freevort, in charge and Ray Nickolson who has charge of the Southern Iowa and Seymour, Shelby Experimental farms, gave a talk on Fertilizer and Rotation data.

The Third meeting held was on Grass Silage with Lafe Young, Chief of the Farmers Home Administration and Bryan Beatman, Area Conservationist with the Soil Conservation Service taking charge of the meeting.

Lunch was served at noon at these meetings, also a movie was shown some time during the day.

The District Commissioners were represented at the following meetings: The 8th Annual Soil Conservation Short Course, Memorial Union, Iowa State College at Ames, January 20 to 22, by Mr. Harold Baughman.

The Annual Conference at the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts at Omaha Nebraska, February 5, was represented by Mr. Harold Baughman and Mr. Dale Blackwell.

The 7th Annual Conference of the Soil Conservation District of the State of Iowa at Fort Dodge, held in September was represented by Mr. Spilman and Mr. Baughman.

At the Albia plowing meet Mr. Harold Baughman acted as a judge.

At the State Soil Conservation Field Day, on the Edward Klotz Farm northwest of Ottumwa, Dale Blackwell acted as one of the Referee of the plowing meet.

We would like to make a short and concise report of the work accomplished in the past years. Through the help of the Soil Conservation Service technicians, 20,000 acres of contouring has been applied and about 15-- acres of stripcropping has been laid out. Due to the dry weather we did not build as many terraces this year as planned. We hope to build more in 1954. The District now has a total of 37 miles built in this county which is a small percent of the need. The District has a whirlwind terracer furnished by the State which is maintained for the convenience of the cooperators. With the Terracer we have a small scoop for the purpose of building up low spots in the terraces and shaping waterways.

We should also like to take this time and space to mention that in Davis County there has been better than 10,000 acres of pasture improvement made. And the District has a ^Bbrillion seeder for the purpose of making new seedings. This seeder is especially designed for the handling of grass seeds, and rolls it into the ground at the time of sowing, making a firm seed bed.

There are many Soil and Water conservation practices all of which are important but we wish only to mention a few. In view of the fact that the past fall has been extremely dry and water is at a premium, we should like to mention that the Soil Conservation Service has staked 70 ponds this year. We also have stocked 18 ponds that had been previously built, with bass and bluegill.

The District secured 24,250 Multiflora Rose plants and 8 wildlife packets (each packet contained 50 Multiflora Rose and 50 Scotch Pines) from the Soil Conservation Service Nurseries, for distribution in Davis County last year. 16 Cooperators received the Multiflora Rose and Wildlife packets.

In addition to the equipment mentioned in this report that is owned by the State and operated by the District, is a share in the movie, "Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People," which was filmed in Tama and Marshall County Districts. It stressed the importance of the cooperation by the Farmers, Bankers, School teachers Business men and people in all walks of life, in the State of Iowa

4.

Also the purchase by the Commissioners of the set of 8 filmstrips on Soil Conservation put out by the Encyclopedia Britannica. These filmstrips are in the County Superintendent's library for use by all schools in the county. In addition to these things the Davis County Soil Conservation District pays dues to the State and National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and is a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Bloomfield, Iowa.

This summer the Register and Tribune announced plans to give a \$500 war bond to the sweepstake winner of a conservation contest. This contest was to start in the counties of the State, and be in three divisions. The winner to go to the District and then to the State for final judging.

Kieth Hawk, editor of the local newspaper met with the Commissioners and requested permission to give plaques to the winners of the three divisions and to make this an annual event in Davis County.

Division I was open to all Owner-operators, Division II, to Tenants and owners, and Division III, to new cooperators.

Konrad Goettsche represented Davis County in Division I.

Mrs. J. W. Lanman and Glen Lanman winners of Division II.

Mr. Cleo Rinkenburg winner of Division III.

The plaques were to be presented at the Annual Coop dinner.

The Annual meeting of Davis County Soil Conservation District cooperators was held in the basement of the Methodist Church December 9, although there was 187 who had reservations for the dinner, due to adverse weather conditions the attendance was limited to 70.

Kieth Hawk the Editor of the local newspaper presented 8" x 10" Sun Ray wall plaques to Konrad Goettsche, Cleo Rinkenburg, and Mrs. J. W. Lanman and Glen Lanman. Delbert Scott, Robert Singley, and Laverne McMains, received conservation awards and Gold Lapel pins for the most outstanding work done in Soil Conservation during the year, presented by the commissioners.

The address of the evening was given by Wayne Fritchard of Des Moines, who is Executive Secretary for the Soil Conservation Society of America. The topic of his address was Urban Interest in Soil Conservation and the Implications for the Farmer.

Special music was provided by Mrs. James Stevenson, and the program was concluded by showing the movie, "Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People."

The District Commissioners have made plans to sponsor an award program for the 4H clubs in Davis County in their 1954 special project of Soil Conservation.

To conclude the Annual Report of the Davis County Soil Conservation District, the District Commissioners would like to bring to the readers and cooperators a personnel directory of the persons directly responsible for helping bring Soil Conservation to the land in Davis County.

Lynn Fittsimmons, Extension Director, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee: Lev Troutman, Leo Foster, John Ellenberger, Dave Bolick, Office Manager. Farmers Home Administration County Committee: P. W. Spilman, Harold Baughman, Ernie Younkin, Doyle Schmitter, County Supervisor. Soil Conservation Service: Lyell Mitchell, Area Conservationist, Leland A. McCord, Work Unit Conservationist, Jack Chamberlain, Conservation Aid. State Employees: Burdette Stamps, Conservation Aid and Shirley Gandy Clerk.

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Chairman

(s) Harold Baughman

(s) P. W. Spilman

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I-A Budget

Amount on hand January 1, 1953	\$307.48
Amount allotted from State	500.00

Expenses

Office Supplies	\$205.32
Prizes for Contest	22.06
Rental of Meeting Hall	10.50
Materials for Demonstration	52.00
Office Expenses	5.71
Commissioners Mileage	213.59
Miscellaneous	20.00

Total Expenses	\$529.18
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49.22

Unused balance on hand July 1, 1953 \$578.40

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\$807.48

578.40

Balance on hand January 1, 1954	\$229.08
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\$229.08

II-A Budget

Total expended for Clerical and Technical salaries,
January 1, 1953 - January 1, 1954 \$3775.83

Balance January 1, 1954	RECORDED 1048	\$2362.53
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District Fund

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Commissioners Annual Report

Balance on hand January 1, 1953

\$1553.89

Income:

Harold Baughman (two-way valve)	\$ 19.95
P. W. Spilman (Scoop reinbursement)	7.50
P. W. Spilman (Licnese reinbursement)	5.00
Kaser Construction Company	5036.25
Total Income	\$5068.70

Expenses:

D. K. Nedrow	\$4196.88
Dale Blackwell (meetings)	90.00
Harold Baughman (meetings)	95.00
P. W. Spilman (meetings)	85.00
 Commissioners milage and expenses	 \$ 105.62
Conservation School	101.33
Methodist Church (Annual Meeting)	125.00
State and "ational Dues	105.00
Scoop repairs	27.45
Chamber of Commerce (dues)	15.00
Chamber of Commerce contributions	7.50
Hand levels	8.95
Trailer license	5.00
Koons Store (cups)	9.00
Forage Magazine	3.00
 Total	 \$4979.73

Leaving a balance of

\$ 88.97

Balance on hand January 1, 1954

\$1642.86

Dale Blackwell

Harold C. Baughman

P. W. Spilman