

1954

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Ia. SCD 39

Council Bluffs, Iowa

We the Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District, Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman; Ernest H. Harms and William C. Strohbehn, hereby submit our eleventh annual report.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the organization of the District in 1944, 602 farm plans consisting of 104,919 acres have been developed and applied or are in the process of being applied by farmers with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District. Also on hand are 208 agreements totaling 35,560 acres between farmers and Soil Conservation District Commissioners, that are in the process of being developed into basic farm plans in the near future.

There are 1,681 farm operation units totaling 294,617 acres in the West Pottawattamie District. To date, 185,350 acres of the District has been soil mapped as to soil type, slope and erosion.

At the end of 1953, 1,270 miles of terraces had been constructed on farms in West Pottawattamie District; 150 miles were built in 1954, making a total of 1,420 miles of terraces. A new practice that has really come into its own in the last few years is the Diversion Terrace. To date, 23.8 miles have been built in the District. 53.7 miles of open drainage ditches have been constructed benefiting 5,950 acres. 1,157.85 acres of grassed waterways have been established. Approximately 50,000 acres or about 85% of the corn acreage in the uplands is planted on the contour. In addition, 36 drop inlets and 217 check dams have been constructed in the District.

COOPERATION WITH THE A.S.C.

During the last year, application of permanent types of conservation practices

has progressed to a considerable degree due to the cost-sharing agreements with the A.S.C. It has been particularly helpful in the construction of terraces, large gully structures and grass waterways. We feel that the A.C.P. program and conservation work in general has been strengthened because of the fact that farmers could request cost-sharing assistance anytime during the year and receive assistance, if funds were available. The use of purchase agreements by the A.C.P. has encouraged many farmers to install some of the more expensive conservation practices. Considerable interest in small watersheds has been developing under the A.C.P. cost-sharing funds to develop a complete watershed program.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

During the past year, 11 regular meetings and 4 special meetings have been held with 100 percent commissioner attendance. Attendance at National, State and local meetings has been a part of the job of a commissioner. One of the highlights of the year of the West Pottawattamie District was the entertaining of the State Association of the District Commissioners. We feel from the replies and from what the visitors told us that they enjoyed their stay in Council Bluffs and the tour of West Pottawattamie District. We are highly honored to have been hosts at the State Association Meeting.

Our first air tour was held the 13th of June, 1954 with about 113 in attendance. A great deal of favorable comment was heard and we feel that it was something we would like to repeat next year.

Lawrence Dittmer, our Assistant Commissioner attended the Commissioner's Short Course in Ames and has taken an active part in all phases of the District program.

The Annual Meeting for West Pottawattamie District Cooperators was held on January 24th, 1954 at the Chieftain Hotel.

During the past year, Ernest H. Harms retired as chairman of the Board, after having served in that capacity since its organization. All people of the West Pottawattamie District owe a great deal to Mr. Harms for his efforts toward soil

and water conservation in the District. He has been a leader in the District since its organization and his undying work will long be remembered. Louie Fahrenkrog was elected as Chairman to succeed Mr. Harms. Mr. Harms will continue to serve as a member of the Governing Body.

With the cooperation of the Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce, a Businessmen's Twilight Tour was held to view some of the erosion problems and some of the accomplishments in the District. A similar tour was held in cooperation with the Treynor Town and Country Club to view some of the conservation work in the Treynor vicinity. Similar tours are planned to be held in 1955.

CONTESTS

The Commissioners participated in the Des Moines Register and Tribune Contest, the World-Herald Contest and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. Contest. The cooperation of the Council Bluffs Nonpareil was again demonstrated by the sponsoring of the outstanding commissioners award on a state wide basis. The Council Bluffs Chamber of Commerce also sponsored a Better Balanced Farming Contest.

COOPERATION

We appreciate the cooperation and assistance received with our program from all agencies, organizations, newspapers, etc. in the District.

We commend the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District, for their cooperation and the work that they are doing in assisting the farmers in our District, with planning and applying sound soil conservation programs on their farms.

Again as in the past years, the Extension people and the Extension Director cooperated with the District Commissioners on all phases of the Conservation Program. Our Extension Director Clifford Johnson has assisted us with the contests, tours, publicity, and is the secretary at all of our regular meetings.

We are very grateful for the funds received from the State of Iowa. They have been a great help in enabling us to hire additional clerical and technical assist-

ance for the farmers in our District in carrying out their conservation program. We have a full time clerk hired on State funds which enables us to keep the office open at all times. She also does a considerable amount of the record work thus enabling the other personnel to spend more time assisting farmers with their soil and water conservation work.

THE JOB AHEAD

In the job ahead, we anticipate that in the field of soil and water conservation a great deal of stress will be placed on small watershed development. Already the farmers in one watershed in the District, have indicated intentions of developing and applying needed conservation practices in their watershed during the coming year. We hope that before the year is over, several more small watersheds will be well on the way to development with requests for surveying and recommendations. Many small watersheds are now developed to where the major remaining practice is gully control. Often times, these needed structures require the cooperation of all the farmers in the watershed and by developing a watershed program, it is hoped that this needed cooperation will be attained.

The Commissioners again would like to stress the necessity of continuing full speed ahead with the terracing program, the contouring and a good land use program. It is the feeling of the technicians and Commissioners that more emphasis needs to be placed upon a more rapid change in field boundaries with fences located on the contour where needed, to make the overall conservation farming job easier and more effective. The goal of the District Governing Body is that every farm have a complete soil and moisture plan, plus the necessary supporting practices. 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, Ernest H. Harms, and William Strohbehn - Commissioners of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District.

Submitted by:

Louie Fahrenkrog
Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman

Date 1-25-55

West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Period: Jan. 1, 1954 to Dec. 31, 1954

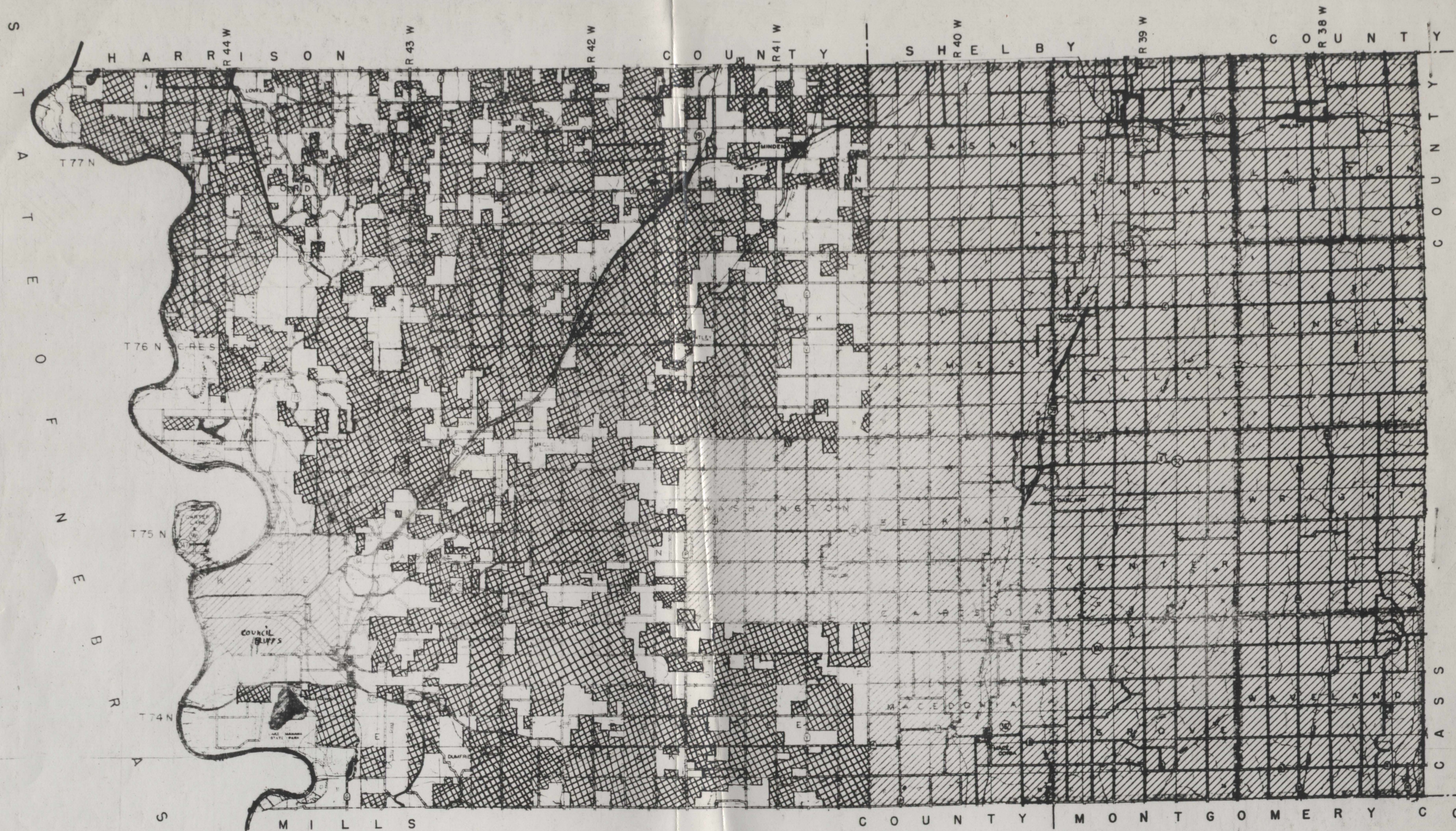
ANNUAL REPORT OF EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Activity	Unit	This Period	To Date
Educational Meetings	Number	11	101
	Attendance	445	5,500
Tours	Number	20	67
	Attendance	588	2,139
Demonstrations	Number	15	106
	Attendance	162	2,220
Exhibits	Number	2	30
Radio Talks	Number	-	61
News Articles	Number	134	1,274
Commissioners' Meetings	Number	15	162

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TOTAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Practices	Unit	This Period	To Date
Terraces	Miles	150	1,420
Contouring	Acres	6,976	69,427
Permanent Structures	Number	16	36
Check Dams	Number	17	217
Closed Drains	Lineal Feet	1,900	2,880
Open Drainage Ditches	Miles	3.9	53.7
Drainage	Acres	454	5,950
Grassed Waterways	Acres	258	1,158
Diversions	Miles	3.3	23.8
Crop Boundaries	Rods	9,292	62,257
Basic Farm Plans	Number	50	602
Initial Agreements and Conservation Farming Guides	Number		208



acreage approximate 291,935

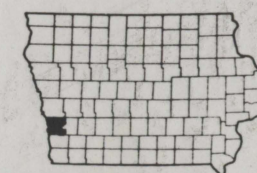
WEST POTTAWATTAMIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The District includes all land in the townships of Minden, York, Silver Creek and the twelve townships lying West of them, exclusive of incorporated cities and towns.

Prepared by the Cartographer

PROGRESS	
Soil Conservation Survey	
1-1-54....	175,210 Ac.
1-1-55....	10,140 Ac.
Total.....	185,350 Ac.

with the District Governing Body



LOCATION IN IOWA

EXCLUDED AREA