

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 15th ANNUAL REPORT

--1959--

Dear Friend:

Following is a report of the activities of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District for 1959. We hope you will read it carefully and keep it for reference.

In the report you will note that the district has made some real strides forward with the conservation of our soil and water. As Commissioners, we want to express our appreciation to you for your good cooperation in working with our technicians and for helping all of us together to attain the accomplishments listed in this letter. We also want to express our appreciation to the various agencies and organizations who have cooperated to make this a successful year.

We are grateful to Lawrence Dittmer for his excellent service to the district, first as an Assistant Commissioner and the last three years as Commissioner. We were sorry when he moved from the county but wish him and his family lots of luck in the new farm enterprise in Harrison County.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

		This year	To Date	1960 Goal
District Cooperators		50	1,054	45
Basic Conservation Plans		49	792	40
Farms Serviced		477	Annual Goal Only	500
Contouring	Ac.	3,707	91,692	3,000
Terraces (all types)	Mi.	88	1,924	100
Grass Waterways	Ac.	121	1,674	50
Open Ditch	Mi.	7.5	86.5	10
Erosion Control Structure	No.	18	77	15
Land Grading	Ac.	17	826	100
Contour Field Division	Rod	2,088	76,995	3,000

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Eldon Ravlin was appointed commissioner to replace Lawrence Dittmer. Eldon is chairman of the Ryan-Henschel Watershed and had been serving as assistant commissioner before the appointment. Al Fiala was appointed assistant commissioner.

Ed Cornell, a teacher at Thomas Jefferson, was awarded a scholarship to the Spring Brook Teacher's Camp.

Marvin Larson and Mary Graves are new members on our District Staff. Marvin came to us after graduating from Iowa State University in March. He replaces Earl Kizzier who transferred to East Pottawattamie. Mary replaces Kathryn Starr who resigned to take a position with the Army Reserve in Omaha,

NEW TECHNIQUES IN CONSERVATION

Terraces have been improved and spacings have been widened. Next year our cooperators will be able to have terraces designed to fit four-row equipment and the new cut and fill terraces can be used to eliminate a good many of the point rows in many fields. Farmers with hillsides that slope uniformly will be able to establish parallel terraces.

Cropping systems too, have a new look. Many of our new plans and the old cooperators who ask for a plan revision will want to use the intensive row-cropping system on the level bottom lands giving higher priority to grass on the slopes.

WATERSHEDS

A watershed is a territory having within its boundaries all the land that has a common water drainage outlet. Our first concern in a watershed begins where the water concentrates and moves. In our attempts at stopping this we use combinations of many conservation practices which benefit not only the individual farmer but the general public as well. Good upland treatment, such as terraces, grassed waterways, and sound crop rotations are the vital first steps in a good watershed program and the large structures complete the project.

A well developed watershed allows us to enjoy wholesome recreation areas, fertile fields and a beautiful country side. The entire community benefits from constructive farm plans, drainage programs, gully stabilization and flood control work. Uncontrolled watersheds means everybody shares in the tragedies of floods, eroded fields and mud filled streams.

This district has three organized watersheds which are making good progress. We would be pleased to help other groups get started.

INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED is a cooperative project between the Soil Conservation Service and the Army Engineers. Much progress has been made in surveying the area and the joint work plans have been drawn up and presented to the sponsors. The project if installed would protect the area from soil and water loss and prevent floods in Council Bluffs.

PONY CREEK WATERSHED which was organized in July, 1959, was approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee and given a priority for work plan development by the S.C.S. in the Summer of 1959. The plan is now being developed by the State S.C.S. Planning Group. As soon as the plan is completed it will be submitted to the watershed members for approval or disapproval.

RYAN-HENSCHAL WATERSHED which was organized in June, 1958, was approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee and given a priority for work plan development by the Soil Conservation Service in the fall of 1959. It is now waiting for the Survey Party to make their plans. When developed the plan will be submitted to all members of the watershed for approval or disapproval.

CONSERVATION CONTESTS

The District entered the following contests:

1. The Omaha World Herald Contest
2. The Des Moines Register and Tribune Contests

Winners in the Des Moines Register and Tribune District Contest were:

Richard Smith Rt. 3 Council Bluffs, Iowa

Gerald Nelson Rt. 3 Council Bluffs, Iowa

*Everett Wright (owner) Rt. 3 Council Bluffs, Iowa

*Fred Krohn (operator) Rt. 3 Council Bluffs, Iowa

*(Also winners in Regional contest)

DISTRICT STAFF

Richard Hogue--Work Unit Conservationist Marvin Larson---Soil Conservationist

Oliver Hall----Conservation Aid Perry Thomas----Conservation Aid

James Pogge----State Aid Mary Graves-----State Clerk

We urgently request that all farmers within the district review their farming system with the thought of adding more terraces, waterways, contouring and other conservation practices. Our district goal is a conservation plan on every farm and a conservation plan can be made to fit every farm.

Please feel free to call on our technicians for help or advice on any of your conservation problems. The new office is located in Room 234, New Post Office Building, Council Bluffs, Iowa, Phone No. 32-81543. Ex. 24

Sincerely,

Louie Fahrenkrog Donald Blatt Eldon Ravlin
Louie Fahrenkrog, Donald Blatt, Eldon Ravlin,
Chairman Commissioner Commissioner