

Davis County Soil Conservation District

BLOOMFIELD, IOWA

DALE BLACKWELL, Chairman

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 1949 YEAR

Our year was started out with the Annual Soil Conservation School. The four-day school was attended by an average 100 Davis County operators. We were fortunate in obtaining some of the outstanding specialists of the various fields as guest speakers. We feel that the schools have been of untold value in seeing Soil Conservation in our District and farmers look ahead for this event to bring them the latest information on good farming.

The Commissioners Short Course sponsored by the Mississippi Valley Association was attended by Fred Melvin and Dale Blackwell. Upon their return an interesting report was given to the District.

In an effort to encourage pasture improvement 150 pounds of trefoil was acre plot on each farm. They were in return to give back to the District 25% of the first seed crop. In addition to this 30 pounds of seed was secured through the Experimental Farm for a demonstration plot on the Uncle Hubbartt Farm. Trefoil was also made available through the local seed dealer and it was estimated that some 1700 pounds of seed was seeded in the County during the year. In addition to this 200 pounds of Reed's Canary Grass was purchased through the District and was distributed to the operators for carrying out planned Conservation practices.

To encourage Soil Conservation study in the younger group \$10.00 prize money was made available for 4-H Demonstrations at the Davis County Fair. First prize was won by the Vinegar Hill 4-H Club of the Fairview Community and the Bunker Hill Battalion 4-H Club of Ash Grove.

The Soil Conservation Magazine was made available to 125 cooperators. All of this group have Farm Plans.

In previous years we have been holding Contour Plowing Matches. This year, however, it was decided not to hold the Match but to send Veryl Wilkinson as our representative at the District Contest held in Lucas County.

The District nominated Konrad Goettsche, Lionel Herteen, and Gerald Van Horn to receive the Goodyear Soil Conservation Award. All three members along with the Commissioners and Technician attended the Banquet held in Des Moines.

Special emphasis was placed on getting local farmers to attend the Field Day at the Albia Pasture Farm on September 23, 1949. Transportation was made available to those who wanted to attend and in all we had some 50 who made the trip. We feel that the Demonstration at Albia fits the type of farming that we need to encourage in this area.

A Tour was organized for the District in the month of October. Three farms were visited including: Austin Davis, Konrad Goettsche, and Floyd Fine. Strip cropping, terracing, and pasture improvement projects were observed.

The Soil Conservation District sponsored a window display in the

Davis County Fall Festival held in October. Sylvan Runkel, District Conservationist assisted in this project.

Approximately 80,000 tons of agricultural limestone and road rock was crushed from the quarry we have under contract. This rock was made available to Van Buren, Jefferson, and Wapello Counties as well as Davis County.

After serving the past two years as Conservationist Aide, Joel Stansberry was transferred to the Forrest City Office. Jack Chamberlain from Monroe County was hired to fill this vacancy.

A budget for the State Appropriation was set-up for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1949. \$500.00 was set aside for operating and seed with a personnel and equipment budget of \$3400. Under this program Myrtle Sheumaker was hired as Office Clerk. Plans are being made to hire a Conservation Aid. In addition to this we plan on buying a terracer and a combination cultipacker-drill-seeder. Interest in terracing is developing and is one of the practices that is needed for this area. Seeding has been one of our basic problems and it is believed that the combination cultipacker-seeder-drill will assist us in finding a better way of establishing grass seedings.

The Davis County District is grateful to the State for making funds available to the Soil Conservation cause. We believe that we can use it to a good advantage and feel assured that it will be a good investment to our State. The number of farms that we have been able to reach has been limited for the lack of personnel and equipment. Additional funds will assist in remedying this situation and we pledge ourselves to use it to the best advantage in establishing Soil Conservation on the Farm.

The following is a summary of the District's activity for the year:

	Goal	Calendar Year
Contour farming	1650A.	1900 A.
Strip Cropping	360	329
Pasture Improvement	787	653
Seeding of Pasture	707	520
Wildlife Area Improved	91	93
Farm Ponds	10	10
Terraces	4	7.3
Diversions	3	3.3
Farm Drainage	15	68
Open Drains	.5	1.0
Fence Row Management	5800 L.F.	1000 L.F.
Constructed Waterways	7000 L.F.	8900 L.F.
Applications received		80
Plans prepared and signed		40
Plans cancelled		3
Amended plans		1
Farms starting practices		16
Follow-up		55
Replanning		10
Farm Planning A.		11,110A.