

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

New Federal Building - Room 218

Burlington, Iowa

1959

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PERSONNEL OF THE DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Walter B. Eyre	Burlington, Iowa	Chairman
C. E. Pilling	Mediapolis, Iowa	Vice Chairman
Theodore Berning	Mediapolis, Iowa	Commissioner

SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

James C. Hodges	County Extension Director	Secretary
Horace Sutton Jr.	Burlington, Iowa	Treasurer

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Curtis Darbyshire	Morning Sun, Iowa	Washington Twp.
Lloyd Schmeiser	Route 2 - Burlington	Benton Twp.
Eugene Schulte	Route 2 - Burlington	Tama Twp.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

Carl Anderson	I.O.P. - Burlington	Iowa Ordnance Plant
Everett Anderson	Mediapolis, Iowa	Yellow Spring Twp.
Ralph Anderson	Route 2 - Burlington	Jackson Twp.
Martin Beckman	Sperry, Iowa	Franklin Twp.
Ed Breuer	Route 1 - Burlington	Union-Concordia Twp.
Walter Swank	Oakville, Iowa	Huron Twp.

The Des Moines County Commissioners wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the following groups, agencies and individuals:

Agriculture Stabilization Conservation	Extension Service
Assistant Commissioners	Iowa River Flint Creek Levee District No. 16
Associate Commissioners	Izaak Walton League
Burlington Chamber of Commerce	KBUR - Radio Station
Burlington Junior Chamber of Commerce	Mediapolis News Era
Burlington Hawkeye Gazette	Mediapolis Sportsman's Club
Conservation Commission	Ministers of Des Moines County
County Board of Supervisors	National Association of SCD
County Engineers	Public School Teachers
County Superintendent of Schools	Seed, Machinery and Fertilizer Dealers
Des Moines County Drainage District No. 7	Soil Conservation Service
Des Moines County Farm Service Company	State Department of Forestry
Earth Moving Contractors	State Soil Conservation Committee
	Vocational Agricultural Instructors

and all other companies and individuals including the farmers who have helped in putting conservation on the land. We appreciate the fine cooperation of the Iowa Ordnance Plant Agronomist, Carl Anderson, for his very able and untiring assistance in planning and applying conservation practices and plans to the land of the plant area. Especially do we want to recognize and thank the former District Commissioners for their time and expense in their effort to help the District to reach its goal. We certainly appreciate the fine donation to the revolving fund from our treasurer, Horace Sutton Jr., and to Don Campbell, District Forester, for the beautiful seven foot Red Pine Xmas tree delivered to our office.

"HIGH LIGHTS" OF THE YEAR

Theodore Berning and Eugene Schulte attended the Annual Short Course at Ames in January.

Ray Audsley showed colored slides on Soil Conservation to Horace Mann Junior High School's Biology Classes and to the I.O.P. Wildlife Club.

Jack Jacobs gave assistance to the county 4H in a two acre tree planting project on the steep bluffs, adjacent to route 99 on the Albert Weigard farm.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed May 3 through 10th. Church Program Blanks were furnished country and small town churches in the county by Jack Pilling, Theodore Berning and SCD.

An unguided tour was held during Soil Conservation Week of June 7th through 14th. The application for assistance on Yellow Spring Creek Watershed was approved June 29th. Soil Conservation Postage Stamps were purchased in August for use on District mail. Conservation Achievement Awards Certificate of merit were won by Martin Beckman and Richard Charbonneaux.

Ray Audsley and Jack Jacobs were made honorary members of the I.O.P. Conservation Club. Jack Jacobs and Gail Parks of the Soil Conservation Service, attended the Club's Annual Wildlife Dinner. The 300 attending, enjoyed the dinner of deer, elk and moose. Jack gave a short talk on relation of Soil and Water Conservation to Wildlife.

Considerable work has been accomplished this year on the Conservation needs for Des Moines County. Several meetings were held with other interested Agricultural agencies and organizations in compiling the Conservation needs of the County now and into 1975.

Twelve regular Commissioners' meetings were held during the year. The total attendance was 73. Seventeen different individuals attended.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

		<u>1959</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Contour Farming	acres	1,025	27,956
Contour Strip Cropping	acres	0	339
Brush Control	acres	11	523
Pasture Planting	acres	420	4,050
Tree Planting	acres	4	17
Fish Pond Improvement	no.	25	335
Hedge Row Planting	rods	30	7,545
Wildlife Area Improvement	acres	31	348
Toewall Structures	no.	9	85
Pipe Drop Inlet Structures	no.	16	132
Weir Notch Drop Spillway Structures	no.	7	33
Hooded Inlet Structures	no.	1	2
Drop Box Road Culvert	no.	2	5
Land Smoothing	acres	0	26
Pond Construction - water for livestock	no.	36	364
Erosion Control Dams (earthen)	no.	2	127
Tile Drains	L. F.	111,334	1,127,544
Diversion Construction	miles	.9	4.7
Open Drains	miles	0	139.8
Terraces	miles	3.2	92.4
Waterway Development	acres	23.3	319.3
Diversion Dams	no.	0	2

36 PONDS ON THE FOLLOWING FARMS:

B. B. Anderson	George Inghram	Jake Sayre
Robert Baylor	Cecil Johnson	Ed Schrock
Ted Behne	Helen Johnson	Noah Schrock
Beck & Wagner	Patrick Kelley	Herb Schwaller
(I.O.P. Yard E)	Horace Kirkendall	Willie Scott
Fred Bengston	Harvey Laue	K. V. Stevens
(I.O.P. Tr. 142)	Chester & Walter Leffler	Joe Troutman
Fred Bengston	Massner Bros.	Clifford Tucker
(I.O.P. Tr. 104)	Dave Miller	Carl Walberg (3)
Richard Charbonneaux	C. B. Nelson	Helen Williams
Churley Frank (2)	Dale Osborn	Arthur Wischmeier
Pierce Giffin	Dale Pfeiff	Orville Young

23.3 ACRES OF WATERWAY DEVELOPMENT ON THE FOLLOWING FARMS:

Otto Beckman	Warren Langwith	C. J. Schulte
Henry Dockendorf	Chester & Walter Leffler	Herb Schwaller
George & Frank Eversman	Ed Lotz	Russell Seymour
Walter Fritz	Adolph Massner	Carl Shumaker
Lawrence Heitmeier	Massner Bros.	Helen Williams
Lyndell Honson	C. B. Nelson	Fred Wischmeier
Grace Kiehne	J. G. Pierson	
Virgil Lair	Clifford Reif	

25 EROSION CONTROL STRUCTURES ON THE FOLLOWING FARMS:

James Barr	Lawrence Heitmeier	Adolph Massner
Otto Beckman	Lyndell Honson	Clifford Reif (2)
Theodore Blake	Lyman Howe	C. J. Schulte (drop box)
Frank Dockendorf (2)	Grace Kiehne (drop box)	Russell Seymour
Henry Dockendorf (2)	Virgil Lair	Carl Shumaker
George & Frank Eversman	Ed Lotz	Helen Williams
Walter Fritz	Warren Langwith	Fred Wischmeier

3.2 MILES STANDARD TERRACES COMPLETED ON THE FOLLOWING FARMS:

Fred Bengston	Walter Fritz	Jake Sayre
(I.O.P. Tr. 142)	Lyndell Honson	John Schrock
Theodore Blake	Warren Langwith	Noah Schrock
Gale Carlson	Massner Bros.	Ersie Terry

.9 MILES DIVERSION TERRACES ON THE FOLLOWING FARMS:

Pierce Giffin	Dora McCulloch	Helen Williams
Cecil Johnson	C. B. Nelson	

Maps of farms have been ordered for all who have signed applications for assistance. Appointments can be made with the Soil Conservation Service personnel to aid any who are interested in conserving their soil or have other farming problems.

"BIG EVENT OF THE YEAR"

Big event of the year was the provisional approval of the Yellow Spring Creek Watershed. Some 16,840 acres are included in the Watershed drained by Yellow Spring Creek and extending south and east from Mediapolis to the Mississippi river.

Provision in the approval was that a larger part of the crop land be put under conservation practices such as, terracing, contouring, good rotations or other practices recommended by the Soil Conservation Service. Major portion of the area is already under agreement and is being farmed under soil saving methods.

As soon as practices have been put to use to keep the soil in place and reduce most of the erosion, State and Federal agencies will go ahead with plans under the National Watershed Act.

Under this act Federal funds may be used to build flood control dams that will also control sediment and keep it from filling in the river and between levees. Over a period of several years, cost of the structures should be saved by the smaller amount of silt that will have to be removed from the river.

Soil District Commissioners have been urging all farmers in the Watershed to use the help of the Soil Conservation Technicians in putting these practices to use on their farms.

by: Walter B. Eyre, Chairman

YELLOW SPRING CREEK WATERSHED PROGRESS

On May 9th the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District mailed to the State Soil Conservation Committee, an application for planning assistance under the "Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, Public Law No. 566," signed by the following sponsoring and supporting organizations.

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

Des Moines County Board of Supervisors Des Moines County Soil Conservation District

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS:

Des Moines County Drainage Dist. No. 7 Des Moines County Farm Bureau
Des Moines County Agric. Ext. Council Iowa River Flint Creek Levee Dist. No. 16

On June 10th the State Soil Conservation Committee and the State Watershed Advisory Board numbering eleven, met at Mediapolis with a number of interested Des Moines County individuals, numbering fifteen, drove by caravan through the entire length and breadth of the Watershed areas.

The District received a letter, dated July 1st, from the State Soil Conservation Committee that the application for assistance was approved June 29th. The approval made conditional; the conditions as follows:

- a. Major conservation practices such as contouring, terracing, waterways, etc., would have to be increased.
- b. The number of farm plans written in the Watershed and the number of District Cooperators should also be increased before any planning could be done in the Watershed.

July 21st and 28th special Watershed meetings were held. A drive was held to contact owners and operators of farms in the Watershed who had not signed application for assistance. Eighteen additional signed applications were received.

PROGRESS - "CHANGING TIMES"

Farming as we know it today is taking more know how than it did a generation ago. We have conquered many problems that we had a few years back. Modern science has put many new tools in our hands; chemicals, medicine and more knowledge on how to live and to operate our farms. Also with the coming of this new age and increased production, we have a temporary surplus of some commodities. We are confronted with higher taxes and increased cost of things we need to buy but with a lower income from farm products sold on the market.

When this country was new, we were blessed with unlimited farm land. If a farm did wear out it was not a hard matter to stake out a new one. Our increasing population, expanding cities and new industrial sites are removing land from cultivation forever. Therefore, the acres of farm land has decreased and the price has increased.

Our Soil Conservation Service is playing an important part in helping our farmers save the valuable top soil and control the water. Many farmers here in our county have basic plans. The ones that are following their conservation plan are putting their acreage to a correct land use. They are following a correct crop rotation along with erosion control practices to maintain their top soil. They are increasing the production of their soil, raising their standard of living and saving the top soil for future generations.

It isn't enough to fill in a ditch that has been advancing into our plow land, but the sensible thing is to get at the causes of the problems and correct them. Many of our soils have been so good, that they will produce quite profitably for a long time with the use of good seed and correct fertilizer. The time to start soil conservation is before the soil has become depleted.

There is no quicker way to lose soil and water than to plant row crops up and down sloping land. Our soil technicians are willing and able to help anyone keep their soil and water at home and in so doing improve their farms. This will also benefit those in the low lands that might be flooded out after heavy rains.

The correction of some of the above problems was the purpose of setting up the Yellow Spring Creek Watershed. The project has been approved by the State Committee. After viewing the area, they require more soil saving practices to be done in the Watershed. This is a project that we in the upper part of the Watershed can help ourselves by keeping our soil and water at home and relieve those at the bottom of the anxiety of floods. After the required work is done in the upper part of the Watershed, the Federal Government will put in the proper structures in the various tributaries to create ponds and further prevent the danger of flood and to relieve the silting problem in the Mississippi river.

I wish to thank all of those who have helped to promote soil conservation, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation, Extension Service, the Schools, business houses, newspapers and others by your generous support.

by: Theodore Berning, Commissioner