

A LOOK AT MILLS COUNTY

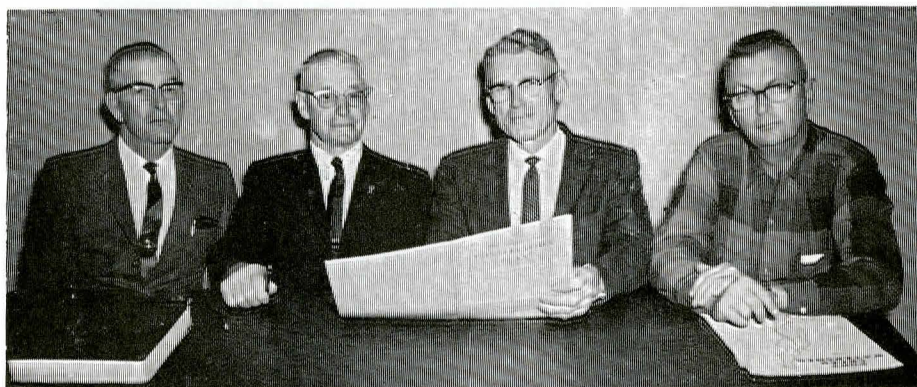


**MILLS COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 67-68**

FORWARD

In looking back over the activities and accomplishments for the past 12 months, it is gratifying to see the number of people who are staying on top of their conservation problems. In saying people, we do not mean farmers alone. The Soil Conservation Districts are no longer able to restrict their activities to the farms. Each year brings us closer to the problems affecting everyone—such as water supply and pollution, recreational area development, erosion, flood and sediment problems in cities and urban areas. However, heading the list is the unending thirst for knowledge about our soil. It is the desire of this District that negotiations for a Standard Soil Survey in Mills County be finalized this year.

THE MILLS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



Rew Burgoin, Ass't. Commissioner

Carl Green, Commissioner

Myron Jones, Commissioner

Albert Washburn, Chairman

Glenn Sell, Ass't. Commissioner (not pictured)

CREED OF THE SOIL CONSERVATIONIST

As a soil conservationist, I believe God created the earth by His divine processes for the benefit of man, not one man, nor one generation, but mankind for all time.

I believe the Almighty gave man an inheritance of the earth, not to be hoarded as a miser guards his treasure but to be used with wisdom and in the fullest for the perpetual benefit for all men.

I believe all of mankind, regardless of race or creed are entitled to a fair and equitable share of the earth's bounty commensurate with their own efforts. But in so believing, I hold the irrevocable conviction that man himself owes earth a debt of respect and fealty.

I believe that whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap; that he who manages his fields, pasture woodlands, and streams with respect and wisdom shall reap the bountiful harvest and so shall his descendants. While he who uses them selfishly, thinking only of his own immediate gain, shall bring to grief his land, himself and his children's children.

Holding these beliefs to be true to dedicate myself to the task of helping my fellow men realize their own personal responsibility in conserving the earth for the generations which follow them. To this end I shall devote my best knowledge in guiding the efforts of those who till the soil so that the land which nurtures us shall be fruitful without end.

For truly, the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, but the responsibility for its stewardship is vested in man.

C. W. Gee

WORK UNIT STAFF



Robert Loudon
W.U.C.



Leó Van Fosson
Cons. Tech.



Gerald Bower
Cons. Tech.



Ruth Stevens Clerk

AREA STAFF

Dan Holmes.....	Area Conservationist
Richard Birchmier.....	Area Engineer
Lewis Clark.....	Area Soil Scientist
Margaret Haley & Blanche Oline.....	Area Clerks

SUMMARY OF WORK

New Cooperators	No.	33
Farm Plans & Revisions	No.	28
Cooperator Contacts	No.	628
Cooperators applying one or more conservation practices	No.	563
Consultive Services	No.	87
ACP referrals services	No.	129
Tours	No.	5
Meetings	No.	44
News Stories	No.	30
Terraces	Ft.	303,525
Waterways	Ac.	16.1
Tile	Ft.	38,956
Contour Farming	Ac.	19,936
Conservation Cropping System.....	Ac.	22,002
Cover & Green Manure Crop.....	Ac.	22,002
Grasses & Legumes in Rotation.....	Ac.	22,002
Land adequately treated.....	Ac.	4,742

F-4 EMERGENCY PRACTICES

In May and June 1967, excessive rain caused considerable damage to the terraces in Mills County. A special Federal appropriation was made through the A.S.C.S. to cost-share with the farmer to repair the damage. Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of this work has been completed.

F-4 referrals services	No.	185
Terrace repair	Ft.	1,189,505
Holes patched in terraces	No.	404
Waterway repair	Ft.	21,230
Tile relayed	Ft.	110

WATERSHEDS

MULE CREEK — The work plan for Mule Creek watershed was developed in September 1954 and the last structure in the watershed completed in 1956. Information of land use, soil losses and rainfall has been gathered by the Soil Conservation Service Agricultural Research Service (ARS) and the U. S. Weather Bureau. This information is being correlated by the ARS along with new studies to determine the accuracy of the International Soil Loss Formula. By using the information gathered in Mule Creek over the past years, it will be possible to determine the accuracy of the present soil loss information by comparing it with actual conditions.

PONY CREEK — The watershed work plan for Pony Creek was developed in March 1961. Since that time there has been many ups and downs in the watershed. However, time has brought progress toward completion of the watershed. Today two major works of improvement remain to be done, namely the building of Structure No. 21, and the 4.3 miles of channel improvement across the Missouri bottomlands. It is hoped this watershed will be completed in the very near future.

WAUBONSIE CREEK — Waubonsie Creek is the youngest and also the largest of the three organized watersheds in Mills County. It contains 29,510 acres in Fremont and Mills County. At this time petitions are being signed for the formation of a maintenance district. Upland treatment is progressing at a normal rate and it is hoped this watershed will soon be in the construction stage.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

July, '67 — Annual report for 66-67 fiscal year was published in The Malvern Leader and Glenwood Opinion-Tribune.

Walter Klindt, Jr. and Brian Maxwell were named District winners in the Register-Tribune Contest.

Plan of operation 1967-68 signed. Priority to be given to new terraces all over the county. Encourage parallel terraces. Both Waubonsie Creek and Pony Creek watersheds will receive special attention.

August, '67 — Marilyn Wax and Dennis Boileau gave reports on their week spent at 4-H Conservation camp at Madrid. Both went on scholarships from District.

Keith Glandon, W.U.C. transferred to Des Moines as Area Conservationist.

David Breitbach, Soil Conservationist transferred to Jones County as Work Unit Conservationist.

Mr. Glenn Sell was named as new Assistant Commissioner.

Commissioners election was held. Carl Green elected for 4 year term. Myron Jones elected for 6 year term.

Sept., '67 — Site No. 9 Pony Creek was completed.

Robert D. Loudon began his duties as Work Unit Conservationist. Transferred here from Mt. Ayr.

Oct., '67 — Pony Creek Annual Maintenance Inspection was held.

Meeting held October 10, with the Board of Supervisors for signing of Waubonsie Creek Watershed Work Plan.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Oct., '67 — Lincoln-Maxwell farm was announced as Regional winner in Register Tribune contest.

Memorandum of understanding between the SCD and the SCS was signed.

November, '67 — Paid SCSA Dues.

Dec., '67 — Myron Jones, Brian Maxwell, Frank Lincoln and Robert Loudon attended banquet in Adams County in recognition of Register Tribune Contest.

March, '68 — Meeting of Mills and Fremont County District Commissioners to set petitions for the Waubonsie Creek Watershed.

April, '68 — Waubonsie Creek Watershed petitions to form a sub-district being circulated.

Invitations to bid on Pony Creek Seeding sent out.

Soil Stewardship material was furnished to all churches requesting same.

May, '68 — Sponsored two 4-H youths to the 4-H Conservation Camp at Madrid.

Paid Iowa Association dues.

Signed 68-69 budgets — I-M and 2-M.

Cleta Salyers went to Springbrook Teachers Camp on District Scholarship.

Dale Stephens, Part time State Aid resigned.

June, '68 — Edward Sands employed as Part Time State Aid.

Drive it yourself tour of Pony Creek Watershed was held for Soil Conservation Week.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Funds are provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee to assist Soil Conservation Districts in their local programs.

The application of conservation practices has greatly increased with the state funds allotted to this District.

I-M

Allocation 7-1-67\$ 500.00

Expenditures:

Commissioner Mileage\$ 74.70

Office Supplies 42.10

Printing 120.00

Demonstration Materials 13.00

Office Expense 139.75

Balance 6-30-68\$ 110.45

2-M

Allocation 7-1-67\$6,442.00

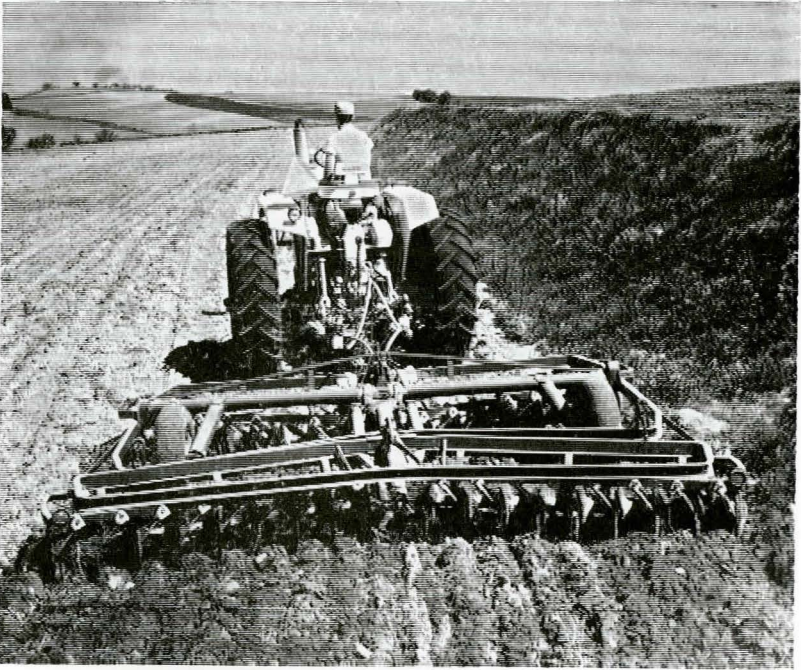
Expenditures:

Clerk Salary\$3,017.11

Part Time State Aid 3,129.94

Balance 6-30-68\$ 294.95

BENCH TERRACES



**Operator Frank Lincoln (Brian Maxwell Farm)
Discing level bench terrace land.**

With the emphasis placed on more row crop every year we feel we can control erosion, eliminate the loss of fertilizer, insecticides and herbicides, plus conserving our water with new terrace systems. We can virtually make a level land farm out of hill land. In 1963 there were no bench terraces in Mills County. In 1964, five farmers built about 20,000 Ft. of bench terraces, but in 1967, 38 farmers built almost 150,000 Ft. of bench terraces. This is a giant step forward and bench terracing in Mills County is becoming a way of life.

A.S.C.S



**Vern Sell, Chmn.; Margaret Bower, Office Manager;
Guy Grindle Jr., Member; Rew Burgoin, Member.**

The Mills County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service is responsible for the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Program in Mills County. The benefits of this program can be seen on the farms. It is a program with long term benefits that will be passed on to future generations and most important, a program to help farmers help themselves. Each dollar paid to farmers is for "Cost-sharing." This means that the farmer has shared in the expense of the project involved.

In 1967, 113 farms participated in the ACP Program.

The County Committee, as administrators of ACP funds, realize and recognize the cooperative effort necessary to achieve the purposes of this program. The accomplishments of the 1967 ACP Program in Mills County are a tribute to the joint efforts of the District Commissioners, Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Mills County ASCS County Committee and Office Personnel and the Farmers.

Mills ASCS County Committee and Office Personnel

COUNTY EXTENSION



LaVerne Obrecht, County Extension Director
Barbara Buffington, Ext. Assistant Home Economy
Jean Pevehouse, Office Assistant
Paul Hopp, Extension Assistant, 4-H and Youth

Conservation has been going on since time immemorial. However, in the last few years, with the rapid changes in knowledge and technology, the educational and technical needs of the people have also changed greatly. Both the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service have changed to meet the needs of the people.

It is very pleasing to cooperate with the Soil Conservation personnel and the District Soil Commissioners. Their support of the 4-H Conservation Workshop is very much appreciated as we train 4-H'ers in the fields of conservation.

LaVerne C. Obrecht, Co. Ext. Dir.



FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

Everett Gipe, Jim Kelly and Wallace DeLong.

Bernard Roenfeldt not pictured.

The Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, assists rural people with financial assistance which regular credit sources cannot supply. The credit is backed by advice and technical assistance. The Mills County FHA Committee, composed of Everett Gipe, Bernard Roenfeldt and Claude Stephens, certifies the eligibility of each applicant.

Loans are made for farm operating, farm ownership, rural housing, soil and water conservation, emergency economic opportunity and water sewage systems for rural towns.

The FHA County Supervisor, W. C. DeLong, holds office hours each Tuesday from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. at the Soil Conservation Office in Malvern.

"THANK YOU"

The Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners are grateful for the excellent cooperation of the churches and schools of the county. Also to the Mills Co. Extension Service, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, The Malvern Leader and The Glenwood Opinion Tribune, the Mills County Board of Supervisors, the Forest Service, the banks, service clubs and many other individuals and organizations who donated much of their time in helping us carry out a successful Soil and Water Conservation Program.

All Photographs courtesy of Soil Conservation Service, Keith McCall and Leo Van Fosson, Photographers.

The Mills County Soil Conservation
District Commissioners.

MILLS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
P. O. BOX 190
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