

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT

of the

DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BURLINGTON, IOWA

1957

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This is the twelfth annual report made available by the District Commissioners of Des Moines County to acquaint the general public with the accomplishments of the District during 1957.

The Governing body met a total of twelve times during the year with a total attendance at the meetings of eighty-nine individuals, and 86% attendance by the three Commissioners.

Eight Motion Picture films were shown to a total of 1130 individuals during the year.

The Hawkeye Gazette carried fifty-seven news items prepared by the Commissioners and the personnel of Soil Conservation District. This included local happenings in conjunction with the Soil Conservation District and Soil Conservation practices installed by farmers in the County.

Commissioner, C. E. Pilling attended the Iowa ASDC regional meeting at Mt. Pleasant. Jack also, represented the District on the Soil advisory annual meeting at Mt. Pleasant and the ASC meeting at Oskaloosa.

Three interest meetings were held in the Yellow Springs Creek Watershed with an attendance of twenty-three different people from the Watershed; several cooperators attended two or more meetings. Each of the Commissioners attended various meetings within the Watershed.

Pilots in the Iowa Ordnance plant were seeded to Serecea Lespedeza, Illinois Bundle-flower, Switch grass and bush Lespedeza as trial areas for Wildlife feed and clover.

Selected sermons of 1956 on, "Soil Stewardship", were purchased and distributed to ministers of fifty churches in the area.

The Farmers and Merchants Bank purchased and distributed the picture booklet, "The Wonder of Water", to the County Schools.

The booklet, "How Trees put the Rains to Work", were provided for each Boy Scout Troup in the County by the local District.

Fifteen girls entered the "Queen of the Furrow" contest. The entries; sponsoring fence dealers, judges and Commissioners attended a dinner at a local Hotel and then the show at the County Fair. The contestants, Janet Magel and Verletta Beckman, as winners at the local contest, represented the County at the regional contest at West Liberty.

Mrs. Isabelle Fuller resigned as District Clerk and moved out of the State. Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf has taken over her secretarial duties for the District.

PLANNING ACTIVITIES

	No. of farms	Acres	Totals to Date	
			No. of farms	Acres
District Cooperators	99	17,721	553	91,131
Basic Plans	31	4,905	397	63,977
Revised Plans	26	3,372		
Follow-up Contacts	52			

CONSERVATION TRENDS:

Each year more farmers are becoming convinced that something must be done to save our top soil; therefore, they are joining the ranks of the Conservation Farmer and are applying Conservation Practices with proper rotation on their land. This is a very healthy condition for the individual farmer and for his Community both financially and in his pride of leaving the farm in better condition than when he acquired it.

A substantial increase has been shown in 1957 in the installation of gully control structures, waterway shaping and seeding. These are some of the permanent type Conservation practices that the Agriculture Conservation Program is assisting the farmer in constructing. This assistance has made it possible for some farmers to install much needed Conservation practices. Before, additional erosion would make the control much more expensive. Of course these structures and waterways must be teamed up with terracing and contouring on the slope above in order to make the structures and waterways perform properly.

A series of wet or dry years causes a change in the type of practices requested by the farmer. The past few dry years have caused an increase in the number of farm ponds constructed. These will supply water for livestock as the wells and springs begin to dry up. Due to a very few hard rains, there has been very little severe erosion in the County the past few years. When the cycle changes from dry to wet years, more contouring and terraces will be requested to control erosion due to the greater runoff.

The Conservation way of farming is here to stay; that is to use each acre of land within its capabilities and according to its needs. We, the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service, in giving assistance to the local District are here to help you, "Mr. Farmer", plan and apply the Conservation way of farming to your farm. "If you", but ask for the assistance.

It is through effective planning and conserving the land now, that we will have a better and more prosperous Community in which we are proud to live.

PRACTICES APPLIED

		This Year	To Date
Contour Farming	acre	855	26,931
Contour Strip Cropping	acre	25	339
Brush Control	acre		512
Pasture Planting	acre	128	3,230
Tree Planting	acre	2	11
Fish Pond Improvement	no.	62	284
Hedge Row Plantings	rods	100	7,430
Wildlife Area Improvements	acre	70	288
Toewall	no.	8	61
Drop Inlets	no.	33	104
Drop Spillways	no.	0	22
Land Smoothing	acre	0	26
Pond Construction	no.	54	305
Erosion Control Dam Earthen		34	119
Tile Drains	L. F.	53,945	910,698
Diversion Construction	mile	.2	3.4
Open Drains	mile	.2	139.8
Terraces	mile	7	77
Waterway Development	acre	49	265
Diversion Dams	no.	1	2

THE DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Walter Eyre	Chairman	Burlington
C. E. Pilling	Member	Yellow Springs Township
Homer Woodward	Member	Union Township
James C. Hodges	Secretary	Burlington
Horace Sutton	Treasurer	Burlington

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

A. S. C. Office	Extension Service
Associate Commissioners	County Board of Supervisors
Conservation Commission	County Superintendent of Schools
Izaak Walton League	Vocational Agricultural Instructors
Mediapolis Sportman's Club	Public School Teachers
Soil Conservation Service	Burlington Chamber of Commerce
Seed and Machinery Dealers	Burlington Junior Chamber of Commerce
Earth Moving Contractors	Burlington Hawkeye Gazette
Veterans of Foreign Wars	Mediapolis News Era
Des Moines County Farm Service Company	

and all other companies and individuals including the farmers who have helped in putting conservation on the land. 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.

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS

Curtis Darbyshire	Morning Sun	Washington Township
Everett Anderson	Mediapolis	Yellow Spring Township
Walter Swank	Oakville	Huron Township
Dwight Stucker	New London	Pleasant Grove Township
Martin Beckman	Sperry	Franklin Township
John Henry	Burlington Rt. 3	Flint River Township
Lloyd Schmeiser	Burlington Rt. 2	Benton Township
Ralph Anderson	Burlington Rt. 2	Jackson Township
Keith Renner	Danville	Danville-Augusta Township
Eugene Schulte	Burlington Rt. 2	Tama Township
Ed Breuer	Burlington Rt. 1	Union-Concordia Township
Carl Anderson	Burlington I. O. P.	Iowa Ordnance Plant

PERSONNEL ASSISTING THE DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Soil Conservation Service Personnel Assigned:

R. H. Audsley	Work Unit Conservationist
Jack Jacobs	Conservation Aid
David Asby	Conservation Aid (part time)

State Personnel:

David Asby	Conservation Aid (part time)
Mrs. Mildred Kleinkopf	District Clerk (part of year)

Area Personnel Assisting the District:

Lyall Mitchell	Area Conservationist
Marion Clark	Area Engineer
Sylvan T. Runkel	Soil Conservationist
Allen Hidlebaugh	Soil Scientist
Robert Cummings	Soil Scientist
Oran Champ	Engineering Aid
Stanley Simmons	Engineering Aid
Erma Cummings	Area Clerk

We, the Commissioners of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District along with the people of the County, especially the farm population, have been intrusted with the greatest tangible gift of God to man, the soil and natural resources of this our domain. We together, have the authority, but not the right, to destroy this heritage during our stewardship or we may, if we so desire, so use, or influence the use of, our soils, so as to conserve or actually improve the productivity during our tenure.

Be it then resolved, that we, as stewards of so vital a heritage should use or influence its use for the betterment of ourselves and our fellow man now, and all men to follow.