

FOREWARD

The narrative portion of this report covers the 1976 calendar year (January - December). Because the Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) operate on a different fiscal year, the financial report and district accomplishments summary cover the period of July 1, 1975, through June 30, 1976.

This annual report was not published for county-wide mailing as has been done in previous years. It is being distributed to all local newspapers, and copies are on file at the District Office for public information.

The 1976 Annual Report was prepared by Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk.

1976 ANNUAL REPORT

The soil conservation program in Kossuth County for 1976 showed significant accomplishments. During the calendar year, 77 landowners became district cooperators. Conservation plans were written or revised on more than 50 farms in the county.

Twenty-one landowners installed 12,000 feet of parallel tile-outlet terraces. Most terrace backslopes are seeded, but on flatter slopes farmable backslopes are being used.

Farm ponds were constructed on the F. Joy Boyken farm near Titonka and Robert Deal's, south of Algona.

Twenty-four inventories and evaluations were provided to NIACOG (North Iowa Area Council of Governments) as requested by the Cities of Algona, Titonka, and Burt. Information from the I & E's was used in the preparation of a comprehensive development plan for the City of Algona. The data supplied to Burt will be used in the development of their zoning ordinance; the Town of Titonka is preparing a recreation plan.

STANDARD SOIL SURVEY

The Standard Soil Survey, at the close of its fifth mapping season, has been completed on nearly 439,000 acres of Kossuth farmland; this figure represents 70% of the total land in the county. The survey

has been completed in the western half of the county; in addition, Ramsey, German, Portland, and Buffalo Townships in the eastern half have been mapped. Members of the current survey party include Robert Jones (party leader), Richard Lensch, Willie Bragg, and Robert Wilson.

Persons owning land in the area mapped during the year are notified by letter that advance copies for their farms are available to them upon request.

RECOGNITIONS RECEIVED

Claude Seely, Algona, was recognized by the District for serving two 6-year terms as a district commissioner; he is currently serving as chairman. Other commissioners include Wendell Christensen, Wesley (vice-chairman); James F. Antoine, Bancroft; Kenneth Brones, Swea City; Luther Kinne, LuVerne; and, John Reding, Bode (assistant).

Algona Radio Station KLGW was named Outstanding Radio for Conservation News of the Year at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America held in Ankeny. The state-wide award was appropriate for the work that the station had done in the "Green-Up Time" Tree Promotion Plan; this included 3 one-hour talk shows on tree planting with special emphasis on replacing dead elm trees.

John Scuffham, Sr. (owner) and Scuffham Brothers (operators) were the district winners in the 1976 Iowa Soil Conservation Awards Program. They won this honor in recognition of the work they have done to accomplish soil and water conservation on their Plum Creek Township farm.

A Group Special Achievement Award was made to Iyle Riedinger, District Conservationist, and Loren Bishop, Conservation Technician, by the Soil Conservation Service.

STATE COST SHARE PROGRAM

An overall look at the state cost share program at the close of 1976 shows that \$75,000 have been paid to district cooperators since the initiation of the program in July, 1973. State cost share funds have assisted in the construction of 84,490 feet of terraces, 3,175 feet of diversions, 2 grade stabilization structures, 1.7 acres of grassed waterways, and 57 acres of permanent pasture. The funds were allotted to 61 applicants at a cost share rate ranging from 25-50%.

The District's cost share program is governed by the District Commissioners and is available to district cooperators at a 50% maximum rate; high priority is placed on terrace construction.

208 PLANNING

The Kossuth County Resource Coordinating Committee held its organizational meeting in July, 1976. Elected to serve on the Board were Wendell Christensen (SOD Commissioner), president; Nick Scholer (Algona Municipal Utilities), secretary; and, James F. Antoine (SOD Commissioner), representative to the Conservancy District Advisory Committee.

The committee, provided for under Section 208 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, was organized to provide local input into planning for pollution control from non-point sources. Membership is

open to all interested residents and representatives of local governments in the county.

The Kossuth Soil Conservation District entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Des Moines River Conservancy District as a first step in the effort to develop a non-point pollution plan by November, 1978.

HOSTS CONTRACTORS' SCHOOL

In March the Kossuth District hosted a contractors' school sponsored and conducted by the Soil Conservation Service. A total of seventy-three tile and earth moving contractors from Kossuth and surrounding counties attended the two-day session at Algona.

JOINT MEETING WITH HANCOCK COUNTY

The Kossuth District Commissioners conducted a joint meeting and a tour of conservation practices with the Hancock District Commissioners. The meeting was held at Commissioner Wendell Christensen's home.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

As in past years, the District sold windbreak stock and metal terrace intake pipes this year. Various district activities are supported by the additional income from these projects.

The District sponsored a field trip to Ames for the Kossuth Conservation Youth Board in March. The group toured the Ames Solid Waste Recovery Plant and the facilities at the U.S. Animal Disease Lab.

In the spring a free tree was given to each third grade student in the district who was willing to plant one. More than 300 silver maple and green ash trees were distributed to the youngsters by the Kossuth Conservation Youth Board.

Three thousand church bulletin covers were provided to Kossuth County churches in the annual May observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

The District had a booth at the Kossuth County Fair in August and sponsored an Annual Appreciation Dinner in December.

Dues to the state and national associations amounting to \$300 were paid in 1976.

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

1-M ACCOUNT

Allocation received..... \$1875.00

Disbursements

Commissioners Expenses	\$694.51
Office Supplies	244.79
Printing	96.95
Prizes for Contests	19.16
Meeting Hall Rental	13.00
Material for Demonstrations	.94
Office Expense	755.09
Meeting Expense	4.15
Released to State Committee	46.41

Total disbursements..... \$1875.00

2-M ACCOUNT

Allocation received..... \$21,275.00

Disbursements

Salaries \$11,444.74

Travel 50.17

State Retirement 425.82

Social Security 669.52

Health Insurance 309.00

Life Insurance 48.00

Long-term Disability Insurance 58.38

Released to State Committee 8,269.37

Total disbursements..... \$21,275.00

3-M ACCOUNT

Allocation received..... \$26,000.00

Funds Paid Out

Terraces \$23,080.34

Diversion 211.75

Grade Stabilization Structure 250.00

Grassed Waterway 632.75

Total Paid Out - 24,174.84

Funds obligated, practice not completed - 1,250.00

Funds released to Dept. of Soil Conservation - 575.16

Balance of unobligated funds..... 0.00

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 1975 - June 30, 1976

District Cooperators.....	105	
Recipients of technical assistance.....	245	
Total services -- single units.....	686	
Recipients applying practices.....	169	
Conservation plans prepared.....	46	
Conservation plans revised.....	11	
Inventories and evaluations.....	52	
Units of governments assisted.....	11	
Inventories and evaluations -- units of government.....	14	
Conservation plans -- IFA's.....	1	
Group conservation plans.....	8	
Group inventories and evaluations.....	11	
Groups assisted.....	19	
Agriculture Waste Management Systems.....	2	
Crop Residue Management.....	3,823	Acres
Disposal Lagoons.....	1	
Diversions.....	1,175	Feet
Ponds.....	2	
Farmstead Windbreaks.....	20	Acres
Field Windbreaks.....	4,820	Feet
Grade Stabilization Structures.....	1	
Grassed Waterways.....	8	Acres
Minimum Tillage.....	2,894	Feet
Pasture/Hayland Management.....	172	Acres
Pasture/Hayland Planting.....	100	Acres
Drainage Field Ditch.....	9,191	Feet
Parallel Terraces.....	31,895	Feet
Tile Drainage.....	175,058	Feet
Land Adequately Treated.....	4,571	Acres

1976 PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY:

Claude Seely, chairman
Wendell Christensen, vice-chairman
James F. Antoine, commissioner
Kenneth Brones, commissioner
Luther Kime, commissioner
John Reding, assistant commissioner
John Ley, secretary

STAFF:

Lyle Riedinger, District Conservationist
Loren Bishop, Conservation Technician
Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk
Kathleen Mescher (SCS & SOD) (March-August)
John Skilling, WAE Aid (SCS)
Larry Trauger, WAE Aid (SCS)
Robert Jones, Soil Scientist (Party Leader)
Richard Lensch, Soil Scientist
Willie Bragg, Soil Scientist
Robert Wilson, Soil Scientist
Kevin Hilsabeck, CEPA (Summer)
Allan Voss, PSE (Summer)

