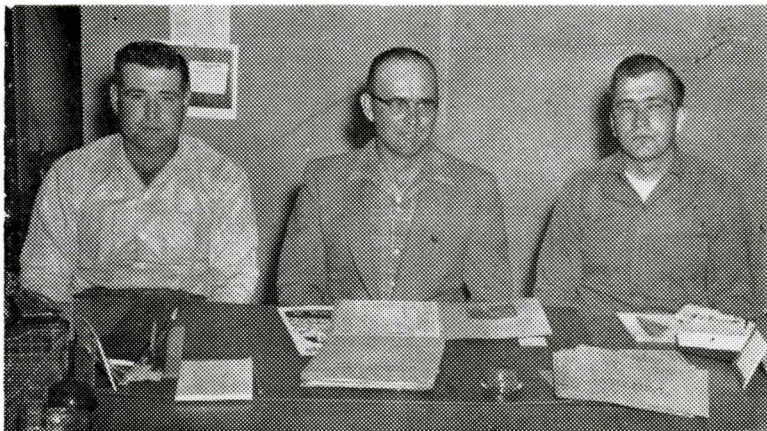


**State of Iowa
Tama County Soil Conservation District
Annual Report ---- 1956**

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



**George Hauser
Montcur**

**Forrest Hill
Dysart**

**Howard Lyon
Toledo**

MULTIFLORA ROSE HEDGE CONTOUR FENCE



Leo Zhorne, Farm

Columbia Township

Tama County Soil Conservation District

FARM BUREAU BUILDING

TOLEDO, IOWA

Commissioners Activities

The biennial election of District Commissioners was held in February. Howard Lyon, Toledo, was elected to the six year term. George Hauser, Montour, was elected to fill out the unexpired term caused by the resignation of Robert Smith of Montour.

Regular Commissioner Meetings were held each month to transact District business. These meetings were attended regularly by employees of the Soil Conservation Service, County Extension Service and State employed District personnel.

Six meetings relating to the 1957 ACP program and completing the 1956 ACP program were attended. The commissioners also took part in two meetings relative to the Soil Bank Program. These meetings were a part of the work being done cooperating with the County ASC Committee. The commissioners took part in three meetings on an area basis with other Districts, County ASC Committees, and other agricultural agencies. These related to District activities, ACP and Soil Bank programs.

The commissioners have been active in other agricultural programs. Forrest Hill is a member of the Policy Study Committee of the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation. George Hauser was active as a Township ASC Committeeman. While Howard Lyon was a member of the County Extension Council.

The District Commissioners spent two days assisting the Jasper County District with the National Field Days and Plowing Matches held near Colfax in September. Many cooperators living near Jasper County also assisted with this event.

Information and Educational Activities

The District has co-sponsored the use of Conservation Activity Books in the schools of the County for several years. Cooperating are County Superintendent of Schools E. P. Simmons, the Extension Service and the Soil Conservation Service. Nearly 1,000 books were used in the 6th, 7th and 8th grades and 184 awards were given for outstanding work by the students. The purpose behind this activity is to give some additional conservation education beyond that received thru other sources.

The annual tour to study field application of Conservation practices was held in April by the Traer 8th grade science class. This class has made a tour for several years under the leadership of instructor Mary Beecher. She was assisted by Extension and Soil Conservation Service personnel in planning and carrying out the tour.

A one day general interest and training meeting was held in conjunction with the biennial election. Extension specialists from Iowa State College, the County Extension Director and Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted with the meeting. Subjects covered included terracing, irrigation, pasture improvement and commercial fertilizers.

A Queen of the Furrow Contest was held in the District to select local entries for the Regional Contest. These contests were held to select a queen for the National Field Days in Jasper County. The contest was conducted by Home Economist Mina Olin and the County Womens 4-H Committee. Sandra Nielsen, Garwin, and Mary Louise Delfs, Gladbrook, were the local winners.

District personnel, assisted by the Extension Director prepared 31 news releases during the year relating to District activities. In addition 11 news and feature articles were prepared by papers in the county. Other information and educational activities included showing of pictures and slides relative to Soil Conservation at Farm Bureau, Boy Scout, Vocational Agriculture, and school group meetings.

Other Activities

The Tama County Farm Bureau and the District sponsored awards to the local winners entered in the Des Moines Register and Tribune Iowa Conservation District Cooperator Contest. Winners in the three divisions were, owner operated, George Kos, Toledo; Tenant operated, Antonie Van Egdom and Elmer Van Egdom, Tama; and new cooperator, Gerald Ewing, Buckingham. Farm Bureau President Harold Beichley and the Commissioners presented certificates and \$25.00 Savings Bonds to the winners at the annual Farm Bureau Meeting in October. Kos and the Van Egdoms received further honors as Regional Winners at the Farm and Home Field Days in October at Bayard, Iowa.

Interest continued strong in Birdsfoot Trefoil as a pasture improvement legume. Seed harvest was completed on nine cooperating farms this year. The District sponsored increase plots on the Robert Malin and Donald Dunham farms should be ready for harvest in 1957. Extension and Soil Conservation Service Personnel assisted with the establishment and harvest of the seed fields.

District Resources & Personnel

The District owns no equipment and has no completely commissioner controlled money resources, other than a small cash fund. This fund resulted from donations by cooperators and others interested in supporting Soil Conservation, and from the sale of seed from increase plots remaining after all requested seed grants had been made. This fund is used for expenses not eligible for payment from Federal or State Money and as of December 31, 1956 has a balance of \$218.35.

Personnel, office space, transportation, supplies and equipment needed to carry on the work are furnished by the Soil Conservation Service, USDA, the Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee, and the County ASC Committee.

District Resources and Personnel

State Funds used in the District during 1956:

Office Assistant	\$1805.74
Equipment	91.05
Conservation Aids	1812.03
Commissioner Expenses	153.56
Conservation Activities (Schools)	297.18
Printing	22.00
Office Expenses	113.74
TOTALS	\$4295.30

Personnel assigned to the District in 1956:

Helen Backen - - - -	Office Assistant
Robert A. Malin - - -	Conservation Aid
Charles W. Norton - - -	Conservation Aid
M. Ernest Sevde - - - -	Conservation Aid
Frank P. Reed - - - -	Soil Conservationist

Area Conservationist Harlon H. Backhaus, Marion and his Soils and Engineering staff also gave assistance. Specialist and technical assistance was received from the State Soil Conservation Service office.

Cooperating agency personnel assisting the District in 1956:

County Extension Director	G. Gress Rogers
County Home Economist	Mina S. Olin
County Youth Assistant	Gaylord D. Elliott
County ASC Committee	Millard Lundt, Chairman
	Merle Cavanaugh
	Jesse Richards
	Chas. F. Balloun (resigned)
County ASC Office Manager	Russell Lyon
State Conservation Commission Officer	Wm. Boswell
Farmers Home Adm. Supervisor	A. Robert Koch

Looking Ahead

Interest in water conserving measures particularly farm ponds increased greatly this past year. We think it will continue into 1957, and will foster additional interest in practices such as terraces and diversions to hold as much water as possible where it falls, and give soil protection as well. Efforts to promote the use of the mechanical soil and water conserving practices will be continued in the coming year.

Accomplishments

The District Technical staff assisted with practice layout and establishment as requested by ACP Cooperators as well as for District Cooperators. Practices established with District assistance:

PRACTICES	AMOUNT
Contour Cultivation	3,228 Acres
Contour Strip Cropping	368 Acres
Terraces & Diversions	8.6 Miles
Farm Ponds	73 Each
Tile Drainage	51,987 Feet
Surface Drainage	96 Acres
Waterway Development	59.5 Acres
Pasture Seeding & Improvement	98 Acres
Erosion Control Dams	8 Each
Wildlife Areas Protected	26 Each

Cooperators & Farm Plan Development

New District Cooperators	28 Each
Basic Farm Plans Prepared	31 Each
District Cooperators Serviced	253 Each
ACP Cooperators Serviced	458 Each
ACP Practices Serviced	1,068 Each