

IOWA COUNTY SOIL DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS YEARLY REPORT 1951

This is a description of the work done by the Iowa County Soil Conservation District during the calendar year of 1951.

Organized in June, 1945, and securing its first resident worker in May, 1946, The District has had the services of sometimes two and sometimes only one technician since that time.

The work of the District is administered by three commissioners who are farmers within the county and who are elected by farm owners for terms of six years each. Through an agreement with Federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS), that agency provides the technical services for those farmers that are District cooperators.

For the sake of reaching the largest possible number of farmers in the time available, District Commissioners have instructed the SCS technicians to work chiefly with small groups of farmers known as conservation work groups. The individual attention necessary is given to cooperators but there are some factors of a conservation farm plan that can be developed with a group just as well as with an individual, and at a great saving of time.

The conservation farm plan is a program recommended for the individual farm and approved by the operator after an inventory of its soil resources is made. Both crop and livestock plans are outlined throughout a period of five years. The cooperator is encouraged but not positively required to follow the plan as closely as uncontrollable natural factors will permit. A plan costs the farmer nothing except that which he is willing to spend on the farm to maintain or to improve its usefulness.

While the most complete plan possible to secure is the most desirable one, two easy steps to this complete plan were made available to farm operators late in the year. Taking the first of these, the farmer is called an "initial" cooperator. As such he can receive help on a simple practice like contouring or terracing or ditch healing. His next advancement is to become an "advanced" cooperator. Now he can have help on additional conservation practices, but to give his farm the best

attention he needs to take the last step and become a "basic" cooperator with the plan described in the paragraph just before this one.

Subsequent paragraphs describe the Districts 1951 activity in more detail.

ADMINISTRATION

District commissioners have held the prescribed twelve meetings with SCS personnel for planning and administrative purposes. A short term member missed one meeting, another short term member missed none, the long members missed one and three meetings respectively. They have been represented in area meetings too.

This was election year. Edward Kinsey declined to be a candidate to succeed himself so Erwin J. Maas of Iowa township and Ervin J. Schmoecker of Washington township were nominated. At the election on July 9, a total of 43 votes were cast, 23 for Maas, and 19 for Schmoecker and 1 spoiled. Maas officially attended his first meeting July 16.

Guest speaker at this election meeting was Ray F. Anderson, Associate editor of the Farm Journal. He described the origin and development of soil conservation districts and told of new things in farming that he had found in his travels over the United States.

Commissioners with hold-over terms are Henry G. Morse, chairman, and R.C. Owen, R.H. Bush has continued as Work Unit Conservationist. W.N. Webster served for a time as Planners Aid, then resigned. After a period without assistance, Mitchell Murphy was assigned to the District. D.E. Zentmire, County Extension Director, is District secretary. From May 28 to Aug. 10 Rose McGivern served as office clerk at \$6.00 per diem. Resigning to enter school, she was succeeded on August 16 by Mrs Edith Bush at \$5.00 per diem. Lloyd Bickford served for a time as a technical assistant in the south part of the county.

Feeling that a six term is too long for a commissioner, this trio has recommended that the next Iowa General Assembly reduce the length of term three years with an election each year.

These new work groups were approved: group 22 in Dayton, 23 in Sumner, 24 in

Harvey and 25 in Lincoln. In addition 13 new names were written into groups already functioning.

SOIL DISTRICT BUDGET
July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951

<u>SOIL FUNDS</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>
Carry-over	\$111.08	
Commissioners expense	125.00	111.82
Office Supplies	60.00	65.00
Contest prizes	75.00	50.00
Meeting expense	10.00	11.26
Demonstration material	30.00	
Office expense	200.00	107.00
	<u>\$611.08</u>	<u>\$351.08</u>

<u>2 1/2 State Funds</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>
Technical personnel	\$1120.00	\$ 211.00
Clerical personnel	175.00	141.00
District share of retirement	92.05	31.68
Equipment	175.00	231.47
Personnel travel	175.00	14.95
	<u>\$3332.05</u>	<u>\$666.13</u>

LOCAL DISTRICT FUND
July 1, 1950 to June 30, 1951.

Receipts

Balance from previous year		\$150.32
State reimbursements	\$24.48	
Contractors per centage	61.80	
Terracer use	5.00	
State fair premium	110.00	
		<u>201.20</u>
		<u>\$357.50</u>

Disbursements

State Fair exhibit	\$151.42	
Postage	43.23	
Terracer expense	3.59	
Treasurers bond	2.50	
4-H conservation premiums	50.00	
Office Supplies	18.57	
State Districts assoc. dues	20.00	
Meeting expense	11.26	
	<u>\$301.57</u>	
Balance June 30, 1951		<u>58.03</u>
		<u>\$359.60</u>

SOIL DISTRICT BUDGET
JULY 1, 1951 to June 30, 1952

1A State Funds

Commissioner's expense	\$125.00
Office Supplies	20.00
Printing	15.00
Prizes for contests	75.00
Meeting rentals	15.00
Demonstration expense	10.00
Office rent	\$240.00
	\$500.00

2 A State Funds

	<u>Asked</u>	<u>Allowed</u>
Technical Personnel	\$ 540.00	
Clerical Personnel	1015.00	\$1300.00
Districts retirement share	62.20	
Personnel Travel	126.00	50.00
Equipment	390.00	
	\$2133.20	

The District operated just within its 14 budget and will with in its 24 budget. Since the beginning of District activity the commissioners have considered too rigid the SCS requirement that personnel spend practically all its planning efforts with those farmers signed up in ~~work~~ groups for a five year plan. Commissioners felt that more conservation could be accomplished with many farmers doing something about it than with only a few doing a lot on their own farms. Therefore these commissioners were delighted when SCS modified its program to provide assistance for: (a) initial cooperators, those who are becoming acquainted with conservation by trying one or two of the simpler practices; (b) advanced cooperators, those who have tried conservation on a small scale and want more of it; (c) basic cooperators, those who want to go all way with a farm plan based on a soil survey that discloses variations in land capabilities.

Recognizing the wisdom of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture order that SCS and FSA cooperate closely so that FSA conservation payments would be made for real and not imaginary conservation, the District has cooperated with SCS and FSA in arranging for technical assistance.

Again observing USDA instructions, the District Commissioners as members of the County Agricultural Mobilization Committee have given consideration to the request that SCS and FSA be officed under the same roof. Commissioners attended the initial explanatory district meeting, they have considered it in their own meeting and they have been active in the county Mobilization committee meetings.

In this county is a situation different from most counties. Of the seven federal agricultural agencies operating in the county and forming the mobilization committee one office is in one town, five in another town and one entirely outside the county. Misacceptance of the work of these 7 agencies is unquestioned and cooperation with all is of a very high order. Between the two towns is an intense rivalry of long standing that is easily aggravated. The District Commissioners have taken their position with the five agencies that believe the most harmonious support, both rural and urban,

for the agricultural agencies' program will be secured by not disturbing office location. They feel definitely that this physical separation need not and does not detract from the quantity and quality of cooperative effort expected from SOG and HMA.

II. SUMMARY

Thinking to revitalize interest and action among those cooperators for whom plans have been approved previously, the commissioners and SOG arranged a series of "inspiration" meetings among work group members. Initial plans were made when work group leaders were brought together for an explanation of the proposal. Resulting were ten work groups meeting with 76 persons attending whose re-newed attention to their plans proved that the "inspiration" meetings were worth while.

Again as in 1950, cash premiums were provided for the 4-H Club conservation project. The HMA Club ranked first, the Junior Lincoln Feeders second, and English Champion Feeders third, receiving \$15, \$10, and \$5 respectively.

Soil Conservation Week was observed by providing county Newspapers with ten conservation stories. All were printed by three papers but not all in any one paper. At their request another conservation tour similar to the successful one in 1950 was arranged for the sinksters but the weatherman didn't cooperate. Apostponed attempt brought an unavoidably small attendance so the result was small.

Serving as host to the 4-county meeting of Districts, this District featured green silage manufacture and use. Don Lee, experienced manufacturer and user from Keokuk county, was discussion leader.

At the suggestion of Father Hart of the Warren Catholic Parish that the local N.C. group would like to sponsor a 3day conservation school, such an event was arranged for March 6, 7, 8. A fine program with good discussion leaders was presented to a disappointingly small number of people.

Dr. Paul Sacco from St. Ambrose College at Davenport, I.A. BUSH, W.C. conservationist, Dr. Hersford, Ia. State college Extension Animal Husbandman, and local panel members composed the teaching staff. The program began with pictures from the Holy Land

showing results from careless handling of the soil. The succession of pictures brought the story right into Iowa County. Then was developed the idea of conservation measures, emphasizing the basic importance of rotations with fertilizers and mechanical practices supplementing the base. Last came utilization of the extra forage that should result from such a land-use program.

A cooperating contractor, Tiler Marvin Morse, with the help of Extension Service, Arranged a half-day tiling school with Dale Hull, Extension Service and George Fonken, SES, leading the good discussion. In spite of snow-blocked roads, 39 men attended..

To emphasize the returns that can be secured from grass land under good usage, a pasture tour of five farms was arranged to include the farms of Amana, Homestead, Owen Tompkins, Carter Atkinson, Wm. Ward, and Glen Langlas. Involved were different soil situations met with ladino, brome, birdsfoot trefoil and other less frequently used grasses.

Farm face-lifting demonstration were held on the farms of Noble Brockschink, Edgelmer Helgeson, and Ervin Koehn, the two latter sponsored by the GI Farm classes and manned largely by class members. All demonstrations featured machines that are common on farms, except that at Brockschinks a heavier bulldozer was used.

On the Brockschink farm several ditches were closed and five smaller ones consolidated into a large broad based one by means of a long diversion terrace. In one waterway a settling basin was provided to ease the flow of water as well as to catch silt. On the Helgeson and Koehn farms ditches were filled, waterways shaped and seeded and terraces constructed.

Farmers are still urged to have laboratory tests of soil made for fertilizer requirements. During the year there have been 124 such made, bringing the total for the county to 809 samples tested.

III. FARM PLANNING

Pasture improvement demonstrations have generated more interest than any other activity of the District this year. This is true of both rotation and permanent pasture programs.

In the tabulation is expressed the work of the SCS Technicians with District operators and with PMA., the association began officially on July 1.

	With Cooperators	With PMA	Total	
Contour lining	2769	687	3456	acres ✓
Strip Cropping	6.0	—	6.0	acres ✓
Pasture Improvement	411.	—	411	acres ✓
Wild life area	6	—	6	acres ✓
Tree planting	3	—	3	acres ✓
Ponds	4	10	14	number ✓
Standard terraces	1.0	—	1.0	miles ✓
Diversion Terraces	.3	.1	.4	miles ✓
Farm drainage	102	314	416	acres ✓
Tile survey	12492	79368	91860	Lineal feet ✓
Drainage ditches	1.2	.1	1.3	miles ✓
Waterways constructed	6.4	.5	6.9	miles
Applications received		49		
Farms planned		48		
Farms replanned		4		
Total number of plans to Dec. 31, 1951		249	Totaling	62701 acres

IV cooperation

Cooperation is both received and given from PMA, FHA, SCS, Extension Service and Veterans Administration. More information about the extent of this cooperation has been recited in previous paragraphs of this report.

V LOOKING AHEAD

Looking into the future and trying to see what lies instore for the IA. County Soil Conservation District, we ^{only} can outline the more certain activities that will probably come to pass. All of the planned activities should have a pronounced beneficial effect upon the amount of soil conservation which will be applied in the District.

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS REPORT -1952

I. History and Organization

This is a brief description of the organization of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District and of the work it has done in the calendar year of 1952. The District was organized in June, 1945, but not until May, 1946, was the first resident worker available.

The work of the District is administered by three commissioners who are farmers within the county and who are elected by farm owners for terms of six years each. These terms are staggered so that each two years a commissioner's term expires and an election is held to fill the vacancy. Presently the commissioners are Erwin J. Maas, chairman (1957), Henry G. Morse (1955) and R. G. Owen treasurer (1953). D. H. Zentmire, County Extension Director, is secretary and Mrs. Edith Bush is Office Helper.

By agreement with Federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) that agency provides the technical service for those farmers who cooperate with the District. During the year of this report the District has had full time service from SCS Farm Planner R. H. Bush and Planner's Aid Mitchell Murphy. For about three months during the summer State Aid Huedepohl was employed on District funds to help with the work load.

The initial plan of operation adopted by the commissioners called for the technicians to work with those farmers who were ready to adopt a five year program of soil improvement for their individual farms. A farm plan is system of management recommended for an individual farm. It includes an inventory of soil resources and with that information as a foundation plans for rotations, fertilizer treatments, mechanical conservation practices, and livestock production are developed. With the farm operators approval this plan is adopted and he executes it as rapidly as circumstances will permit. The cost is nothing except what the farmer is willing to spend on the farm to maintain or improve its usefulness.

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This is the ultimate goal but there are easy steps by which it may be achieved. Help is given to the man who isn't ready to jump in all over but who wants to get a little wet by trying one conservation practice. He is an "initial" cooperator.

If this trail pleases him and he wants to go farther he can have help on additional conservation practices and he becomes an "advanced" cooperator. Of course the most benefit can be had from the five year plan described above which makes the farmer who adopts it a "basic" cooperator.

II Administration

District Commissioners meet each month of the year with SCS personnel to review SCS personnel work done and to plan for coming months. In addition they have been represented by one or more of their number in area or state meetings. They administer the budget made available to Districts by appropriation from state funds. These funds are limited and this District has lived within its budget.

Observing USDA instructions the commissioners cooperated with SCS and PMA in providing technical assistance for making the ACP practice program one of real conservation. Accepting their assignment also as members of the County Agricultural commissioners were represented in ten meetings of those bodies.

The advent of the "initial," "advanced" and "basic" cooperator program has reduced somewhat the use previously made of work groups.

III Education

Soil Conservation week in June was observed with a public pasture and forage tour to several points of interest on Amana Society farms. Suitable and successful plantings were noted on soils ranging from blow sand to swale. A large pasture rebuilt with ladino clover and another field yielding a heavy growth of mixed legumes and grasses for silage were visited. About 65 persons attended the tour.

In the quest for increased corn acreage in 1952 the District, as a part of the Agricultural Mobilization Committee, agreed with SCS, PMA, Extension and

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F. H. A. that any additional acres should come from fall areas around the buildings or from pasture land that needed rebuilding anyway and one year of corn before reseeding would be a good way to accomplish rejuvenation. All were apposed to converting rotation grass land to corn before its turn in the normal rotation.

The District, together with other federal agricultural agencies in the county, helped prepare the recommendation for conservation practices that should be retained in the PMA program. Then when the time arrived to school PMA committeemen on technical aspects of the approved practices the District, together with SCS, Extension and FHA, was represented in the discussion program. A part of the instruction was a visit to a farm that had followed a farm plan for several years and to another farm that had just adopted a farm plan. At each place SCS Farm Planner described work done and work yet to be done.

IV Farm Planning

Soil Conservation Service working through the Iowa County Soil Conservation District established 54 complete soil and water conservation plans on a total of 8121 acres in 1952.

In addition to these complete plans, 97 farmers with a total of 18474 acres signed initial or advanced agreements with the Soil Conservation District requesting soils maps and conservation guides. Most of these intend to develop these into complete conservation places eventually.

During 1952 help was given in laying out 2753 acres for contour farming. Instructions and aid were given in establishing 700 acres of improved pasture. 5.8 miles of waterways, 5 erosion dams and 8 livestock water dams were layed out and completed. Lay-out and supervision were given for the construction of 1/4 mile of diversion and 2 miles of standard terraces.

V PMA Practice Inspection

In addition to the above, help was given on the technical phases of ACP practices on 596 farms with one or more of these four steps: (1) inspection of site and approval of need for practice, (2) lay-out of work where technical assistance was necessary, (3) supervision of installation of practices where

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necessary and (4) approval or disapproval of the way in which practices met standards set up in the PMA docket for 1952. SCS neither approved nor disapproved payments for practices.

Two hundred eighty six hours of technicians time and 12,684 miles of travel were used in servicing over 580 requests handed to the Soil Conservation Service by the PMA as directed by the Secretary of Agriculture's Memorandum 1278 of February 1951.

Of the 97 initial and advanced plans processed during the last year, 62 were on contacts made through A.C.P. work and 6 were through requests from F.H.A. borrowers.

Two-way active cooperation is maintained with SCS, PMA, FHA, Extension Service and Veterans classes.

D. H. Zentmire
Secretary

Erwin J. Maas
Chairman

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS REPORT - 1953

I-History and Organization

To many the history of the Soil Conservation District in Iowa County and its plan of organization are old stories, to many others it is new. Because the Iowa County Farmer goes to people in both groups that information is briefly repeated here.

The charter issued by the State of Iowa to the Iowa County Soil Conservation District, the fifty fifth one in Iowa, bears the date of June 22, 1945. Not until May, 1946, did the first resident worker become available. This was Farm Planner R. H. Bush, representing the cooperation of federal Soil Conservation Service with the Soil Conservation District.

The work of the District is administered by three commissioners who are farmers within the county and who are elected by farm owners for terms of six years each. These terms are staggered so that each two years a commissioner's term expires and an election is held to fill the vacancy. Presently the commissioners are Erwin J. Maas, chairman (1957), Henry G. Morse (1955) and Lambert J. Elwood (1959). D. H. Zentmire, County Extension Director, is secretary.

By agreement with Federal Soil Conservation Service (SCS) that agency provides the technical service for those farmers who cooperate with the District. During the year of this report the District has had full time service from SCS Farm Planner R. H. Bush and Planner's Aid Mitchell Murphy. For about three months during the summer State aids Vincent ^{and Ohland were} employed on District funds to help with the work load.

The goal of the District is to have an approved five year operating plan on the farm of each cooperator. This goal can be reached by easy steps.

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Help is given to the man who isn't ready to jump in all over but who wants to get a little wet by trying one conservation practice. He is an "initial" cooperater. If this trial pleases him and he wants to go farther he can have help on additional conservation practices and he becomes an "advanced" cooperater. Of course the most benefit can be had from the five year plan described above which makes the farmer who adopts it a "basic" cooperater.

II-Administration

District Commissioners meet on the third Monday of each month to administer the affairs of the District. Sitting with the Commissioners in an advisory capacity are the SCS personnel and the county Extension director. Commissioners submit to the state soil conservation committee for its approval the proposed District budget for state funds to be spent within the county. After the budget is approved the Commissioners approve expenditures therefrom, being careful that the budget is not overspent.

Again the commissioners have cooperated with SCS and ASC by providing technical assistance in making the ACP program one of real conservation. A total of 1023 requests for such service was received.

The change to the "initial", "advanced" and "basic" cooperater program has reduced though not wholly replaced the use previously made of work groups.

III-Education

Soil Conservation Week, June 14 to 20, was observed by supplying the news papers in the county with more than the usual amount of publicity on soil conservation. Just after the close of the special week but considered here a part of it, the biennial election of a District Commissioner was held on June 26. Two candidates, Lambert J. Elwood and Robert M. Hedges, were nominated for the six year term beginning July 1, 1954. Balloting among the 62 persons present at the meeting resulted in the election of Elwood. For program numbers the film "Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa People" was shown and Rex Conn, farm editor of the Cedar Rapids Gazette spoke.

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On September 9, after several postponements, a land use field day was held on the Amana Society farm at Homestead. On this farm are quite sandy soils, badly worn soils and spouty areas. The farm manager and the SCS technician have planned uses for these troublesome spots. Birdsfoot trefoil, alfalfa, lespedeza, Reed canary, sand love grass, and other uncommon grasses have been used with varied fertilizer treatments. Results are varied too but quite gratifying. One depleted area is planted to evergreen trees. A spouty area isn't yet cured. Held in conjunction with the field day but not a part of the SCS or Extension planning were demonstrations of the use of chisel and a deep tiller to break up a clay-pan subsurface layer. Treatment broke it up currently but it remains to be seen how soon the layer will fuse again. H. D. Hughes and Dr. J. M. Scholl from Iowa State attended. About 80 people were present at the event.

In addition to these educational events the county Extension Service carried on others. Included were five fertilizer test plots, testing for lime requirement 473 soil samples from 229 farms and providing numerous stories for newspaper publication. Submitted to the state laboratory for complete soil tests were 603 samples.

At the state short course for District commissioners Edward Kinsey, a former district commissioner, was accorded recognition for having executed a splendid conservation program on his owned acres.

IV-Farm Planning

Farm planning is a continuing process. It involves not only starting new cooperators on a planned conservation program but also includes progress check-ups with those who have their programs under way. Here are summary statements concerning this phase of district work.

There have been 107 requests for farm plans during 1953.

On December 31 there were 63 applicants in the process of being mapped. 117 have advanced to the planning stage where they will be helped to plan and establish a soils and moisture conservation plan on their farms.

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286 plans are completed and practices are being established as rapidly as possible.

It is the desire of the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service that as many cooperators as possible be contacted each year in order to observe their progress and give helpful suggestions as to their solving of conservation problems.

V-ACP Practice Inspection

Here is a tabular report of work done on the ACP conservation practices.

Total Number of A.C.P. requests - - - - -	1023
Help given in laying out work - - - - -	24
Help given in installing work - - - - -	53
Certification of work done - - - - -	555
Farms where work was not certified- - - - -	15

Work Accomplished on above:	Farms	Amount
Terraces	4	7126 Feet
Diversions	3	3379 Feet
Waterway Construction	9	10451 Cubic Yds.
Erosion Dams	4	4
Livestock water dams	6	6
Contour Farming	223	6919 Acres
Tile	147	285199 Feet
Drainage Ditches--Fill	13	18909 Cubic Yds.
Pasture Improvement	19	280 Acres

THE FIFTY-FIFTH DISTRICT OF THE
NORTH DAKOTA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
1954 - 1955

I-History and Organization

We were the Fifty-Fifth District to organize in Iowa - June 22, 1954. Our first Commissioner R. H. Harkness came here May 1954. We now have such and Commissioner Harkness. This year has seen many changes in our district commissioners - Henry G. Harkness resigned July 25, 1954 due to poor health. Ed Harkness was appointed to fill the balance of his term. September 20, 1954 we added three assistant commissioners - Howard Boyers, Glenn Jones and Don Smith. This addition has helped our program progress. December 22, 1954, Ed Harkness, our chairman, resigned due to poor health and Don Smith was appointed to fill his term until our election in 1955. Our first meeting in 1954 we will add another assistant commissioner to fill Ed's term. We are making an effort to meet with our machinery dealers and heavy equipment operators of the county to better understand the needs of our cooperators and work out a more efficient program. Our planners have much aided work with the new A.S.P. program. This has created added planning on new farms. We hope our added commissioners will be of much help to our soil program in Iowa County.

II-Administration

The commissioners, scheduled to meet on the third Monday of each month, have met to their schedule with an average attendance of 2.15 members per meeting. Because of two commissioners, Harkness and Jones, accounted for most of these absences. After their appointment in September the three assistant commissioners averaged 2.21 per meeting. The Iowa Conservationist Commission attended 3 of the 12 meetings, with this Conservationist from all of them and the County Extension Director as secretary was present at 11

meetings.

During the year three different clerks have been employed; Dolores Gunderson, Margaret Ferron and Mary L. Davis. Lloyd Bickford served as state aide intermittently from April 1 to June 11. His pay came chiefly from compliance checking funds provided by A.S.C.

Because it was being used so little, the whirlwind terracer was surrendered to the state soil conservation committee. It was reassigned to O'Brien County. The balance in the machine operating fund, \$16.41, was given to the state committee.

Expenditures from Budgets A1 and A2 for the districts fiscal year were \$463.08 and \$1953.81 respectively. In the A1 budget this transfers a balance of \$36.92 to the 1954-1955 fiscal budget. New fiscal year budgets of \$500.00 and \$3220.50 were submitted but approved by the state committee for \$500.00 and only \$3000.00.

At different times the commissioners have talked of watershed development possibilities in the county but no such projects have been definitely located.

Lambert Elwood represented the district at the District Commissioners Short Course in Ames. The Commissioners feel that the increased work load due to A.C.P. has caused considerable more need for technical aid in setting up the practices with the cooperators and working with the heavy equipment operators. It was thought that if the heavy equipment operators were contacted by the commissioners that they might wish to bear a small part of this added cost to the District. The donations to be used to help to increase the conservation of soil and water more rapidly.

^{Revised}
The supplemental memorandum of understanding between the District and federal SCS was studied and approved. Filed with the state committee was this District's recommendation that; (a) the number of commissioners be

laureated to 3, (b) the term of office be reduced to 5 years, (c) terms be staggered to provide one election each year, (d) District elections be held within a period of 30 days before or 30 days after March 1. The last recommendation would permit elections to be held when field work for farmers is not so urgent. The recommendations were filed with the state committee but no report of any activity has been received.

III-Education

In the educational performance of the district is involved the cooperation of vocational agriculture instructors, Soil Conservation Service and extension service personnel.

Soil Conservation Week was emphasized through informational stories and conservation supporting advertisements by business interests in the county. During the year 62 conservation stories were written by the County Extension Director and the Soil Conservation Service staff. These went to every farm home in Iowa County through the medium of the Iowa County Farmer and local newspapers.

Two conservation news letters were sent to cooperators from the District office. Group meetings were set up by Conservation Aide Mitchell Murphy and held by Murphy and Earl Thiel Conservationist Rust in Jayton, Pillmore and Grove townships. These meetings were to supply information to interested persons and for launching cooperative agreements with those caring to participate.

The Soil Conservation District held a soil weight estimating contest at the county fair which attracted many guessers. Equal volumes of soil from long cultivated and from a new cultivated field were offered for contestants to guess the weight of each for two cash prizes. The samples weighed 27½ and 11 pounds respectively. Howard E. Hoyer and

particular layman with the best estimate at 27 and 31 pounds, Maurice
Igoe and Donald Harrison with 28 and 31 pounds. The
six dollar each award was divided equally between the four men.

A land judging contest, the first one in Iowa County, was arranged with
vocational agriculture instructors R. E. Swenson and Edward Nelson. The
contest was held on the M. H. Hines farm after the school year closed. Because
final payment was so low the class competition award was not made. For
individual performances these awards were made to the top four contestants;
Robert H. Hines \$10, Lee Schmitt \$6, Harry Johnson \$4 and Laurel Hines \$2.
The contest is to be continued in 1935 but on a date before schools close.
This will make student attendance more certain.

As the year closes cooperators are arranging for a meeting with district
meeting contractors and SCS so that each group may better understand the
obligations, problems and available services of the others.

Farm Planning

Progressive farm planning as now practiced in Iowa County, allows the
more unit conservationist to work with those who are not ready to accept a
complete conservation plan but do wish one or more practices to start with.

Help is given in planning and layout work and suggestions made as to
proper crops, practices, and relations to use according to the capabilities
of the soils found on their farms.

During 1934 there were requests from 51 farm owners or operators for
help in starting a conservation program on their farms.

Thirty-three farms were completely planned with the owner or operator.

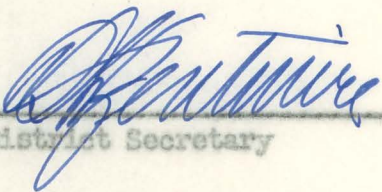
At the present time, the district has 152 active cooperators. Of these,
136 are just starting on one or more practices, the remaining 16 are basic
plans where the cooperator has planned a long time program designating the
practices and crops to be carried out each year.

Considerable time is spent in helping the cooperator with establishment of practices. The following work was completed during 1954.

Soil Surveys	36 farms
Contour Layout	2982 acres
Strip Cropping	72 acres
Terraces	12.23 miles
Open Drainage Ditches	2.05 miles
Waterways	5.65 miles
Diversions	4.56 miles
Livestock Water Ponds	21
Erosion Dams	7
Concrete Erosion Control Structures	2
Pasture Improvement	153.0 acres
Field Division	1.1 miles
Surface Drains	3.60 miles
Contour Fencing	.43 miles
Contour Pasture Furrows	5.0 acres

Fifty-seven follow-up calls were made on cooperators in order to help them where needed to put their plan in effect successfully.

The work done in the past year is a fraction of that needed to stabilize and stop the loss of soil and water now occurring in Iowa County each year.


District Secretary


District Chairman

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS REPORT, 1955

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

Born June 22, 1945, the fifty-fifth district in the state, the Iowa County Soil Conservation District first acquired the services of an SCS technician when R. H. Bush reported for duty in May, 1946. He still serves in that capacity and has the help of Conservation Aid Mitchell Murphy. Lloyd Bickford served as State Aid about three months, his pay coming chiefly from ACP funds.

This was the year for electing one Commissioner for two years to complete the term of E. J. Maas (retired) and another for the full six-year term to succeed Edward Kinsey, who was completing the term started by Henry Morse. Elected for the first position was Edward Kinsey and for the long term Robert Wallace. Assistant Commissioners were continued with the appointment or reappointment of Donald Eash, Howard Beyer and Glenn Banes. Kinsey was elected Chairman of the reorganized Commissioners. Earl Elijah was guest speaker for the election meeting on June 30.

The regular time for Commissioners meetings is the third Monday of each month, and twelve such meetings were held during the year with an average attendance of 4.4 Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners. Work Unit Conservationist attended 10 meetings, Aid Mitchell Murphy seven, Area Conservationist Harlan Backhaus five, Treasurer Owen two and County Extension Director D. H. Zentmire nine.

A change in Office Clerks became necessary when Mary L. Davis resigned effective April 30. Beginning May 1 and completing the year, Dolores Gunderson served as Clerk.

At Conservation events outside the County were these Commissioners:

Lambert Elwood at Marshalltown for ACP practice application

Donald Eash at Ames and Des Moines for Commissioners Short Course and
Commissioners Training School respectively

Edward Kinsey at Des Moines for Commissioners Training School

Robert Wallace at Des Moines for Watershed Conference

Iowa County winners in the Iowa Farm and Home Register contest for effective
Conservation practices were these:

Div. I Owner-operator: Joe Lower, Parnell

Div. II Landlord-tenant operation begun before 1953; Glenn Banes and
Leroy Banes, North English

Div. III Landlord-tenant operation begun after 1953: Earl S. Bahr,
Ladora, and Ross Robey, Victor

During the 1954-1955 fiscal year, total expenditures in Budget 1A were
\$536.92, and in Budget 2A a total of \$2573.16. Approved budget figures for
the 1955-1956 fiscal year were \$500.00 in 1A and \$3049.80 in 2A.

EDUCATION

The Iowa County Extension Service, the Iowa County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee and the Iowa County Soil Conservation District worked as a team to explain soil and water Conservation to Iowa County farmers.

Three Conservation News Letters were sent from the District office during the year.

A special edition of the local paper with 4 pages devoted to Iowa County Conservation pictures and stories was published during Soil Conservation Week. A total of 38 Conservation stories from SCS and Extension Office have been printed in County papers during the year.

The Commissioners divided the County and contacted 27 Ministers with information concerning Conservation for a Sermon. As a result several gave a Sermon on Soil and Water Conservation, during Soil Conservation Week.

The second Land Judging Contest was held by the Soil Conservation District in May. Donald Eggerling won first and Donald Tegatz and Tom Slaymaker tied for 2nd place in the individual class. Marengo won 1st and Williamsburg 2nd in the team division. Interest of teachers, pupils and parents were such that the Commissioners have decided that it should be an annual affair and invite the parents of the contestants to attend.

In order to better reach the women, 9 meetings with 131 attendance were held in cooperation with the Iowa County Home Demonstration Agent to tell the erosion problems and the control practices recommended by the SCD and its cooperating agencies.

Two educational meetings were held in February. One with the Machinery Dealers and one with Contractors to discuss Conservation practices and the obligations and problems common to both parties in the administration of the District program.

Educational meetings held by Soil Conservation Service staff during 1955:

Type	No.	Attendance
A.R.C. Committee	6	79
Voc. Ag. & Vet Training	7	143
Civic and Commercial	6	91
Farm Bureau Ladies	9	131
Contractors and Machinery Dealers	2	38
Annual Meeting	1	53
Tours	1	7
Demonstrations	2	30

Contests	1	61
Films Shown	10	140

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Plans	48
Basic Plans	30
Follow up calls	107
Revised Basic Plans	3
Farms Serviced	434
Contour Farming	2030 acres
Contour Strip Cropping	114 acres
Pasture Improvement	176 acres
Drop Inlet Structures	1
Toewall Structures	1
Ditch Construction	2.49 miles
Ponds	77
Tile Drains	180822 lineal feet
Terraces	19.7 miles
Diversion Terraces	5.30 miles
Open Drains	6.90 miles
Drainage - Surface	10.22 acres
Waterway Development	61.71 acres
Contour Fencing	326 rods

Equipment available in Iowa County:

Draglines	2
Motor Patrols	2
Bulldozers	16
Tournapulls	2

This equipment is considered as adequate to take care of the Conservation work available in Iowa County.

OUTLOOK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IOWA COUNTY

As we look to the future we find not as much capital to use on individual farms, so the things we do must be practical and a direct benefit to the land in the way of Soil and Water Conservation.

In Iowa County, the members who want Basic Plans are growing in number. We feel that we can get more Conservation on the land by an Advance Plan with a few Conservation practices, then lead to a Basic Plan. Then the cooperator has a more thorough knowledge of Conservation and the plan will be followed much better.

We plan future contacts with our old cooperators to refresh them on their present plan and help with changes which should be made.

We wish to continue our F. F. A. Soil Judging Contest and also invite the parents of these boys to be present when the contest is held.

Plans are being made for Terracing Demonstrations for both the F. F. A. and 4-H Club boys.

The terracing program has just began to gain momentum in Iowa County and with the increase in interest we feel that more demonstrations are needed.

We are searching for a Watershed that would be workable.

As a whole interest in Soil and Water Conservation has steadily shown improvement over the past year and with working together with interested groups we feel we can hold this steady improvement.

Approved 2-20 1956

Edward Kinsey
Edward Kinsey, Chairman

A COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS REPORT, 1956

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

The Iowa County Soil Conservation District has now been organized eleven years, during which time they have acquired 664 cooperators.

The District is governed by three Commissioners and three Assistant Commissioners. The present Commissioners and the expiration dates of their terms are: Edward Kinsey - 1957, Lambert Elwood - 1959 and Robert Wallace - 1961. The Assistant Commissioners are Donald Eash, Glenn Banes and Howard Beyer. Three full time office personnel are employed: Ralph Bush - Work Unit Conservationist, Mitchell Murphy - Conservation Aid and Dolores Gunderson - State Clerk. Lloyd Bickford worked 6 months to help with the heavy work load caused by the increased demand for help in establishing conservation practices.

Twelve Commissioners meetings were held during 1956 with a total of 48 of the governing body present. In addition they were represented at meetings with earth moving contractors, ministerial associations, Extension, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, F. F. A. and G. I. classes.

The time necessary for approval on compliance of ACP practices some times seems unjustifiable, but these contacts have been the source of a good number of the new district cooperators.

In 1956 we thought there would be a curtailment of conservation work due mostly to lack of finances, however, as a whole, there was much more worth while conservation work done in 1956 as compared to 1955.

EDUCATION

Working together to put before farmers the story of soil and water conservation has been the Iowa County Soil Conservation District itself, Soil Conservation Service, Iowa County Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Iowa County ASC, the public school vocational agriculture departments, veterans on-the-farm training class and the Marengo adult school. While not all these groups worked on all phases of the program presented, it is difficult, and probably unimportant, to determine where one agency left off and another took on.

The two chief educational events were the conservation tour for ministers and the land judging contest for vocational agriculture students.

On April 30, the District, with the cooperation of SCS and Extension, conducted a group of ten ministers through a tour of observation of applied conservation practices and the results obtained. These seven farm stops were made to observe specifically the things named in conjunction with each station: Mrs. Henry Morse - old and new waterways; Owen Jones - closed gully and contouring; James Carter - new farm pond; Robert O'Brien - concrete dam; Don Eash - large farm pond; Joe Lower - terraces; Ray O'Brien - small farm pond, wide waterway and concrete dam. Ministers were asked to use in their sermons May 6, preparatory to Soil Stewardship Week, the information they obtained from the tour. Subsequent reports indicate that several did that.

In May the Ed Buhrmann farm was the site of the second annual land judging contest for vocational agriculture students from the Marengo and Williamsburg schools. In addition to instructors Swanson and Roemerma, the cooperators were John Highland and R. H. Bush from SCS and Wm. Oschwald, Robert Higgins and D. H. Zentmire from Extension. The District provided the team prizes of \$20 and \$10 and individual prizes of \$10-5-3-2. Three stations were judged by the 28 boys from Marengo and the 32 boys from Williamsburg for a possible team score of 3000 points and a possible individual score of 300 points.

Team winners were Williamsburg 2315½ points, Marengo 2314 points. Individual winners in order were Richard Schwarting (W) 243 points, David Dietrich (W) 242½, Robert Novak (M) 240½ and a tie between Floyd Neitzel (M), Morey Willis (M) and Dwight Lorenz (W) 239½ points.

In the Marengo adult school, Area Conservationist Harlan Backhaus discussed in the farm class the subject farm water supplied with especial reference to ponds and irrigation. In another class session a panel composed of Commissioners Robert Wallace, Lambert Elwood and Edward Kinsey and Work Unit Conservationist Ralph Bush discussed conservation practices that have really worked in Iowa County.

On invitation from the county ASC committee, the District, SCS and Extension have helped choose conservation practices to be included in the ACP and then to explain them to township committeemen.

Each issue of the Iowa County Farmer has been utilized to carry stories of successful conservation established on farms. Usually one or more pictures of conservation spots illustrate the stories. The Iowa County Farmer goes into all farm homes and many town homes in the county.

Four newsletters have been sent to cooperators. Contents of these letters was supplied chiefly by Commissioners and Mitchell Murphy.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

New Plans	56
Basic Plans	30
Follow Up	76
Farms Serviced	493
Contouring	2078 acres
Contour Strip Cropping	38 acres
Pasture Improvement	297 acres
Fish Pond Improvement	16
Wildlife Area Improvement	1
Drop Spillway Structures	7

Toe Wall Construction	13
Pond Construction	67
Tile Drains	327686 lineal feet
Diversion Construction	4.28 miles
Open Drains	6.62 miles
Drainage	405 acres
Terracing	11.59 miles
Waterway Establishment	80.67 acres
Fencing	80 rods

Equipment privately owned by reliable contractors and available to farmers in Iowa County:

Draglines	2
Motor Patrols	5
Bulldozers	21
Tournapulls	3
Tiling Machines	5

The equipment available is considered adequate to take care of all conservation work that may become available in Iowa County.

OUTLOOK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR IOWA COUNTY

Dry weather has taken its toll of seedings for three years in a row, adding to the erosion hazard. With a continued scarcity of moisture and a critical shortage of sub-soil moisture, we should expect increased activity in contouring, terracing and pond building.

Dry weather and severe rain storms in 1956 proved the value of grassed waterways, diversion terraces and toe wall structures, as well as other practices. In short, dry weather and wet both prove the wisdom of soil and water conservation, and a year such as 1956 has increased the interest of many who have been aloof to any practices before.

Ministerial tours, F.F.A. land judging contests, 4-H conservation activities, general tours and demonstrations have continued to attract and develop interest in soil and water conservation. These programs should be continued and expanded wherever possible in 1957.

A watershed project contemplated in Greene Township is getting beyond the "talking" stage, so we plan to work toward developing this group during 1957.

Projecting the year 1956 into 1957, it would seem that we could expect an increase in the work-load of the Conservationist and Aid. To provide this increased service and also continue to adequately service old cooperators an additional full time aid is needed.

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS REPORT, - 1957

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION

1957 marked 12 years since formation of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District. During this period, service has been extended to 712 cooperators.

This was election year for the district to fill the expired term of Ed Kinsey, who was not a candidate for re-election. Election was held at the Farm Bureau Building at Williamsburg, Iowa, on July 22, 1957, with 47 present. Candidates were Carter Atkinson and Howard Beyer, with Carter Atkinson being elected.

Following the election, Commissioners and their terms were as follows: Lambert Elwood - 1959; Robert Wallace, Chairman - 1961; and Carter Atkinson - 1963. The Commissioners re-appointed two Assistant Commissioners - Donald Eash and Howard Beyer, who also serves as Treasurer, and appointed Layton Riess to replace Glenn Banes. The third Monday of each month was continued as the Commissioners meeting date.

Personnel for the District are: Ralph Bush, Work Unit Conservationist; Albert M. Murphy, Jr. Conservation Aid; Mrs. Clara Lacher, District Clerk; and D.H. Zentmire, County Extension Director who serves as Secretary. Lloyd Bickford continued to assist during the rush season, working a total of six months.

Twelve commissioner meetings were held, with attendance as follows: Wallace - 12; Kinsey - 4; Elwood - 7; Atkinson - 4; Beyer - 10; Eash - 5; and Riess - 1. The District was also represented at the Commissioner's Short-Course, State Association Convention, 2 District meetings of Commissioners, district and county A.S.C. meetings, county teacher's tour, and extension meetings, assisting with formation of the County Extension plan for crops and soils.

John Highland, in charge of the crew making a soil survey of Iowa County, met regularly with the District Commissioners to advise of progress being made. He was well pleased with the results of the Commissioner's suggestion to send advance notice to farmers in the area where they were going to be working, as it practically eliminated the personal contacts to explain their presence, and speed up the survey. Dale Shadle, Area Conservationist, attended 2 Commissioner Meetings - once, to present the Certificate of Merit to Mitchell Murphy for outstanding service as a Conservation Aid, which the Commissioners and Personnel felt was highly deserved.

EDUCATION

Working together to put before farmers the story of soil and water conservation has been the cooperative effort of the Iowa County Soil Conservation District itself, Soil Conservation Service, Iowa County Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Iowa County ASC, the rural schools and the public school vocational agriculture departments. While not all these groups worked on all phases of the program presented, it is difficult and probably unimportant to determine where one agency left off and another took on.

Again the District sponsored a soil judging contest for the two vocational classes in the county, Williamsburg, and Marengo. Reasoning that it would be most satisfactory if held during the school year, after students and instructors had become acquainted with each other and yet not at a time when other school affairs were extremely pressing, commissioners and instructors set the date at October 22nd. The place was the Willard Maas farm in Troy Township. Three stations were judged.

The District provided cash awards of \$20.00 and \$10.00 for the team placings (5 boys) with \$10.00, \$5.00, \$3.00, and \$2.00 for the first four individual placings. Williamsburg was represented by 40 boys, Marengo by 17. Williamsburg won the team title with 1025 points out of a possible 1500, Marengo was second with 1007 points. Individual rankings were these in order: Dale Zuber (W) 227 points, DeWayne Cronbaugh (M) 225 points, Daren Rathjen (M) 223 points and Ronald Vogt (M) 207½ points, each out of a possible 300 points.

In addition to Instructors Roermann and Swanson, these persons aided with the contest: R.H. Bush and John Highland, SCS; Wm Oschwald and D.H. Zentmire, Extension Service.

October 7th was the date arranged for the public school teachers conservation tour. Visiting several farms in the Parnell area were 18 rural teachers and a number of rural students, all under the direction of R.H. Bush and Mitchell Murphy, SCS.

Assistance by SCS Aid Mitchell Murphy was given when Extension Service arranged a contouring demonstration and a terracing demonstration for 4-H members and their dads. Contouring was done on the Henry J. Meyer farm in Dayton township. The terracing demonstration on the S.F. Sherman farm in Honey Creek township featured the use of regular farm equipment in constructing terraces.

The biennial election meeting (results related in the administration section of this report) on July 22nd was the occasion for Dr. Brown, a Geologist of the State University, to give the 47 persons present a graphic picture of the under-surface water supplies in this part of the state. He gave information, too, about state laws restricting the use of water.

Commissioners this year have felt there is educational value in providing brief but terse printed matter concerning conservation needs and possible satisfaction of these needs.

For Soil Conservation Week, May 26th to June 2nd, ministers in the county were supplied with these booklets: "Soil Stewardship Week", and "Selected Sermons on Soil Stewardship" and were asked to treat the subject in their sermons on May 26th or June 2nd. Several did just that.

"Story of the Soil" was placed in all rural schools and "Why Soil Conservation" was used in different rural urban meetings within the county.

Extension staff members made fertilizer-use recommendations based on laboratory test reports and Extension staff members and Instructor Virgil Roemermann made lime requirement tests. For fertilizer use, recommendations were made on 378 samples from 152 farms scattered throughout all townships, 77 of them receiving their first test results. These figures represent an increase over 1956 of 39% in samples and 35% in farms.

Lime requirement tests made by Extension personnel totaled 783 samples from 436 farms spread through all townships. These figures are a decrease under 1956 of 30.8% in samples and 26.3% in farms. These percentages do not reflect a wholly accurate picture of lime testing because we haven't information about the volume of tests made by Virgil Roemermann.

Soil District Commissioners were included as members of the Extension committee developing an educational program in crops and soils.

The advice of District Commissioners was sought by ASC in choosing the appropriate field practices to include in the 1958 ACP program. Commissioners have expressed plainly their opinion that several of the practices included, and for which cost sharing payments are available, are not conservation practices but in reality production practices. It has been difficult to find attentive ears in higher-level advisory and administrative groups.

Two newsletters, composed by local authors have been mailed to District Cooperators and county newspapers, particularly the Iowa County Farmer, have carried conservation stories supplied them.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

It is felt that the year 1957 was a greater year for permanent conservation practices than any previous year. More terraces were constructed which indicates people are becoming more interested in conserving our natural resource - THE SOIL.

New Plans	47
Basic Plans	26
Follow-up	86
Farms Serviced	444
Contour Farming	2819 Acres
Contour Strip Cropping	125 Acres
Fish Pond Improvement	3
Wildlife Area Improvement	11 Acres
Drop Spillway Structures	2
Toe-wall Construction	11
Pond Construction	42
Tile Drains	255,309 Lineal Ft.
Diversion Construction	5.01 Mi.
Open Drains	13,394 Cu. Yards
Terraces	21.96 Mi.
Waterway Development	49.21 Acres
Fencing	89 Rods

There were also 2 group drainage jobs completed this year. One involved open drainage on 3 farms and the other job comprised of 2 farms and included tile and open drainage.

Kathryn Schmeucker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E.J. Schmeucker, represented Iowa County in the Queen of the Furrow Contest.

The State Conservation Commission purchased a 398 acre farm in Sections 3, 4, 9 and 10 of Honey Creek township, which they are developing for a wildlife area. The Commission is working through the Iowa County Soil Conservation District in furthering the development of this area.

The following equipment is privately owned by reliable contractors and considered adequate to take care of the conservation work that may become available in Iowa County:

Draglines	4
Motor Patrols	4
Bulldozers	23
Tournapulls	3
Tiling Machines	4

OUTLOOK AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 1958

The outlook for conservation in the coming year is very good. Work Unit Conservationist, Bush and Aid Murphy report much preliminary survey work completed on structures, waterways and ponds to be constructed in the spring.

Requests for cost sharing by early signers in the Agriculture Conservation Program for 1958 indicate a big increase in requests for the more permanent type practices for the conservation of soil and water.

Much more contouring and strip-cropping should be done in this District, progress on these practices is very slow. Some increase is expected in 1958.

An effort will be made in an attempt to organize the first watershed in our District, located in Greene township. Special emphasis will be placed on this project.

The Register and Tribune Contest sponsored by the Commissioners, Soil Conservation Service personnel, and most of the banks in the District should be helpful in promoting conservation.

Another soil judging contest has been planned for next fall for the Vocational Agriculture classes. Assistance and encouragement should be given the local schools in carrying out an active, educational program on conservation of soil and water.

Continual cooperation of all the agencies in the District related to agriculture, also the newspapers who have publicized the many news stories and pictures showing the terrific loss of soil and water for lack of proper conservation practices and the achievements attained by the farmers, who are taking advantage of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agriculture Conservation Program; should encourage others to consider the importance of complete soil and water conservation on their own farms.

Continuation of such measures to an even greater degree will insure a bright future for the Iowa County Soil Conservation District.