

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1961

of the

Cherokee County
Soil Conservation
District

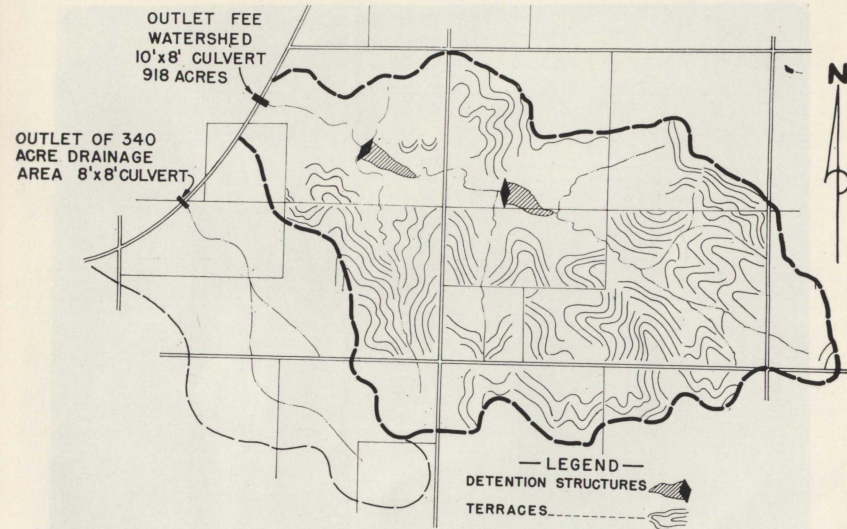
Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS:

Vere Corrington

J. F. Ralston

Arthur Dorr



"A 10" Rain in Six Hours"

The small watershed project located in the Pete Carstens, James Fee, John Hodgdon neighborhood provided unusual protection to farm and public property during the storm which struck this area last August 8th; when 10" of rain fell in six hours. This small watershed is located about 3 miles northeast of Washta.

The 918 acre project was completed in 1955. It includes 2 detention dams, 30 miles of terraces, grassed waterways and the contouring of all row crops.

Field studies, after the storm, revealed an interesting comparison between this watershed and a smaller one (340 acres) immediately to the south.

County road culverts are located at the lower end of each of these watersheds. The larger Fee watershed has a 10' x 8' culvert and the 340 acre watershed an 8' x 8' culvert.

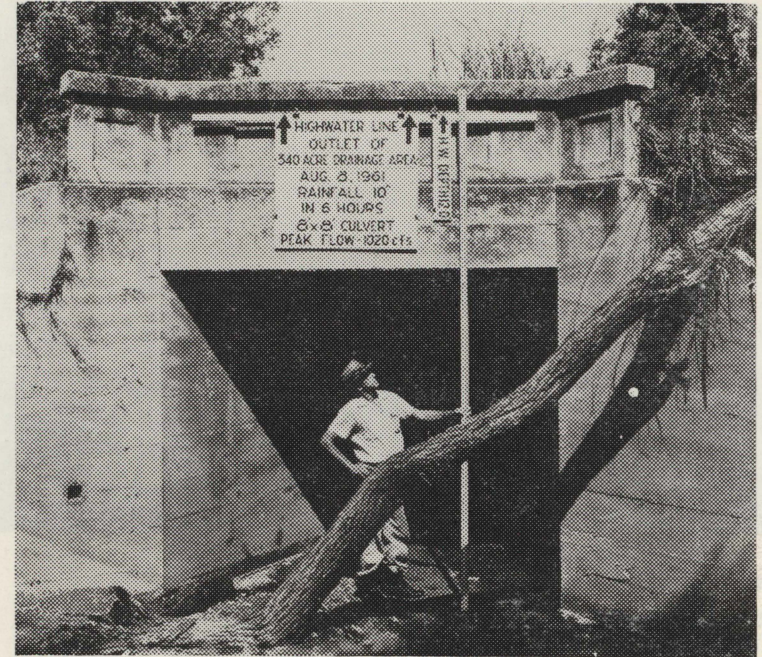


"This Culvert did not run full"

At peak flow, water in the Fee watershed culvert ran only 5¼' deep or a flow of 410 cubic feet of water per second. Water in the neighboring culvert (with only 340 acres feeding it) was 4' above the top of the culvert and over the road—a peak flow of 1020 cubic feet of water per second.

Think of it! a 340 acre area producing 2½ times as much water, at peak flow, as a 913 acre area. The reason: a complete conservation program in operation on the 913 acre area, installed by land owners in cooperation with the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service through its Little Sioux Flood Control Program.

Without this protection, the 913 acre area would have produced an estimated peak flow of 2050 cubic feet of water per second instead of the 410 actually measured during this storm.



"Water over the road"

Damages to "farm to market" roads alone (as a result of this storm) were \$31,000. Cherokee County tax payers will find this on their tax bill.

The Illinois Central Railroad reported damages of \$21,000; primarily to 2 bridges. One of these spans Stratton Creek at Washta and the other over Ashton Creek a little farther south.

Damages such as stream bank erosion, gully erosion, flooding of crops and deposits of debris sand and rock on cropland will add to this total.

The same program you see installed in the Fee Watershed is available to every small watershed. We, as commissioners, again take this opportunity to urge all Cherokee County landowners to make full use of the opportunities and facilities made available by the District.



"Enjoying a Conservation Tour"

Cherokee's District Commissioners

District commissioners serving during 1961 were:

Vere Corrington of Cherokee (chairman and district representative on the Little Sioux Works committee), J. F. Ralston of Washta, and Arthur Dorr of Marcus.

Following are some of the activities engaged in by your commissioners during 1961:

10 business meetings during 1961.

January 31, 1961 With representatives of the State Conservation Commission, Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service, checked proposed site for trial plantings of various species of pine trees.

March 1, 1961 Completed Memorandum of Understanding with State Conservation Commission approving a pine trial planting in Cherokee District.

March 17, 1961 Attended meeting of Association of District Commissioners at Primghar.

- March 31, 1961 Material for Soil Stewardship Week mailed to all churches in District.
- May 10, 1961 Meeting with landowners and contractor in Waterman-Spring watershed.
- May 31, 1961 Inspected all completed watersheds in District to determine maintenance needs.
- June 1, 1961 The Little Sioux sub-committee on watershed priorities check Pilot Rock Watershed to determine eligibility for construction priority.
- June 5, 1961 Meeting of Little Sioux Works Committee (held at Bryce Vollmar farm—north of Washta).
- June 11, 1961 The District provided tuition scholarship to L. L. Licklider, Cherokee Junior High science instructor, to attend Iowa Teachers Convention Camp.
- June 20, 1961 Completed working agreement with Cherokee County Board of Supervisors on installation of risers on county road culverts.
- June 30, 1961 Soil and water conservation tour of farms in Cherokee District.
- July 25, 1961 Attended commissioners meeting at Primghar.
- August 18, 1961 Inspected the newly completed improvements in the Waterman—Spring Watershed.
- September 11, 1961 Awarded contract for repair work in Robeson watershed—low bidder was Jess Akin of Cherokee.

District Cooperators

There are now 775 farms cooperating with the District in applying conservation practices on the land. Six hundred sixty three of these have completed basic conservation plans.

Eighty-one of these cooperators own land lying within a completed sub-watershed project. Eighteen cooperators own land in a sub-watershed with a construction priority. A total of 99 cooperators currently working together, on a watershed basis, in an effort to solve their soil and water conservation problems.

CHEROKEE COUNTY

MARCUS 13	LIBERTY 41	CEDAR 28	SPRING 33
AMHERST 49	SHERIDAN 41	CHEROKEE 42	AFTON 34
TILDEN 55	ROCK 71	PILOT 65	PITCHER 55
GRAND MEADOW 70	WILLOW 72	SILVER 67	DIAMOND 39

Shaded areas show location of completed watershed projects in Cherokee District. Hatched area outlines watershed with a construction priority.

Soil Conservation Service

The technical staff, supplied to the District by the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, consisted of the following men during 1961:

Work Unit Conservationist	Harvey R. Lindberg
Soil Conservationist	Harold S. Boehmer
Soil Conservationist	Duane Fredrickson
Conservation Aid	Glen Craft
Conservation Aid	Monas Nixon

Harold Boehmer received a promotion and transfer on May 29, 1961. He is now Work Unit Conservationist for the Lyon County Soil Conservation District with headquarters at Rock Rapids, Iowa. On August 7th Duane Fredrickson was assigned to the local Soil Conservation Service staff to fill the vacancy created by Harold's promotion.

Additional technical assistance made available by the Soil Conservation Service, through Area Conservationist George Lamp of Sioux City, included the following fields: engineering, soils, agronomy, wildlife and forestry.

We, as commissioners, wish to express our continued appreciation of the effort and service given by our Soil Conservation Service staff members.

Conservation Accomplishments - - 1961

- 40 miles of terrace built on 29 farms (12 miles were parallel)
- 52 acres of waterways constructed on 33 farms (73,396 cubic yards of earth moved in shaping these waterways)
- 8 dams built (6 for gully control and 2 for stock water) on 7 farms; one was a concrete drop spillway and the remainder were earth fills with pipe spillways (41,400 cubic yards of earth moved). 6 of these dams formed ponds of sufficient size to stock with fish (0.5 acre to 2.5 acres of water surface)
- 4 risers on county road culverts (to stabilize waterways and serve as tile outlets); designed by Soil Conservation Service and approved by Cherokee Co. Board of Supervisors and County Engineer
- 5,592 acres contouring (guide lines established with district assistance) on 130 farms
- 11,850 rods of contour field divisions established with district assistance.
- 1 mile of surface drains surveyed and checked (15,519 cubic yards of earth moved).
- 12 miles of tile drains surveyed and checked on 42 farms
- 3.5 acres of wildlife areas started by planting trees and shrubs
- 260 rods of multiflora rose hedge planted
- 5,090 acres soil mapped during 1961
- 50 new district cooperators
- 42 basic plans completed
- 480 farmers requested and received district assistance during 1961

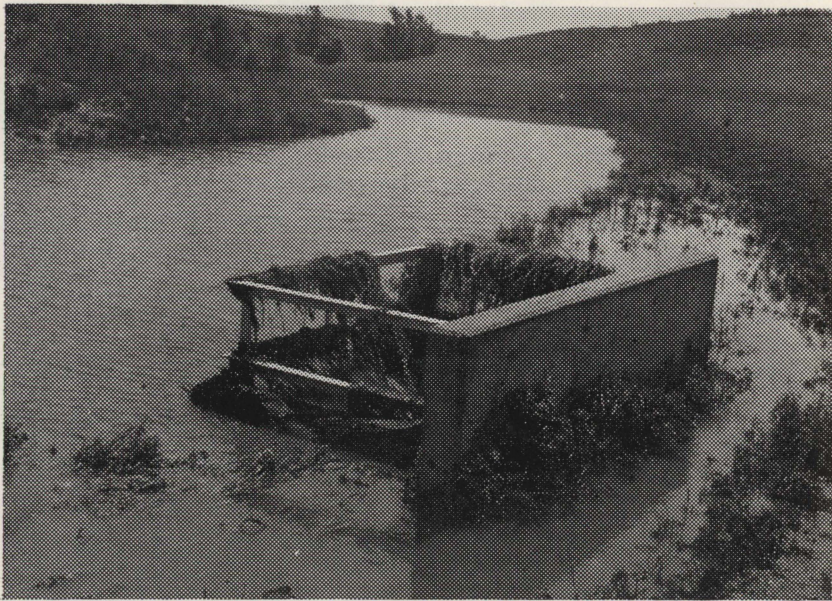
Miscellaneous High Lights

- February 13, 1961 Cherokee Rotary Club—discussion of Little Sioux Flood Control program.
- February 21, 1961 Cherokee Chamber of Commerce—discussed Soil Conservation Service operations and Little Sioux Flood Control program.
- March 2, 1961 Cherokee Girl Scouts—program on soil and water conservation.
- March 23, 1961 County Conservation Board—discussed Little Sioux Flood Control program.
- June 8, 1961 State Conservation Commission delivered fish to be stocked in 10 ponds; entire group met north of Cherokee to accept delivery. Cherokee Times photographed scene.
- June 30, 1961 District sponsored tour of soil and water conservation projects in this area.
- July 15, 1961 Cherokee Boy Scouts—program on soil and water conservation (slides).
- July 18, 1961 Cherokee County 4-H clubs on tour that included soil and water conservation projects.
- August 26, 1961 Cherokee Boy Scouts—field trip to study soils.
- September 25, 1961 Quimby Boy Scouts—program on soil and water conservation (slides).
- November 9, 1961 Cherokee Junior High science classes—field trips to conservation projects—L. L. Licklider instructor.
- November 30, 1961 Cleghorn Lions Club—program on soil and water conservation.

Little Sioux Flood Control Program

One watershed project was completed during 1961; the Waterman-Spring sub-watershed. The upper portion of the area is in O'Brien County and the lower portion in Spring Township, Cherokee County. The project was jointly sponsored by the Cherokee and O'Brien Districts. Control measures installed, in addition to land measures installed by the landowners and operators, include 3 flood detention dams and 1 grade stabilizing structure, ½ mile of floodway channel and 0.7 of a mile of diversion dike. Twenty landowners were involved in this sub-watershed.

The 2370 acres Pilot Rock watershed, located in Pilot township, was given a construction priority by the Little Sioux Works committee. When plans are completed and approved by all concerned the watershed will be ready for construction in its turn on the priority list recommended by the Works committee. Eighteen landowners have holdings in the sub-watershed.



Spillway of detention dam after 10" storm on John Hodgdon farm

Woodland and Wildlife

1. A planting of several species of conifers was made, last spring, on the Vere Corrington farm. Species planted were Austrian pine, Jack pine, Ponderosa pine, White pine and European Larch. The planting will be observed over the next 10 years to check survival and growth of the various species. This is part of a study sponsored by the State Conservation Commission, Extension Service and Soil Conservation Districts, being made relative to species, variety, climatic and soil type adaptability of trees and shrubs on the more rolling lands of western Iowa.
2. Another trial planting was made on the Richard Dorr farm (southwest of Marcus). This planting consisted of 3 selected strains of Multiflora Rose plus the one now commonly planted. The planting will be observed to determine whether or not the new selections will make better hedge rows. Planting stock was furnished by the Soil Conservation Service. Frank Starr of the State Conservation Commission assisted in making this planting.
3. Ten farm ponds were stocked with fish made available by the State Conservation Commission. One was privately stocked with fish purchased from a commercial hatchery. According to District records, 30 farm ponds have now been stocked with fish.
4. Conservation Officer Frank Starr called on cooperators interested in wildlife plantings and assisted them in making plans and ordering necessary stock.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Program of the United States Department of Agriculture

Due to heavy requests for cost sharing payments for seeding cropland by participants in the Feed Grain Program, 1961 funds available for cost sharing assistance on approved practices were exhausted before the end of the year. The Cherokee County ASCS Office was authorized to draw on 1962 funds so that cost sharing could be made available to those desiring to install conservation practices, in the fall, with this assistance.

One hundred ninety two requests for cost sharing assistance were approved, by the County ASCS Committee, covering practices for which the Soil Conservation Service has technical responsibilities (55 of these were approved on 1961-62 concurrent operations funds). Disposition of the 192 requests was as follows:

- a. 52 for terraces with 35 completed and 4 substantially completed
- b. 53 for sod waterways with 35 completed and 1 substantially completed
- c. 16 for erosion control dams with 10 completed and 2 substantially completed
- d. 3 for livestock ponds with 0 completed but 3 substantially completed
- e. 65 for tile drainage with 47 completed and 2 substantially completed
- f. 2 for farm drainage ditches with 0 completed
- g. 1 for planting trees and shrubs which was completed

Remaining work on these listed as substantially completed will be done in the spring of 1962.

The District really appreciates the support and cooperation given by the Cherokee County ASCS in encouraging the establishment of the more permanent soil and water conservation practices. Our thanks to Louis Bengtson, Harold Clark, Bryan Campbell, Office Manager Cliff Chapman and the ASCS office staff.

Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture

Sponsored by

Sioux City Journal-Tribune and Sioux City Chamber of Commerce

Harold Clark of Quimby, Donald DeWitt of Washta and Rodney Anderson of Larrabee were selected by the Commissioners to represent the Cherokee District in this year's program. Joe Eisenmenger (who operates the Louis Shea farm) received the Cherokee District award for most progress in conservation during the past year. All of these men were awarded certificates of merit at the banquet held at Sioux City's auditorium in November.

Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program

Sponsored by

Des Moines Register and Tribune

Cherokee District representatives in this year's program were: Arthur Nothwehr of Peterson in the owner-operator division; Filmore Gustafson, Cherokee, in the division for most progress in past year; and Frank Werthman and Robert Werthman, Cherokee, in the landlord-tenant division.

State Soil Conservation Committee

Funds are provided by the General Assembly of Iowa to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allotted to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs (as evidenced by budget submitted by the district commissioners).

State funds allotted to the Cherokee District were expended as follows in 1961:

Commissioners expenses (mileage and meals)	\$ 139.46
Tuition-(Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp)	84.00
Office Supplies	134.75
Printing Annual Report	94.95
Office Expense	25.00
	\$ 478.16

Clerical help employed by Cherokee County Soil Conservation District	3,354.79
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Total State Funds Expended	\$3,832.95
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It was reported that 1,472 people stopped at our office during 1961 to make appointments, obtain information or confer with technicians. A total of 742 telephone calls were also handled through the local District's office.

Report of the Treasurer

L. C. Bengtson -- Cherokee, Iowa

Cherokee County Soil Conservation District

December 31, 1961

GENERAL FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1961	\$112.85	\$
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	243.75	
Postage		79.32
Office Supplies		39.67
Stewardship Week Material		8.00
S. C. S. A. Contribution		20.00
Tuition to Teachers Conservation Camp		84.00
Bond for Treasurer		25.00
TOTALS	\$356.60	\$255.99
Balance on Hand December 31, 1961		100.61
TOTALS	\$356.60	\$356.60

NOTE: The \$100.61 in the District General Fund is deposited in the checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1961	\$13,456.97		
Watershed Maintenance payments received in 1961:			
Ralph Simonsen	154.00		
Mary Vollmar	121.23		
Joe Nelson	335.00		
Forrest Spencer	30.34		
D. P. McGregor Est.	420.75		
Neil Warner	45.00		
Mrs. Elsie Conley	45.00		
Harold Clark	70.00		
Clarence Pennington	70.00		
James Fee	45.00		
Edwin Beck	24.25		
Ralph Simonsen	48.50		
Joe Nelson	87.00		
P. M. Peterson Est.	90.00		
D. W. Simonsen	150.00		
Ralph Robeson	65.00		
Interest on funds on time certificates at Farmers National Bank, Aurelia.....	278.10		
Interest on Series H. Bonds	61.00		
Paid to Cherokee County Recorder for recording easements and agreements in			
Waterman-Spring Sub-watershed.....		\$	15.00
Paid to Cherokee County Recorder for release of lien			1.00
Paid to Joe Werthman for Maintenance repair work			8.10
Paid to First Abstract & Loan Company Title certificate			7.50
TOTALS	\$15,597.14	\$	31.60
Balance on Hand December 31, 1961			15,565.54
TOTALS	\$15,597.14	\$15,597.14	

NOTE: As of December 31, 1961, the \$15,565.54 in the District Maintenance Fund is deposited of as follows: \$2,000.00 in H Bonds, \$9,548.10 in Certificate of Deposit and \$4,017.44 deposited in checking account at the Farmers National Bank in Aurelia.

