

IDA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT 1958 ANNUAL REPORT

Organization

District Commissioners

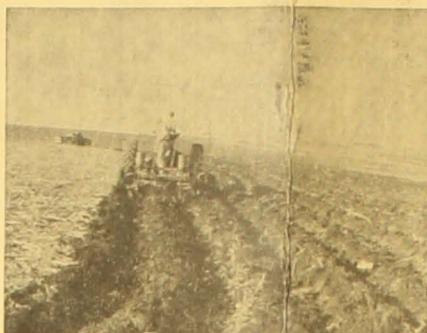
C. C. CHALLMAN, Chairman Galva
WM. ROSSOW, Vice Chairman Battle Creek
W. F. BUROW, Commissioner Battle Creek

Appointed Officers

R. D. BRESNAHAN, Treasurer Ida Grove
ARNOLD PUTENSEN, Secretary Holstein

Assisted by SCS Personnel

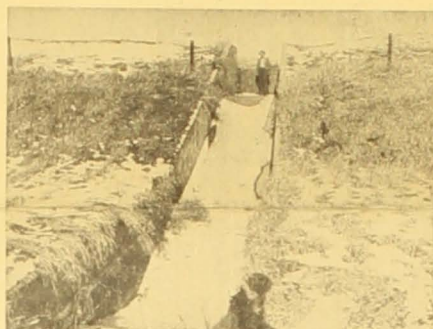
KENNETH H. BURNETT Work Unit Conservationist
HAROLD R. GODOWN Soil Conservationist
GEORGE W. WITTERS Conservation Aid
CHARLES P. BODHOLDT Conservation Aid
MRS. GLADYS THORNHILL State Clerk



Contour hard ground listing is twice as effective as contour surface planting. Level lister furrow will trap a 1 inch rain with ease. Less power and labor are required to plant the crop this way.

Accomplishments And Goals

		Accomplishments In 1958	Since 1945	Goals For 1959
New District Cooperators	(Number)	35	475	50
	(Acres)	5,637	87,214	10,200
Basic Conservation Plan	(Number)	38	387	30
	(Acres)	6,948	69,641	6,120
Revised Conservation Plan	(Number)	7		10
	(Acres)	1,598		2,040
Follow Up Calls	(Number)	205		200
Contour Layout	(Acres)	4,173	37,123	4,200
Contour Strip Cropping	(Acres)	73	1,473	100
Level Terraces	(Miles)	37	311	50
Diversion Terraces	(Miles)		4	1
Tile Drains	(Feet)	6,726	273,823	4,000
Grassed Waterway Shaping	(Acres)	30	454	50
Gully Control Structures	(Number)	8	22	7
Contour Field Boundaries	(Rods)	5,455	54,385	5,000



A chute structure such as this one will stop a gully head from eating into crop land. After the chute is installed a stable grassed waterway can be maintained up stream.

District Annual Meeting February 25, 1959 Extension Office



A single foot of these terraces will trap 120 gallons of run-off from a rain storm. On an acre basis this will add 10 bushels of corn to the crop. Level terraces are the best known method of controlling erosion on rolling Ida County farm land.

Commissioner's Funds

GENERAL FUND (From various sources)

Balance—December 31, 1957 \$ 14.76
Receipts, 1958
Expenditures, 1958 3.75
Balance, December, 1958 11.01

MAINTENANCE FUND (Held in trust by the District for the maintenance of watershed structures)

Cash on Hand, December 31, 1957 \$ 408.87
Receipts—1958 434.79
Expenditures, 1958 29.25
Cash on Hand, Dec. 31, 1958 814.41
U. S. Government Bonds on hand (Purchase Price) Dec. 31, 1958 7,804.00
U. S. Government Bonds on hand (Surrender Value) Dec. 31, 1958 8,734.10

1-A BUDGET (Received from the State of Iowa for Commissioner's expenses)

Office Supplies \$ 52.35
Commissioners Expenses 174.66
Office Expenses 76.00
Printing 75.00
Rentals 56.47
Total Expended 384.01

2-A BUDGET (Received from the State of Iowa for Clerk Salary and Equipment)

Equipment \$ 0
Clerk Salary 1,926.32
Total Expended \$1,926.32

HIGHLIGHTS of 1958

One of the main agricultural problems in this District continues to be the adequate control of erosion by all farmers. Only one-third of the operating farm units are cooperating with the District. Most of these practice contour farming, but a much smaller percentage have terraces on their farms. Level cropland terraces are still the best practice we have for controlling erosion. In many cases they will permit more intensive use of the land than is now being practiced. Economic studies indicate that net profits in this District are closely associated with the annual production of row crops.

The basic farm conservation plan is the best tool available to the District for bringing about needed adjustments in land use and the installation of supporting practices such as terracing and contouring. The District predicates most of the assistance it renders on the formulation of a basic conservation plan for the farm.

Reluctance to change from traditional farming methods to conservation methods is the biggest obstacle to general acceptance to the watershed approach to soil conservation. Of the 70 possible watersheds in the District, only 3 have been treated as a whole in the last 11 years. Most watershed groups have about 50% of the operators interested in soil conservation, education and change of ownership appear to be the best answer to obtaining the cooperation of the remaining 50%.

Seven major structures were installed this year for gully control and flood prevention. All of these were built with ACP cost-share assistance. They provide a base from which grassed waterways can be established, a source of livestock water, and a place for farm recreation.

Three Ida County farmers, Ben Ridlen, Don Goodenow, and Elvin Leonard were recognized by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and Sioux City Journal Tribune for the general excellence of the soil conservation programs on their farms. Another farmer, Fred Grell, was recognized for the volume of soil conservation work accomplished during 1958. This included a 23 thousand yard earth dam, 10½ miles of terraces, and 10 acres of waterways.

The December issue of the Iowa Soil and Water magazine featured the Ida County Soil Conservation District. Although Ida County contains

only 12 townships the support of local businessmen produced an outstanding success.

Harold R. Godown was transferred to Webster City, Iowa, as a Work Unit Conservationist. The vacancy created, has not as yet been filled.

ACP cost shares had an accelerating effect on the application of soil conservation practices. Although no exact figures are available as to how great an increase was effected, it is certain that most dams, many miles of terraces, and considerable acreages of waterways would not have been installed without this assistance.

The Ida County Extension Service has rendered distinct service to the District by informing farm people about the District's program and the values of conservation farming.

Local newspapers have published news stories, feature articles and notices on soil conservation. For the most part this has been done as a public service which is gratefully acknowledged. These papers are an excellent means of communication between the District and the people they serve.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

All of the assistance that the District and its officers has received is gratefully acknowledged. The accomplishments listed above would never have been attained without the willing cooperation of District cooperators, community leaders and businessmen.

As District Commissioners our service to the people of the Ida County Soil Conservation District has been a pleasure.

C. C. Challman, Chairman of the District
Wm. Rossow, Vice Chairman
W. F. Buraw, Commissioner