

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT

DES MOINES COUNTY

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Farm owned by Homer Woodward and operated by son Marvin had been in Woodward family over 100 years. Terraces on land help maintain fertility for present crops and preserve soil and productivity for the future.

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1955 ANNUAL REPORT of the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District

The tenth annual report is submitted to the people of the county as a record of the stewardship of the soil and water resources of the District. Farm owners and operators, with the help of Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned to the District have made marked progress in the past ten years.



District Commissioners' Meeting

Shown are, left to right: James Hodges, secretary; Walter Eyre, Commissioner; Homer Woodward, Commissioner; Hugh Jamison, Chairman; R. H. Audsley, Work Unit Conservationist and Jack Jacobs, Conservation Aid.

The Des Moines County Commissioners wish to acknowledge the cooperation of the following groups, agencies and individuals: ..A.S.C. office (formerly P.M.A.), Extension Service, County Superintendent of Schools, Vocational Agricultural instructors, public school teachers, Izaak Walton League, Mediapolis Sportman's Club, Burlington Chamber of Commerce, Conservation Commission, Veterans of Foreign

Wars, Boy Scouts, Burlington Hawk-Eye Gazette, Mediapolis New Era, Soil Conservation Service, Seed and Machinery dealers, earth moving contractors, members of the Des Moines County Conservation Club, and all other companies and individuals including the farmers who have helped in putting conservation on the land and in the hearts of the individual in the country. Especially do we want to recognize and thank the former District Commissioners for their time and expense in their effort to help the District to reach its goal.

Past Commissioners include: ..Noah Schrock, Huron township, who served from 1946 to 1947; Edwin Cling, Yellow Spring township, 1946 to 1948; John Blaul, Washington, 1946 to 1950; Howard Gieselman, Concordia township, 1947 to 1952; Kenneth Redfern, Washington township, 1948 to 1954 and Hugh Jamison, Yellow Spring township, 1950 to 1956.

The District Goal

"THE USE OF EACH ACRE OF LAND WITHIN ITS CAPABILITY AND THE TREATMENT OF EACH ACRE OF LAND IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS NEEDS FOR PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT."

This is the goal for which we strive, knowing full well that not all the land in the county will receive such consideration in the immediate future.

We do believe, however, that most land owners and operators will in time be convinced, through education and examples of neighbors, that the most practical and profitable method of production from the land is to expect and see that the land does produce according to its capability, and not at a pace that will waste and destroy the land itself in a generation or two, and forever decrease the supply of food and fiber that can be produced for our descendents.

We need to realize that the land we till is not ours alone to exploit and destroy, but a trust, as it were, a God-given natural resource created for the benefit and use of all men of past, present and future generations, to be relinquished unimpaired to generations yet unborn; relinquished in condition to produce food and fiber equal to that which we received from our forefathers. This can be done if we but decide to do it.



Curtis Darbyshire, by one of his tile outlet and erosion control structures.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 1955 AND DURING THE PAST TEN YEARS with ACTUAL SCS ASSISTANCE

	Unit	1955	To Date
Contouring	acre	940	20,505
Strip Cropping	acre		314
Pasture Renovation	acre	564	2,327
Wildlife Improvement	acre	38	136
Fish Pond Improvement	no.	48	139
Hedge Row Plantings	rods		5,955
Terracing & Diversions	miles	5.2	66
Pond Construction	no.	34	149
Drop Inlet	no.	10	52
Concrete Dams	no.	13	71
Farm Drainage	acre	252	4,677
Tile	feet	101,988	753,985
Open Ditch	miles	1.3	17.5
Open Ditch	cu. yds.	7,185	64,283
Sod Waterways	acre	32	180

Cooperators	37	448
Basic Conservation Plans	26	351
Revised Plans	3	
Farms Serviced	332	
Soil Survey	5,450	127,930

Activities 1955

The Commissioners, with the aid of the Farm Planner and other personnel of the District, carried on the following activities during the year:

	No. of Meetings	Attendance
Commissioners' Meetings	12	60
Talks to High School Classes	2	63
Tours	6	185
Films Shown	20	1,130
Interest Meetings	3	16
News Items	19	

The District has furnished tuition scholarships for four rural school teachers to attend Springbrook Conservation Camp. The tuition for Mrs. Alma Lundeen, Mediapolis; Mrs. Zenna Hillman, Burlington; and Mrs. Cleo Henry, Burlington, was paid by the District. The Mediapolis Sportsman's Club furnished the tuition for Mrs. Rothel Walker, who went with the other three during the summer of 1954. The District also paid the tuition for Mrs. Vera Pogemiller who attended in 1955.

Of the nine entries submitted from this District for the Des Moines Register and Tribune Conservation Awards contest, the following were county winners this past year: Mrs. P. Traman, owner, Flint River township; John Henry, operator, Flint River township; Lester Hamilton, owner-operator, Pleasant Grove township; Erwin Bohlen, owner-operator, Flint River township.

The Seventh Annual Farm Institute Luncheon sponsored by the Burlington Chamber of Commerce was held on January 28, 1955 to honor the farm business men who had participated in the annual soil conservation contest designed to increase and conserve soil fertility.

Thirteen contestants were awarded prizes in this event for the year 1954. Dr. George W. Browning, Associate Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa, was speaker.

Technical Assistance Available to the District

Personnel assigned by SCS

R. H. Audsley Work Unit Conservationist
Jack Jacobs Conservation Aid

State Personnel

Mrs. Isabelle Fuller Clerk
David Asby Technical Aid
Larry Kelley Technical Aid

Other SCS Personnel assisting District

Lyll Mitchell Area Conservationist
Marion Clark Area Engineer
Stanley Simmons Engineering Aid
John Wooster Soil Scientist