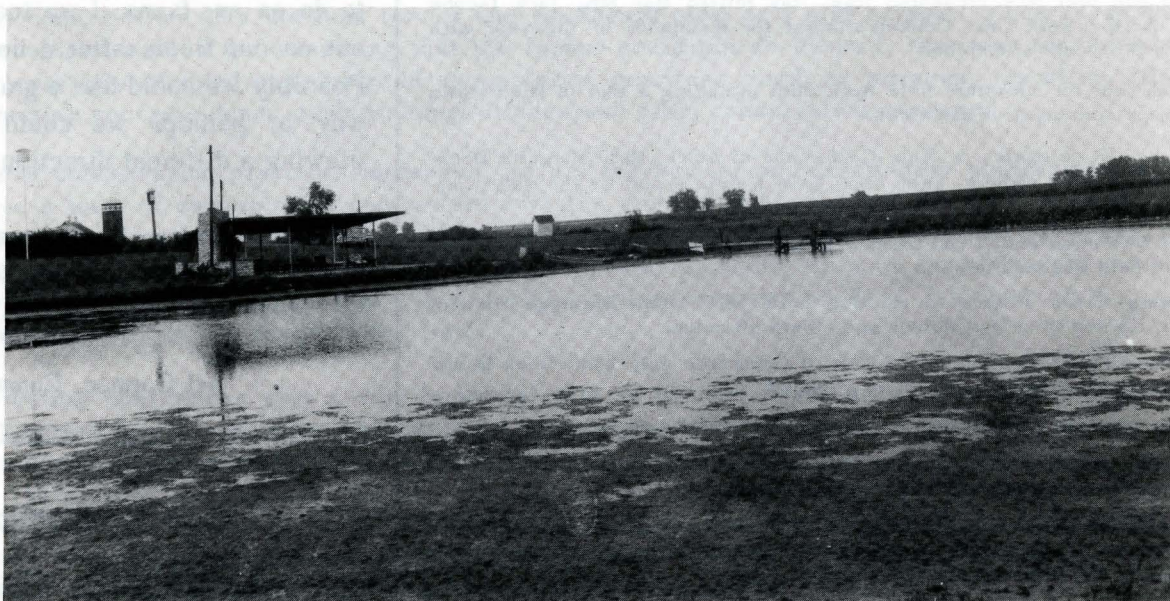


DES MOINES COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1964 - Nineteenth Annual Report - Federal Bldg., - Burlington, Iowa



1964 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

PRACTICE	UNITS	1964	TO-DATE
Brush and Weed Control	Ac.	45	489
Conservation Cropping System	Ac.	1,054	33,322
Contour Farming	Ac.	260	28,971
Diversion Terraces	Ft.	2,940	33,638
Erosion Control Dams	No.	22	329
Farm Ponds	No.	22	445
Fish Pond Stocking	No.	10	401
Grassed Waterways	Ac.	23	453
Group Jobs Completed	No.	3	3
Land Clearing	Ac.	380	999
Livestock Exclusion	Ac.	173	173
Obstruction Removal	Ac.		27
Open Ditch	Ft.	6,500	771,134
Pasture & Hayland Renovation	Ac.	1,018	5,991
Pasture Planting	Ac.		1,243
Pipeline for Livestock Water	Ft.	2,137	38,546
Terrace Gradient	Ft.		516,833
Tile Drain	Ft.	196,772	2,432,602
Tile System Structure	No.	3	130
Tree Planting	Ac.	50	250
Wildlife Habitat Development	Ac.		506
Woodland Improvement	Ac.		7

New Cooperators	18	Revised Plans	21	News Items	77
Basic Plans	9	Follow-Up	122	Radio Talks	59

Phone Calls 688

Office Callers 1489

SOIL CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENTS - CHANGE WITH TIMES

While rainfall during the past year did not measure up to average for this part of Iowa, we feel it was a good season for conservation practices. First, to conserve the limited amount of moisture we received and secondly, it was a perfect year to build structures in preparation for years with above average rainfall, which are sure to follow. Conservation structures, are built easier and usually cheaper when the contractors accomplish more in a given time in dry seasons.

Continuous cropping has forced its way to the top of the agricultural picture, resulting from confinement of livestock and higher grain prices. Larger units of machinery and improved technology in pesticides and herbicides make heavier cropping of land a natural trend. Limited working of soil to enable it to retain more rainfall, leaving grass waterways, terracing, contour plowing and planting and using herbicides to eliminate some cultivation might be considered to conserve our soil.

Where farm ownership has changed recently, it might be well to take a good look at what could be done for soil conservation improvement. Remember that our district Soil Conservation Service Personnel are for your assistance. Invite them out to get their idea of your soil conservation needs.

Eugene Schulte, Chairman

HIGH-LIGHTS FOR 1964

Election for Commissioners for 6 year term held in February. Kenneth Redfern, Judge, C. E. Pilling and Roy Anderson as Clerks. Candidates were Curtis Darbyshire and Harold Yohe. Harold was elected for the 6 year term.

60 Stewardship Booklets mailed to all ministers of the county.

A dinner was held at the Arion in honor of Ray Audsley and wife, retiring after 29 years service. A Plaque of 17 years service in Des Moines County and fishing rod and reel was presented Ray. Ray retired May 8th, Jack Jacobs served as Acting Work Unit Conservationist for remainder of the year with exception of the month of October.

Conservation tour for ministers held April 28th including a tour of Middletown Mills and many conservation practices.

Sponsored two 4H delegates to State Conference at Ames, Mary Margaret Dockendorff and Rolland Lambert. They each gave a nice report at the July Commissioners meeting.

Mrs. Esther Duncan attended 2nd session of State Teachers Conservation Camp. The District paid \$42 scholarship.

Yellow Spring Creek Watershed meeting held July 10th. Drainage District Board, L. J. Larson from Des Moines and others attended.

Proposed Flint Creek meeting at Chamber of Commerce July 14th. Dock Board Army Engineer, Rock Island and others attended.

Ray Audsley gave the District \$25 for the revolving fund.

Horace Sutton reported on Crown Vetch harvested for seed production. 50 pounds of seed returned to District for further seed increase.

Dinner held at Arion in honor of Carl Anderson, who resigned as Agronomist at IAAP, accepted Civil Service position with the government, office located Rock Island, Illinois. Art Corman represented the District.

The District sponsored Jon Findley, General Science and Biology teacher at Mediapolis to Conservation Work Shop October 9-10. Jon gave a fine report at the October Commissioners meeting.

The resignation of James Hodges, secretary of District for 13 years, effective October 31st. Harold Linder was appointed secretary for the district.

New Work Unit Conservationist, Bill Boust started October 5th, from Audubon County. Resigned November 6th to work for a fertilizer company.

A drive to raise funds for the purchase of a tree planter for use in the county was started in November.

Conservation films to Madison Junior High School.

Eight T. A. P. meetings held during the year.

SOIL AND WATER

Conservation is something to talk about in these times of high production and talk of still higher output. But I often wonder if each one of us couldn't find something worth while to do on our farms if we took a walk out on our fields after a heavy rain. Possibly we could use a grass waterway or perhaps we could help by plowing a different direction.

I think we owe it to ourselves and our heirs to save this wonderful soil we have in Des Moines County.

Art Corman, Commissioner

TREE PLANTER

AVAILABLE 1965

There will be a forester tree planter available to farmers in the county for their use in planting trees in 1965.

The planting of trees is reforestation, soil and water conservation and cover for wild life.

CONTROL YOUR GULLIES

A farm with gullies eating back into the land has always seemed to me, to be a great waste. Farmers often seem to think that if a ditch or gully has been there for a long time nothing can be done about it. With the help of our Soil Conservation people and the modern heavy equipment available today, all this can be changed, if you want it to be. They can give you advice, recommend changes and show you how to do these things better and often cheaper. You have to ask their help and have the work done, however, government cost sharing is available.

You are already paying taxes on these gullies and ditches why not get some use out of the land they take up. It will not only make your farm look better but increase the value of the farm as well.

I like to think of Soil Conservation personnel as farm plastic surgeons. The plastic surgeon can do wonders for a woman's face and the Soil Conservation personnel, with your help, can do wonders for a man's farm

This is just one of the many services available but one I get a lot of satisfaction out of, by being one of your Soil Commissioners, I can help do something about this great waste.

Harold Yohe, Commissioner

A SALUTE TO THE CONSERVATION CONTRACTORS

Conservation Contractors are a new breed of builders and doers, and they are important in getting conservation work done in the Des Moines County Soil Conservation District. They co-operate with the local Soil Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service to form a team that is doing much towards the installation of the engineered soil and water conservation practices.

Fifteen to twenty years ago the conservation practices installed on the farms were the "do it yourself" type of construction with the farm tractor and moldboard plow or a slip scraper. Since those days there has developed a need for something that the farmer could not do himself, this was for the installation of the carefully planned and designed conservation practices, such as terraces, installing tile drains, constructing concrete dams, open drainage ditches and other conservation measures.

As these conservation practices increased, so did the number of conservation contractors, until today we have a team of conservation contractors with the type of equipment and the skill to install any conservation practice that they may be called on to construct. These contractors and their skills did not happen overnight, but have developed through the years, by their desire to do high quality work. Many of them have attended contractors schools and training programs to keep informed of the needs and new developments in the conservation field.

Conservation contractors play a very important role in the soil and water conservation program of the local District. Their operations contribute to the economy of the community, plus their efforts of saving more soil and water for future use.

A special thanks should go to all contractors working in Des Moines County in 1964. Their fine co-operation in scheduling work and then their fine workmanship of construction and completion of practices have contributed greatly to the number of completed practices for the year.

With the limited Soil Conservation Service personnel in the county during the year, your efforts have been greatly appreciated.

Jack Jacobs, Conservation Technician

DISTRICT PERSONNEL

Eugene Schulte,	Chairman
Art Corman,	Commissioner
Harold Yohe,	Commissioner
James Hodges,	Secretary (resigned October 31st)
Harold Linder,	Secretary (November & December)
Horace Sutton,	Treasurer

Richard Charbonneaux,	Assistant Commissioner
Harold Linder,	Assistant Commissioner
Lloyd Schmeiser,	Assistant Commissioner

AREA ADVISORY PERSONNEL

Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist
Marion Clark, Area Agricultural Engineer
Mack R. Miller, Area Soil Scientist
Mrs. Margaret Dickey, Area Clerk

WORK UNIT PERSONNEL

R. H. Audsley, Work Unit Conservationist
(retired May 8th)
Wm. H. Boust, Jr., Work Unit Conservationist
(month of October)
Jack Jacobs, Conservation Technician
Walter Brown, part-time WAE & State Aid
Mildred Kleinkopf, State Clerk

STATE FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE DISTRICT

1M BUDGET

Total Expended

\$ 456.52

This fund is made available to the district for commissioners incidental expenses incurred in carrying out the district program.

2M BUDGET

Total Expended

\$4,253.21

This fund is made available to the district for hiring a full time clerk and a part-time technician during the heavy work load period.



We, the Commissioners of Des Moines County wish to thank the various services, organizations, State of Iowa, individuals and everyone who helped to make 1964 a successful year in putting practices on the land and conserving our soil for future generations.

Eugene Schulte,	Chairman
Art Corman,	Commissioner
Harold Yohe,	Commissioner

COMMENTS

As I have worked with the farmers these past 12 years in Des Moines County, I can be quite proud of the conservation practices that they have installed on their land. In the many conversations with farmers, a typical comment has been, "When I bought this farm there was this 10 or 12 foot gully cutting clear across this farm and now look at it today, you can drive in a car anywhere on the farm and have no gullies to cross." This, I am glad to say, tells me the farmers are proud of the erosion control dams, grassed waterways and the tile drainage that has made possible the closing of many of the old raw gullies.

But now may I guide and direct our thinking one step further. This would be to the many very small rills or what is known as sheet erosion that is taking place on our many acres of sloping land in the county. These small rills are what we see in our fields after a hard rain, but can go out with a disk or cultivator and erase and then convince ourselves that we did not lose any soil through erosion. With this we are only kidding ourselves, because we are losing the most fertile part of our remaining top soil.

Let us remember that we are here with control of this land, so very few years, but that we will leave our mark on the land for the next generations to comment about. As we have commented about the past generations leaving us the open gullies, let not the future generations ask, "When the people of the 1960's had the technical assistance and the equipment with which to control the sheet erosion, why didn't they accept it?"

So let us now at the beginning of 1965 all say to ourselves that our mark on this land will be the many ponds, erosion control dams, beautiful grassed waterways, and also many many acres of contouring and many miles of terraces.

Technical assistance may be had on any conservation practice at the Soil Conservation Service Office, Burlington, Iowa.

Jack Jacobs, Conservation Technician