

1960 Annual Report
West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District
Council Bluffs, Iowa



Pictured above is a four-row lister planting corn on a terrace

District Commissioners

Louie Fahrenkrog, Chairman

Donald Bladt, Vice-Chairman

Eldon Ravlin, Commissioner

County Extension Director

Cliff Johnson, Secretary

Assistant Commissioners

Charles Brandt

Jack O'Hara

Joe Osborn

Technicians

Richard A. Hogue, Work Unit Conservationist

Oliver A. Hall, Conservation Aid

Perry L. Thomas, Conservation Aid

FORWARD

In presenting our 16th Annual Report to the Cooperators of the West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District we take a great deal of pride in the progress made in our District in these past 16 years. In maintaining and improving our land we assure ourselves and our children of the best possible chance for a better and more productive life. Improper use and neglect of the land has brought us to the crossroads. From now on unless we move rapidly and effectively in the field of Soil and Water Conservation not only do we suffer individually, but the Nation as a whole is also the loser. Good land use is everyone's problem. We ask your cooperation.

Louie Fahrenkrog,
Chairman

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND NEEDS

Practices	1960 Accomplishments	1961 Goal	On The Land	District Needs
District Coop. No.	72	40	1,149	1,700 *
Basic Plans No.	41	30	835	1,700 *
Revised Plans No.	16	20	181	
Follow-up No.	163	150		
Structure No.	12	10	88	1,600
Grass Waterway Ac.	72	50	1,786	5,245
Terraces (all) Mi.	59	74	2,011	9,000
Open Ditch (all) Mi.	8	6	97	325
Land Leveling Ac.	66	200	1,011	22,800
Contouring Ac.	7,419	4,000	102,094	183,000

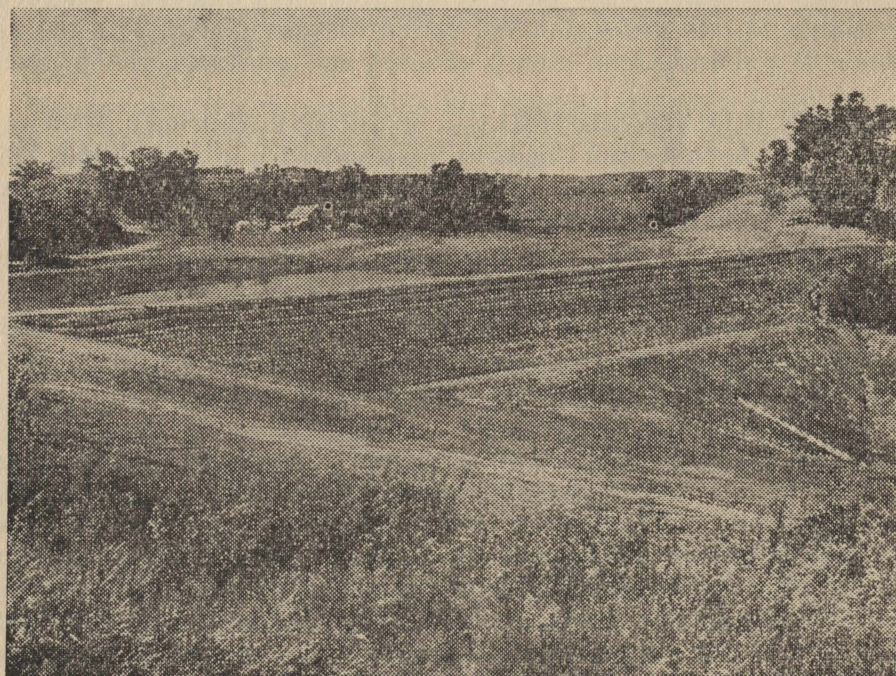
* Represents a decrease in farms of 300 since 1950 according to 1960 census.

We would like to draw your attention to the right hand column headed District Needs. Over a period of a few years a study committee on Conservation needs in this district came up with these estimates. The job left to be done is not an impossible one and with an increase in help the progress could be speeded up. Reaching the district's goal of complete conservation on every farm in this district is indeed a challenge.

These pictures show a typical gully problem and its solution in this area.



BEFORE — The gully is eating away at good farm land and is endangering the buildings and roads.



AFTER — The earth dam with pipe outlet stops the gully and provides a pool of water for livestock, wildlife and other uses.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The District Commissioners combined an election with a cut and fill terrace demonstration on the Harold Clize farm in Boomer Twp. as part of Soil Conservation Week activities. Louie Fahrenkrog was re-elected for a 6 year term and Eldon Ravlin who had been serving on appointment was elected for a two year term.

Five of our local contractors constructed approximately one mile of cut and fill terraces before a crowd of over 100 spectators. These were the first terraces of this type built in the district and the contractors donated their time during the Field Day. The site since has been visited by a number of groups and individuals interested in doing similar projects. A good many District Cooperators are now installing these improved alignment terraces which make farming terraces much easier.

CONSERVATION IN SCHOOLS — The first Outdoor Education Class ever held in the District was conducted for the Peterson School 6th grade in the spring of 1960. This was a cooperative effort of the Council Bluffs School Officials, Extension Service, Local Conservation Officer, Soil Conservation Service Technicians and the District Governing Body. This program was well received and given good publicity. A similar program was held for the Rue School this fall. It appears that this program will become increasingly popular and the District Commissioners are pleased to see that educators recognize the need for teaching conservation.

We are gratified to note that the Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs is offering for the first time a course in Conservation.

WATERSHEDS

The newest approach to conservation is the watershed movement in which an entire area in one drainage system is evaluated for complete treatment including terraces, structures and all supporting practices. There is a great need for them in Western Iowa. The farmers are becoming more aware of their need day by day.

West Pottawattamie now has five watersheds organized. The existing organized watersheds are found to be short on upland treatment, this has lowered their priority for final approval. The amount of terraces, grassed waterways, and contour planting are what counts as to the priority that the watershed gets for a survey crew and final work plan. The more upland treatment completed by the cooperators the sooner the final approval of the watershed.

INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED is a cooperative project between the Soil Conservation Service and the Army Engineers. The work plan has been prepared and approved by the sponsors and is scheduled to go before the Resource Council in February of 1961. Farmers in this watershed are urged to put on as many practices as possible in 1961.

PONY CREEK WATERSHED which has 1,536 acres in West Pottawattamie and 18,350 acres in Mills met in the fall of 1960 and approved the work plan. Our Lewis Twp. cooperators at the upper-end of this watershed have a lot of upland treatment (terraces, contouring, etc.) which has helped this watershed along but the planning party did not suggest any structures in this county.

RYAN-HENSCHAL WATERSHED has 9,600 acres of which 6,000 acres are on the contour. There are 101 miles of terraces and it could use another 100 miles. There are 40 acres of waterways completed and 25 acres more are needed. There are 5 miles of diversion terraces and more could be used to good advantage.

There are 70 farms in the watershed of which 60 have District Agreements and 51 have Basic Farm Plans.

The Ryan-Henschal Watershed was organized in June of 1958 and approved by the Soil Conservation Committee in the fall of 1959. A survey party was in the watershed last February and returned with a preliminary plan last fall which was approved by the sponsors.

More of all practices are needed. Each farmer should be thinking of and making plans to add more upland treatment this year, wherever he possibly can, in order that the entire watershed will meet the requirements when the final plan is adopted and construction is to start.

SIMON RUN WATERSHED was organized in February, 1960 and approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee in June, 1960. This group is now building up the land treatment in the hope of getting an early planning party assignment.

Simon Run is a 4,175 acre watershed in Hazel Dell Twp. The 32 District Cooperators who organized this watershed have made some fine progress with the following increases taking place since their organization. Basic Plans increased from 24 to 31, terraces from 34 to 39 miles and waterways up to 29 acres from 26 acres.

TWIN PONIES WATERSHED covers an area of 21,640 acres, (Largely in Lewis Twp.). They held their first meeting in March, 1960, filed application with the State Committee in August and won approval in November of 1960. This watershed is the largest one so far approved in this district and it includes considerable bottom land in the Pony Drainage District which it covers. Benefits from all kinds of conservation work can run very high in this kind of watershed with gullies to control in the upland and rich bottom land to protect below. The State Committee has re-emphasized the need for a considerable build up of terraces and other conservation measures on this watershed.

BUDGET

For Fiscal Year 1959-1960

1A—Commissioners Expense

Office Supplies	\$162.38
Commissioners Mileage	159.32
Office Expense	53.50
Rental	25.00
Demonstrations	52.16
Meeting Expenses	1.64
	\$455.00

2A—Help & Equipment

Clerical & Technical Salaries	\$5,520.00
Equipment	19.10
	\$5,539.10

THANKS

Soil Conservation has made a tremendous advancement this past year. We would like to take this means to thank the different agencies which have helped to make this program so successful.

The Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agriculture, Stabilization & Conservation, Board of Supervisors, State and National Legislators and the Schools have all helped to make these programs a success.

We want to express our appreciation to the State Soil Conservation Committee, State and National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and Iowa Conservation Commission for the fine cooperation they have given us this past year with our program.

Our program must have good publicity to be understood and used to the fullest. The newspapers, radio, and television stations have done a fine job of keeping conservation before the public.

We would like to pay special tribute to C. W. McManamy for the wonderful service he has rendered to the over-all conservation program.

West Pottawattamie Soil
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