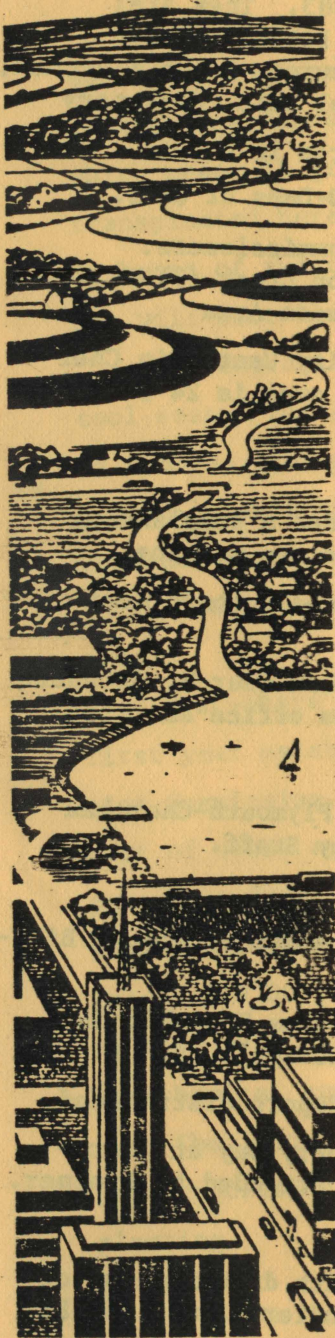


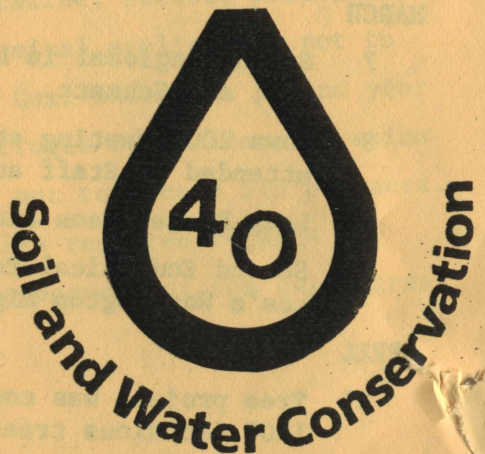
CHEROKEE

COUNTY



SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

**1984
ANNUAL REPORT**



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES - 1984

JANUARY

- 2 Officers are the same as in 1983. They are:
Max E. Mugge, Chairman; Linda Bindner, Vice-
chairman; Loren Schuett, Treasurer; Bruce Klaschen,
Little Sioux Works Repr.; Carol Hein, Secretary
- 17-18 Bindner attended Short Course in Ames.
- 24 Paid State Dues of \$150 & NACD Dues of \$375.
- 24 Watershed Priorities set by Commissioners:
(1) Combined AFMSCS (2) Pierson Creek (3) Willow-
Rock (4) Galva Schaller (5) Green Area
- 30 Technicians meeting at Community Center in Cher-
okee for Iowa 2000. Targeted area is 24 Sections
of Grand Meadow.

FEBRUARY

- 8 Braband, Mugge, Bindner attended a preplanning
meeting at Sanborn for legislators meeting.
- 11 Braband, Mugge, Bindner attended Sanborn meet-
ing with legislators.
- 21 Iowa 2000 meeting at Meadow Star Church. Attended
by Commissioners & Staff. Area office assisted.
- 21 1984 Work Plan accepted.
- 23 Joint Contractors Meeting of Plymouth-Cherokee
Counties in LeMars attended by Staff.

MARCH

- 7 Spring Regional in LeMars attended by Mugge, Bind-
ner, and Schuett.
- 8 Iowa 2000 Meeting at Grand Meadow Township Hall
attended by Staff and SCS personnel.
- 19 Long Range Plans and Annual Report distributed.
- 24 Second Ecumenical Town & Country Day at Chero-
kee's Washington High School attended by Bindner.

APRIL

- 17 Tree project was completed with distribution of
1300 deciduous trees, 100 conifers & 600 shrubs.
Windbreak & wildlife plantings were promoted.

Why Plant Switchgrass??

by Jeff Kestel

Switchgrass can supply excellent forage for
cattle during the hot summer months, when cool season
grasses are dormant. Switchgrass is native to Iowa
which means it grew here naturally and has not been
transplanted here from some other location. Estab-
lishment of switchgrass may require a year or more
but will last indefinitely if properly managed.

Switchgrass in a pasture rotation system with
cool season forage is more efficient since cattle can
be removed from exhausted pastures in late June,
placed on switchgrass during July and August, then
returned to coolseason pastures during the fall.
This allows continuous grazing through the growing
season.

Cost-share of 50% is now available for the
first year establishment through the Iowa Conserva-
tion Commission. This will include cost-share on
cost of seed, agricultural lime, phosphorus and
potassium fertilizer, atrazine, seedbed preparation,
seeding, rolling, and chemical application not to
exceed \$60.00 per acre. Cost-share the second year
is also available for nitrogen fertilizer, atrazine
and chemical application not to exceed \$15 per acre.

The land owner is also required to sign a 5
year contract covering management of the switchgrass
planting.

The First 50 Cooperators of Cherokee County

1944 - 1946

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. J. F. Ralston | 26. F. O. Mortenson |
| 2. Knox Montgomery | 27. Carl & Ernest Dahlquist |
| 3. Frank Kohn | 28. Mrs. Ida Nelson |
| 4. Paul Peterson | 29. P. M. Peterson |
| 5. Eric A. Carlson | 30. Ralph Peterson |
| 6. Eric Gustafson | 31. Ralph Robeson |
| 7. Frank Waddell | 32. J. W. Clow |
| 8. Dan Hankens | 33. Steele Farms |
| 9. Irven Porter | 34. John Becker |
| 10. Arthur Dorr | 35. Harvey Harrison |
| 11. Howard Fee | 36. Elmer Stablefeld |
| 12. Gilman Fee | 37. Clarence Pennington |
| 13. George Turner | 38. Oscar Case |
| 14. C. R. Bush | 39. Gust Berglund |
| 15. Guy Akers | 40. Guy Ray |
| 16. John Ihms | 41. Jud Miller |
| 17. Robert Olson | 42. George Zwick |
| 18. W. H. Bishcel | 43. Walter Graves |
| 19. Vic Carlson | 44. P. O. McWilliams |
| 20. W. J. McWilliams | 45. J. D. Burrel |
| 21. Charles Perry | 46. Karl Gesland |
| 22. Ralph Kludas | 47. Vic Carlson |
| 23. Oscar Gustafson | 48. Sanford Memorial |
| 24. W.E. & O.K. Simonsen | 49. Kendell Palmer |
| 25. Mrs. Eva Wilson | 50. Ernest Carstens |

FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 1983 - June 30, 1984

I-M Budget Allocation	\$ 1,800.00	
Additional Request	159.19	
Total Allocation	\$ 1,959.19	
Expenses:		
Commissioners Expenses	\$ 1,613.05	
Office Supplies & Expense	212.55	
Printing	107.50	
Release to Department	26.09	
	\$ 1,959.19	\$ 1,959.19

3-M Budget Allocation 82-83		\$ 28,060.71
Funds Paid Out	\$ 27,371.46	
Funds Released	689.25	
	\$ 28,060.71	\$ 28,060.71

Budget Allocation 83-84		\$ 46,712.00
Funds Paid Out	\$ 17,009.31	
Funds Obligated	21,335.76	
Funds Unobligated	8,366.93	
	\$ 46,712.00	\$ 46,712.00

District Watershed Maintenance Fund		
Balance on Hand 7/1/83		\$ 71,926.00
Watershed Payments	127.50	
Interest	6,088.53	6,216.03
Sub Total	\$ 6,216.03	78,142.03
Expenses		138.95
Balance On Hand 6/30/84		\$ 78,003.08

District General Fund		
Balance on Hand 7/1/83		\$ 3,729.93
Income		2,222.96
Sub Total		5,952.89
Expenses		2,447.67
Balance on Hand 6/30/84		\$ 3,505.22

SOILS

By David Reeves

As of May 1985, the Cherokee County Soil Survey Party has mapped 245,000 acres or 67% of the county. Much of the northern part of the county and the east and west sides are complete. Mapping this spring is concentrated in the southern and central parts of the county. Mapping is scheduled for completion in the summer of 1986.

The Cherokee County Soil Survey Report will be published in 1988. The first part will have about 100 pages explaining the soils as to their agricultural potential, and engineering properties of soils, and other uses of soils. The second part will be the 72 soil maps that cover the county.

Soils information in areas that are completed is available at the Soil Conservation District office in Cherokee. After the county is completed in 1986 an interim report will be published and made available for use until the final report is available.

Members of the soil survey party are Dale Ceolla, party leader; David Reeves, and Michael Hosbein, soil scientists.

* * * * *

Conservation doesn't cost, it pays!!

MAY

No Till Promoted

JUNE

- 15 Schuett entered as 'Outstanding Commissioner'
- 25 Don Frevert, an engineer from State Office, accompanied the D.C. and Commissioners on a Watershed Inspection Tour.

JULY

- 3 D.C. Braband retired.
- 5,6,7,8 - County fair booth staffed by Commissioners
- 17 Braband hired as Watershed Inspector.

AUGUST

- 10 Dana Holland started as State Aide
- 15 No Till demonstration at Aurelia attended by Schuett & Klaschen.
- 21 Bindner assisted with Iowa State Fair Booth
- 26 Jo Ann Easton started as Technician (WAE)

SEPTEMBER

- 4 Fall Regional at LeMars attended by Schuett, Mugge, & Bindner.

The area was toured in September by Ida Cuthbertson of Washington D.C. with Commissioners. She was assigned to Berkley Bedell's office for six months. Her goal was to gain knowledge in 'the operation of all soil conservation practices.'

OCTOBER

- 3 Osborn started tour of duty as Dist. Conservationist

NOVEMBER

- 8 Schuett attended Ward Convention of Western Iowa Conservancy District as a delegate.
- 26-28 38th Annual Conference in Des Moines attended by Bindner and Osborn.

DECEMBER

- 6 Little Sioux Works Committee held at Anthon attended by Klaschen and D.C. Osborn.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

10/1/83 - 9/30/84

District Cooperators	No.	42
Conservation Plans	Ac.	1,881
Terraces	Ft.	229,593
Conservation Tillage (No Till)	Ac.	1,216
Contouring	Ac.	3,122
Farmsteads & Feedlot Windbreaks	Ac.	12

* * * * *

Keeping Iowa Green

by Renee Braun

Iowa trees have played an important part in the development of the state by providing fuel and material for homes, protecting watershed, and conserving the soil. Tree plantings in Cherokee County should be completed by May 15th. Tree planting stock which has been held in cold storage, may be planted as late as May 31st. The spring of 1984 was ideal for tree plantings due to the wet and cool conditions that existed.

Windbreaks are still a popular conservation practice in Cherokee County. ASCS gave cost share assistance to 12 applicants and just over 4 acres of windbreaks were installed. More lilac are being planted rather than deciduous trees.

"a handful of individuals have always taken care of the resources at their feet - not always because it was fashionable but because it was right".

Conservation: Then and Now

by Scott Osborn, D.C.

This spring will mark the 40th Anniversary of organized soil and water conservation efforts by Cherokee County's farmers and conservationists.

Over those past 40 years, we have seen many events, individuals, and conservation practices that have played an important role in getting conservation measures installed to protect our valuable soil and water resources.

Some of these important events include: the terrace demonstration on the Eldred Beeghly farm in 1937; the whirlwind terrace construction project on the Iver Johnson farm in 1948; and the Pilot-Rock contour plowing and terrace building matches.

Another key event in the county's conservation movement was the formation of the Soil Conservation District in 1944. The main function of the District is to educate, inform, and assist landusers with their soil erosion problems and to provide solutions. It is the responsibility of the Soil Conservation Service to help provide this technical assistance.

Many of these events would not have materialized without the efforts of many concerned individuals, such as James Fee, C.C. Martin, and Clarence Bengston, who were the District's first commissioners. J. Ford Ralston became the first conservation cooperator. Carl Fritche and Harvey Lindberg were the first Soil Conservation personnel to assist the district with their programs.

Conservation practices have also changed over the past 40 years. In the past, meadow and hay in the crop rotation were common. As the rotations became more intensively row cropped, we begin to see more erosion problems and a need for different conservation practices.

Terraces have also changed over the years from the older broadbase style to the more modern grassed backslope and narrow base terraces.

Tillage practices are also changing. Fall and spring plowing are being replaced by reduced and no-till systems to leave more protective cover on the soil surface.

In this, the year of Keeping Iowa Green, it is important for us, as stewards of the land, to protect our valuable topsoil so that we can continue to grow our crops.

NO-TILL

by Loren Schuett

This will be my 20th crop using no-till in 1985. Both corn and soybeans are done this way. I have soil that has not had a plow or disc used for tillage for 15 years. This has been almost in continuous corn during this time, and I will challenge the production against any form of tillage production.

There are some management decisions that need to be done differently than where tillage is used. I believe fertilizer should be placed into the soil rather than on top. I use a starter for corn and knife in nitrogen.

The herbicide is surface applied, mostly pre plant for corn production and pre emerge for soybean production with a burn down used at this time. This has never failed to give excellent weed control. One thing for sure is that no more herbicide need be used than any other tillage crop production.

Some observations on no-till. It is certainly the least expensive form of soil conservation that can be applied to the land. Nature makes the best seed bed available for seed to germinate. The soil becomes and stays far more mellow and porous than when it is tilled because of far less compaction. There seem to be many more earth worms which aerate the soil and allow rain to penetrate much better. The cost of production is cut because less machines are needed and much less time to produce the crops commonly grown in Iowa.

#

The Mississippi River alone carries off enough land annually to build an island 1 mile long, 1/4 mile wide, and 200 feet high.

* Started

COMMISSIONERS

** Retired

Max E. Mugge, Chairman	Cleghorn
Linda Bindner, Vice-chairman	Marcus
Loren Schuett, Treasurer	Holstein
Bruce Klaschen, Member	Cherokee
James R. Corrington, Member	Cherokee

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS

Vere Corrington	Cherokee
Joe V. Dessel	Cherokee
Gladys Schroeder	Cherokee
Ron Dudley	Cherokee

FIELD OFFICE STAFF

Bernard Braband **7/3/84	District Conservationist
Scott Osborn *10/3/84	District Conservationist
Jeff Kestel	Soil Conservationist
Renee Braun	Soil Conservationist
Jo Ann Easton *9/26/84	Soil Technician WAE
Dana Holland *9/10/84	State Aide
Carol Hein	Clerk, District Secretary

SOIL SURVEY STAFF

Dale Ceolla	Soil Scientist (Party Leader)
David Reeves	Soil Scientist
Michael Hosbein	Soil Scientist

AREA OFFICE STAFF

Wallis Tonsfeldt **10/3/84	Area Conservationist
John Vogel	Resource Conservationist
Richard Hall	Area Engineer
Judith Rathel	Clerk
Margaret Walker	Clerk

IOWA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Joe Swartz (stationed at LeMars)	District Forester
Thomas Neal (stationed at Spencer)	Wildlife Biologist

As Commissioners of the Cherokee District,
we are appreciative and grateful for the
excellent cooperation and assistance given
by so many individuals, organizations,
agencies, businesses, and news media for
their continuing interest in furthering
the conservation program in our county.

THANK YOU!

CHEROKEE CO. SOIL CONSERVATION COMMISSIONERS

Max E. Mugge

Loren Schuett

Linda Bindner

Bruce Klaschen

James Corrington