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ANNUAL REPORT

GUTHRIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 1 to December 31, 1946

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GUTHRIE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

January 1 to December 31, 1946
Guthrie Center, Iowa

Beliefs for operation of the District were adopted and made a part of the program and work plan. The job of getting conservation on the land involved two things in particular in the minds of the commissioners. One was that of over-all education to the farmer and the general public of the District and its policies and of the needs for conservation of our natural resources. The other was that of giving technical assistance to farmers in developing their conservation plans and in layout of conservation practices.

Responsibility for education was given to the County Extension Director and responsibility for the technical planning and application to the Soil Conservation Service. This policy was in accord with the Memoranda signed with these two agencies. At the same time we solicited the aid of all agencies and groups, such as the Iowa Farmers, etc. Credit agencies, City Schools, Board of Supervisors, County Superintendent of Schools to assist the Commissioners and the other agencies in working together to get the job done. It was this combination which had a part in setting up the policies and all are given due recognition for the progress outlined in this report.

Commissioners:

The policy for administration of the District was left to the commissioners. It was decided that regular business meetings be held on the second Wednesday.

- Ross Smith, Chairman
- H. P. H. Wedemeyer
- Clarence Middlebaugh
- Don Gardner, Secretary

The group approach for work planning was adopted. Through group action many desirable things could be accomplished. More efficient use of individual time would result. Small groups can often get together in solving some problem that an individual cannot do. /s/ Ross T. Smith, Chairman
Ross Smith, Chairman
/s/ Donald Gardner, Secretary
Donald Gardner, Secretary

January 1 to December 31, 1946

acknowledged

This is the first annual report of the Guthrie County Soil Conservation District. The first three or four months of 1946 were devoted to organization of the board of commissioners and development of the program and plan of work.

The first order of business at the first commissioners' meeting in December, 1945 was the election of chairman and secretary. Ross P. Smith of Guthrie Center was chosen as chairman and Don Gardner, Guthrie County Extension Director, as secretary. Mr. Smith had been elected as commissioner for the first two year term and the term of office for both chairman and secretary were set for two years.

The Basic Memorandum of understanding with the United States Department of Agriculture was signed by the Secretary of Agriculture on March 29, 1946. This Memorandum of Understanding provided the basis for cooperation between the District and any agency in the Department of Agriculture. Supplemental Memoranda were signed with the Extension Service and Soil Conservation Service on April 3, 1946.

Policies for operation of the District were adopted and made a part of the program and work plan. The job of getting conservation on the land involved two things in particular in the minds of the commissioners. One was that of over-all education to inform farmers and the general public of the District and its policies and of the needs for conservation of our natural resources. The other phase was that of giving technical assistance to farmers in developing farm conservation plans and in layout of conservation practices.

Responsibility for education was given to the County Extension Director and responsibility for the technical planning and application to the Soil Conservation Service. This policy was in accord with the Memoranda signed with these two agencies. At the same time we solicited the aid of all agencies and groups, such as the Farm Bureau, AAA, Credit Agencies, City Schools, Board of Supervisors, County Superintendent of Schools to assist the Commissioners and the other agencies in working together to get the job done. It was this combination which had a part in sitting up the policies and all are given due recognition for the program outlined in this report.

The policy for administration of the District was left to the commissioners. It was decided that regular business meetings would be held once a month on the second Wednesday.

The group approach for farm planning was adopted. It was felt that through group action many desirable things would be accomplished. More efficient use of technical time would result. Small groups can often get together in solving some problem that an individual cannot do. Through a series of meetings, questions can be raised and discussed and an exchange of experiences will be of mutual benefit. Through the use of community leaders who want to do a thorough job themselves, others in the neighborhood can be given an opportunity to gain knowledge and experience at the same time. So far this policy has proven sound this first year.