

Cherokee County
**SOIL
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT**

*Annual Report
for 1954*

by the
**DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS**

Introduction

We, as commissioners, are taking this opportunity to express our appreciation to the landowners and operators in a small watershed, three miles southwest of Quimby, for a big job well done.

The owners and operators of the land in this watershed are: John Hodgdon, his son Lynn, Mrs. Elsie Conley, Peter Engle, D. P. McGregor, Cliff Conley, Jesse Ruring, Mrs. Clara Kissinger, Stanley Bos, James R. Fee, his sons Duane, Russel and Keith, and Peter Carstens.

The above named ladies and gentlemen own or operate over 97% of the land involved in this watershed. All of them are conservationists.

During the fall of 1953 and on into 1954, two flood detention dams were installed in this small watershed, under the Little Sioux Flood Control program, and three gullies were also shaped into waterways. To insure the success of this work, these farmers have had terraces installed on much of their cropland. At the close of 1954, there were 29 miles of terraces in this watershed. There are approximately 700 acres of cropland involved; this means that, at present, over half of the cropland in the entire watershed is protected by terraces; and more are planned.

Think of the enormous reduction in soil and water losses that this work insures. Our congratulations, ladies and gentlemen, and may you keep up the good work.

Ford Ralston

Arthur Dorr

Vere Corrington

District Cooperators

516 farmers were cooperating with the District in applying conservation practices on their farms at the close of 1954; a total of 101,412 acres. 437 of these have worked out complete conservation plans for their farms and are in the process of applying them. The distribution of farms with complete conservation plans being applied, by townships, is as follows:

Afton Township	19
Amherst Township	13
Cedar Township	14
Cherokee Township	32
Diamond Township	16
Grand Meadow Township	41
Liberty Township	14
Marcus Township	4
Pilot Township	49
Pitcher Township	32
Rock Township	36
Sheridan Township	14
Silver Township	51
Spring Township	22
Tilden Township	26
Willow Township	54

At present the townships with the more rolling land have the greatest number of farmers applying conservation plans and it is expected that this will continue to be true. However, we commissioners would like to emphasize the fact that farms with very gentle slopes also have a conservation problem (though loss severe) and should be doing something about it. All Cherokee County farmers, regardless of topography, are contributing silt and water to the Little Sioux River and effective flood control demands that all do their share in reducing this contribution as much as possible.

1954 Conservation Accomplishments

The following practices were established during 1954 by Cherokee County farmers (using technical assistance provided by the District):

1. Established guide line for contouring
row crops on 8,821 acres
2. Established contour field divisions to re-arrange
fields and facilitate tillage operations 13,566 rods
3. Terraces constructed 30 miles
4. Tile drains installed 100,350 Ln. Ft.
5. Gullies filled and shaped into waterways 2.7 miles
6. Earth fills with drop inlet
spillways built 2 for 14,000 cu. yds.
7. Grass headlands established 23 acres
8. Total number of farmers receiving
technical assistance 290
9. Number of farmers receiving assistance in
developing complete conservation plans 51

In addition to the above, technicians presented conservation information to the Aurelia High School agriculture class, the Aurelia GI agriculture class, the Cherokee Garden Club, the Boy Scouts, the Chamber of Commerce, one terrace demonstration was held, two conservation tours were conducted, meetings held in three organized small watersheds, gave technical assistance to Pilot Rock contour plowing match.

Little Sioux Flood Control Program

During 1954, most of the planned flood control installations were completed in the small watershed in the Fee neighborhood, three miles southwest of Quimby. This work was started in the fall of 1953. There are now two flood detention structures plus some 29 miles of terraces in this small watershed.

Arrangements have been completed for work in a small watershed in the Ralph Robeson neighborhood, in Grand Meadow Township. It is anticipated that a contract for this work will be let in the winter and the work started in the spring of 1955. Farmers in this watershed built quite a few terraces during 1954.

Soil Conservation Service

The Cherokee District has a memorandum of understanding with the Soil Conservation Service to provide technical assistance in carrying out soil conservation activities. During 1954, the Soil Conservation Service provided the District with the following technical assistance:

- 1 Planning Technician (12 Months) — Harvey Lindberg
- 1 Planning Technician (3 Months) — Dale Barker
- 1 Planning Technician (6 Months) — Charles Claas
- 1 Conservation Aid (12 Months) — Glen Craft
- 1 Conservation Aid (11 Months) — James Warrender

In addition to the above staff, located in Cherokee, the District received the part time assistance of an Area Conservationist, a Soil Scientist, an Engineering Specialist, and aid from the flood control section of the Soil Conservation Service in planning and installing flood control measures under the Little Sioux Flood control program.

Agricultural Conservation Program **UNDER THE U. S. D. A.** **AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION**

The Agricultural Conservation Program for 1954 assisted Cherokee County farmers to carry out approved conservation practices by sharing their cost. The purpose being to share costs on practices which it was believed farmers would not carry out to the needed extent without program assistance. Emphasis was on those practices which provide the most enduring benefits practicable to obtain.

The Cherokee County program for 1954 was developed from recommendations made at a joint meeting of the A. S. C. county and community committeemen, Soil Conservation Service technician, County Extension Director and the District Commissioners.

In addition to carrying out soil conservation activities under the District's program, Soil Conservation Service technicians assigned locally had the following responsibilities assigned them in connection with the Agricultural Conservation Program.

1. Certifying that practices requested (by farmers) are needed and practical on that farm.
2. Assist farmers with site selection and layout of permanent type conservation practices approved under this program.
3. Provide necessary supervision of installation of these permanent type practices.
4. Certify to the county ASC committee that these practices were satisfactorily completed (in accordance with ASC specifications).

The Cherokee County Agricultural Conservation Committee made available to the Soil Conservation Service \$2890.00 of their funds to cover costs of carrying out the above assigned duties. Soil Conservation Service Technicians assigned to the Cherokee District spent 152 man days and drove 5,908 miles in carrying out this assignment. 515 practice referrals were received from the County ASC Committee for servicing.

Technicians assigned to the Cherokee District assisted with the installation of the following practices under the above program: 2,965 acres of contouring, 89,170 lineal feet of tile drains, 11 miles of terraces, 2.3 miles of constructed waterways, and two earth fills with drop inlet spillways (one of 5,000 cu. yds. and 1 of 9,000 cu. yds.)

Extension Activities

Extension activities in soil conservations, during 1954, were centered around watershed development in cooperation with the district. A tour of the Fee watershed was arranged for a group from Lyon County, another day was spent assisting the district with a tour of the same watershed during Soil Conservation Week.

The Cherokee Chamber of Commerce has entered into a co-operative program with the local District and Extension Service to develop a watershed conservation program in the Railroad Creek watershed (which flows through the city of Cherokee). A conservation program was developed in this regard and presented to the Cherokee Rotary Club by Forrest Kohrt and Harvey Lindberg.

The County Extension Director participated in meetings held to make recommendations for the Cherokee County Agricultural Conservation Program.

Considerable progress has been made toward obtaining an experimental farm for northwest Iowa, considerable work would be done on soil conservation research when this farm is obtained. The District and Extension personnel are working together in an effort to get the facts on this proposal to all local people.

Other District Activities

Pilot Rock Plowing Match Association — during August of 1954 this association put on their annual event. District technicians assisted with the contour section of the event and the District helped sponsor prizes awarded in this section. District treasurer Louis Bentson served as a judge.

Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture — the Cherokee District participated in this program during 1954. Ralph Patterson, Ralph Robeson and Brice Vollmar were local district winners. Leonard Wikstrom was selected as the one making the most progress in one year in the local district.

District commissioners met with the ASC county and community committeemen and others to make recommendations for the 1955 ASC program.

The commissioners voted to purchase a share of stock in the proposed northwest Iowa experimental farm (from district funds).

A new commissioner was elected during 1954; the election was held in June, during Soil Conservation Week. Vere Corrington, of Spring Township, was elected. He replaces Louis Bengtson who was not a candidate for re-election.

Use of Funds Provided By The State of Iowa

Local soil conservation activities are financed in part by funds appropriated by the Iowa State Legislature. These funds are administered by the State Soil Conservation Committee appointed by the Governor. State funds were allotted to the Cherokee District, for the current fiscal year, on the basis of the following budget (prepared and submitted by the Cherokee District Commissioners and approved by the State Soil Conservation Committee).

Budget for Use of State Supplied Funds July 1, 1954 to June 30, 1955

Salary of Office Clerk (Miss Donna Gill)	\$1,867.35
Commissioners Expenses	200.00
Office Supplies	110.00
Printing (Annual Report)	75.00
Conservation Prizes	75.00
Expense of Meetings (Rental, Etc.)	20.00
Demonstration Material	15.00
TOTAL	\$2,362.35

Report of The Treasurer

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT DECEMBER 31, 1954

GENERAL FUND

Cash balance on January 1, 1954	\$ 257.34	
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	1.32	
Received from District Cooperators	272.61	
Cost of Treasurer's Bond		\$ 12.50
Stamps purchased		42.00
Envelopes and stationery purchased		14.24
Film purchased		7.14
Conservation exhibits and prizes		50.00
	\$ 531.27	\$ 125.88
Balance on Hand December 31, 1954		\$ 405.39
	\$ 531.27	\$ 531.27

MAINTENANCE FUND

Cash Balance on January 1, 1954	\$3,557.30	
Received from Watershed Landowners in F. O. Mortenson neighborhood	300.00	
Received from Watershed Landowners in Simonsen neighborhood	275.00	
Received from Watershed Landowners in James Fee neighborhood	180.00	
Received from Watershed Landowners in Ralph Robeson neighborhood	1,300.00	
Paid to Moore Abstract (for Title Certifications)		\$ 11.00
		6.20
	\$5,612.30	\$ 17.20
Cash Balance on Time Deposit		\$3,500.00
Cash Balance in Checking Account		\$2,095.10
	\$5,612.30	\$5,612.30

BY: L. C. Bengtson
District Treasurer

