

THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
DAVIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
1959

Commissioners

H. C. Baughman, Chairman
Dale Blackwell, Treasurer
Clay C. Barnett, Member
Loretta Augspurger, Secretary

Assistant Commissioners

Charles Chickering
P. W. Spilman
Sam Botts, Jr.
Lionel Herteen

Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Verle M. Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist
D. Eugene Francis, Conservation Aid
L. Loretta Augspurger, State Clerk
Larry Harper, Part-time Assistant
E. LaVern Weilbrenner, Part-time Assistant
Teddy Dixon, Part-time Assistant

FORWARD

Reports are a necessary part of our Democratic way of life. They show accomplishments, justify expenditure of public funds, inform cooperators and others of the District, progress. They become a part of the District's permanent records.

The main objectives of the District remain: permanent agriculture through better land use and a more thorough understanding of the damages caused by uncontrolled runoff of water.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

Over the years, the District had acquired several pieces of equipment for the purpose of demonstrating new practices - terrace construction and maintenance, pasture seeding, fertilizing and cultipacker seeding, a two wheeled trailer for transportation of equipment.

Due to the fact that the period of demonstration was over and since we have several well qualified earth moving contractors in the District, it was decided to sell the equipment at auction the past spring.

We have had a District representative at all Regional Meetings sponsored by the State Soil Conservation Committee, the Short Course, at Ames, and the Annual Meeting of the State Association of District Commissioners. Twelve regular monthly meetings have been held and several special meetings were called during 1959.

We participated in the program of the Bloomfield Experimental Farm, which is located East of Bloomfield, on Highway 2.

We have again supplied - as in previous years - the ministers of the county, with Soil Stewardship material, for Soil Stewardship Sunday. We also participated in Soil Conservation Week, sponsored a local teacher to Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park, located near Guthrie Center, Iowa, assisted in developing the Work Load Analysis, and conservation needs study for the District.

Contests entered or sponsored, were: The Des Moines Register and Tribune

Contest, Queen of the Furrow, and 4-H Club Awards.

This year, there were four Assistant Commissioners, appointed to help carry out District activities. The following long time cooperators of the District were named: Sam Botts, Jr., Charles Chickering, Lionel Herteen and Pearl Spilman, past District Commissioner.

Many other activities were attended and assistance was given in the development of the County ACP Program. News releases, proposed watershed meetings, programs for service clubs, and Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, of which the District is a member, were also a part of last years program.

WATERSHEDS

Big Wyacondah has been approved, but no action has been taken to date, in the development of a Work Plan. In April of 1959, the Watershed Party from the State Soil Conservation Service Office, in Des Moines, Iowa, spent about a week going over the Big Wyacondah Watershed securing additional information relative to the progress of conservation practices in the Watershed.

Several information meetings with farmer groups were held in Carter Creek Watershed during the past year. The heavy rainfall during the year did tremendous damage to crops, cropland, roads, and bridges in this watershed located in the Southwest part of Davis County. The Commissioners are encouraging farmers in Carter Creek Watershed to hold more meetings in 1960 and recommend they submit a petition for Watershed Assistance within the next year.

BLOOMFIELD NEWSPAPERS

The District is very grateful for the fine way the Bloomfield Newspapers have supported the activities of the Davis Soil Conservation District plus all other Agriculture Agencies efforts in the county.

Keith Hawk resigned as editor of the local paper during the past year and accepted a similar position in Anamosa, Iowa. Robert Norberg replaced Hawk as Editor, of the Bloomfield Newspapers.

We cannot pass this year without making special mention of our veteran publisher and world traveler, Kenneth F. Baldrige. Mr. Baldrige has just completed 50 years of service as publisher and owner of the Bloomfield Newspapers.

Mr. Baldrige was Bloomfield Postmaster for over 28 years, retiring in 1956. We are grateful for his many years of service to the community.

BLOOMFIELD EXPERIMENTAL FARM

This farm is managed by Bill Southerland of the Iowa State University of Ames and his assistant LaVern Kline of Pulaski, Iowa. This year, with 45.9 inches of rainfall, 13.1 inches above normal, the farm did a very good job of producing. All of the corn and bean plots, except the tile drained areas, were replanted on June 8, 9, 10. In spite of the late planting, corn yielded 80 to 100 bushels per acre on the well fertilized plots.

The results of this farm experimental work on the Edina soils of this area should be studied closely by all farmers with Edina soil type on their farms.

TOURS

The Annual tour of high conservation farms was held again this year with all Agriculture Agencies participating. Out of county guests on the tour, were the Scotland County Missouri ASC Committee, a member of the State ASC Office staff of Missouri, District and SCS personnel, from Scotland County.

RAINFALL

In 1959, Davis District had the most rainfall on record for any one year. 47.32 inches was reported. In 1958, the total was 40.35 inches. In 1956, the dry year, the rainfall was 21.8 inches, in one six month period, we had only one inch of rainfall in the year 1956.

The speaker for the 1959 Annual Meeting of Davis County District, held December 2, was Charles Ballentyne, of the Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa.

His address to the group pointed to the origin and aims of the Watershed approach to soil and water conservation. He showed color slides which revealed the disaster uncontrolled water can bring to Iowa farmland. He offered dollars and cents statistics as proof that an investment in conservation pays dividends.

Out of town guests attending the meeting were: Richard Prestemon, Representative of the State Soil Conservation Committee, Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist, and Mrs. Mitchell, of Fairfield, Don Johnson, Director of Region 9, Iowa Association of Soil Conservation Districts (IASCD), and Mrs. Johnson, of Fairfield, Iowa, Don Anderson, Moulton, Iowa, Appanoose Soil Conservation District Commissioner, State Senator, Gene Hoffman and Mrs. Hoffman, and State Representative, Royce Gordy and Mrs. Gordy.

Pleques donated by Bloomfield Newspapers were awarded: Richard Birchmier, Owner-Operator Division winner, Donald Price and Hugh Sesbury, Landlord-Tenant Division winners, Loran Bengt, New Cooperator Division winner. Presentation of awards was made by Newspaper editor, Robert Norberg. Lapel pins were presented to the following farmers, for outstanding conservation work in 1959: Walter Grim, Denver Biles, Chet Mustard. Commissioner, Clay C. Barnett made the presentation of awards.

BOY SCOUTS

The Soil Conservation Service personnel assisted in the merit badge work of the Boy Scouts, at the Lake Wapello Scout Camp, located 9 miles Northwest of Bloomfield, Iowa. Soil and water conservation plus forestry merit badges were awarded to scouts who completed the tests.

1959 PLANNING ACTIVITIES

	<u>number</u>	<u>acres</u>	<u>TO DATE FIGURES</u>	
			<u>number</u>	<u>acres</u>
<u>DISTRICT COOPERATORS</u>	59	12,757	669	139,426
<u>BASIC PLANS</u>	35	8,671	445	91,944
<u>FOLLOW UP CONTACTS</u>	180			

APPLICATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>1959</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Contouring (new)	Acre	1041	35, 361
Strip Cropping	Acre		2, 641
Pasture Improvement	Acre	363	12, 020
Hedgerow Planting	Rod	980	10, 263
Tree Planting	Acre	53	108
Fish Pond Improvement	No.	60	764
Waterways	Acre	133	440
Standard Terraces	Mile	75	427
Diversions	Mile	11	88
Open Drain	Mile	7	52
Ponds	No.	65	1106
Drop Inlet Structures	No.	19	85

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance	\$ 442. 38
Income for year	5600. 00
Expenses for year	4817. 87
Balance brought forward	1225. 16

We, the Davis Soil Conservation District Commissioners, approve the preceding Annual Report (15th. in number), for 1959, on the thirteenth day of April, nineteen hundred and sixty. Said report being presented during a "special" meeting" of the District Commissioners on above listed date.

Harold Burkman
Signature/Chairman

Lester Cunningham
Signature/Secretary