

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
TAMA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1948

Fred K. Bruene, Chairman	Gladbrook, Iowa
John Norton	Tama, Iowa
George Kos	Toledo, Iowa
Lee Marsh, Secretary	Toledo, Iowa
Burns M. Bryam, CED	Toledo, Iowa

Soil Conservation Service Personnel
assigned to Tama District:

Frank P. Reed, Work Unit Conservationist
Milburn E. Sevde, Conservation Aid
G. J. Bredimus, Work Group Clerk
H. Howard Oak, District Conservationist

We, the Commissioners of the Tama District,
wish to present to the farmers, cooperating
agencies and others interested in soil con-
servation this report covering accomplishments
for the year 1948 and the goals for 1949.

INTRODUCTION

Annual reports should reflect progress. To those of us charged with the responsibility of guiding Soil Conservation Activities in our District, they often seem to stress how slowly we are moving towards our goal of Applied Land Use Practices To Maintain a Productive Agriculture. Yet, many of the folks in our District we contact, state sincerely, we have made great strides in Soil Conservation. They readily admit many practices are slow to be adopted, but they also readily point to the general acceptance of Soil Conservation activities and to those farmers who are actively applying Conservation measures. As an indication one incident might be mentioned. Three terracing machines, the first in the county, were purchased in 1948 by Conservation minded farmers. The three men live in different sections of the County and none of the three knew anyone else in the County was purchasing such a machine. It became apparent, after talking with these men, all had about the same ideas. First, they wanted to terrace some of their own land and they had neighbors who had indicated similar thinking, and would make use of a terracer available in the neighborhood. We believe such an incident points to an increased conservation practice application rate, and that we are definitely moving ahead. We submit herein a summary of our 1948 activities, with this thought in mind, and trust it will be of use in focusing our efforts on the job ahead.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1948	Actual 1948	Attendance 1948	Goal 1949
Conservation Education				
1. General interest meeting		4	40	8
2. News items		38	--	36
3. Training Schools		2	18	2
4. Demonstrations		--	--	4
5. Tours		1	40	6
6. Contests		2*	1200	1
7. Starting practice meetings new groups				
8. Conservation film and slides shown		6	120	12
*One contest was a three district contour plowing contest				

	Goal 1948	Actual 1948	Attendance 1948	Goal 1949
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Farm Planning

1. Groups to be organized for farm planning		3	24	6
2. Number of applications for farm plans		18	--	36
3. Number of farm plans to be written	44	38**	--	40
4. Number of acres to be mapped	Basic surveys completed - 460,800 acres			
5. Individual applications for farm plans				15
6. Farm planning meetings with neighborhood groups		15	80	18

** Total farm plans to date - - 178, including 29,555 acres

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

	Actual 1948	Attendance 1948	Goal 1949
1. Hold monthly meetings	12	31	12
2. Hold 4 joint meetings with district commissioners in four districts	1		4
3. Hold annual meeting with cooperators			1
4. Conservation movies and slides	6	120	12
5. Meet with Civic Organizations	5		10
6. Commissioners meeting with Commissioners in other areas	4		6

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

	Goals 1948	Actual 1948	To-date	1948 Starting Practices	Goal 1949
1. Contouring (acres)	2290	1600	6,657	579	2,140
2. Strip Cropping (acres)	50	50	213	--	-----
3. Ponds	--	3	5		3
4. Tree Planting (acres)	--	--	8		--
5. Terraces (miles)	--	.4	1.9		8
6. Field Diversions (miles)	2	.5	.5		
7. Farm Drainage (acres)	--	43	185		
8. Closed Drains (L.F.)	64,000	57,900	63,400	6600	76,000
9. Outlets and Farm Watercourses (L. F.)	75,240	66,030	241,889		34,260

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

1. Election of a Commissioner for the Tama District was held March 16th in the Legion Hall in Toledo. This was a convention type election and John Norton of Tama was elected. Earl Johnson of the Soil Conservation Service gave a talk and showed slides he had taken in China.
2. The Commissioners, the Farm Planner and the County Extension Director judged the Conservation Scrap Book Contest entered into by the Rural Schools in Tama County. This contest was started last year by the County Superintendent of Schools. 68 books were sent in to be judged.
3. The District Commissioners were represented at the District meeting held by the State Committee, and also the National meeting for District Commissioners which was held in Des Moines, Iowa.
4. An interest meeting for the Union Grove Watershed was held March 9th at Gladbrook. 68 farm owners and operators in the watershed were among the 100 interested parties present at this meeting, which was sponsored by the Izaak Walton League of Marshalltown and the Goodyear staff. The watershed of the lake consists of approximately 7000 acres, with about 6000 in Tama County. Progress has been made and three interest meetings were held with the farmers in this group, and six groups have been formed and all are cooperating. The Conservation Commission has made plans toward

hiring Don Hayes to do organizational and layout work in the watershed.

5. The District Commissioners entered the Goodyear Contest sponsored by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. We wish to express our appreciation to this Company for their untiring efforts in the promotion of soil conservation.

Agencies with whom we expect to cooperate during 1949 are:

State Soil Conservation Committee

State Conservation Commission

Local Conservation Officer

County Board of Supervisors

Production and Marketing Association

County Superintendent of Schools and Teachers

Civic Organizations

Extension Service

Soil Conservation Service

Implement Dealers

County Banks

We expect to cooperate with the District Commissioners in the Grundy, Marshall and Blackhawk Districts in holding four District Meetings for our mutual benefit.

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT OF RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURES

District Tama County Toledo, Iowa

Period January, 1948 to December 31, 1948

Receipts (By source)

1. Balance Brought Forward	\$17.33
2. Ward Repp - Lime Spreader	.25
3. Phil Kucera - Lime Spreader	1.75
4. Burns Byram - Seed	65.00
5. Ervin Hagedorn - Drill	2.91

Total \$87.24

Expenditures

None

Balance carried forward \$87.24

In concluding this report, we, as District Commissioners, wish to state that we are going to do our utmost to push the soil conservation program along faster in 1949 than ever before. However, if we have the fullest cooperation and assistance of every one interested in conservation, the job of saving our soil and maintaining maximum production can be accomplished more rapidly.

As in our last report, we again repeat, that we strongly urge those, who are nearest empowering State bodies, to give consideration to requesting of such bodies, some financial relief, either by amendments to existing laws, or changes thereof, to permit sources of County or State funds being granted Soil Conservation Districts, to enable District Commissioners to meet the financial obligations of their office.

Signed:

/s/ Fred Bruene

Chairman Tama Soil District
Commissioners.