

District Governing Body

Harold C. Baughman, Chairman	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bloomfield, Iowa
Dale Blackwell, Treasurer	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bloomfield, Iowa
Pearl Spilman, Equipment Mgr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bloomfield, Iowa
LoRetta Jarvis, Secretary	-	-	-	-	-	-	Bloomfield, Iowa

FORWARD

Since the establishment of the Davis Soil Conservation District in 1944, the land values of the county have been gradually rising. In the last few years, a good number of farmers from outside the county have bought land. According to the statements of these buyers, the progress in the county, in the last years, in general appearance of buildings, roads and other improvements are evidence of a higher production. This is good news.

Average yields of all crops including pasture are higher, especially on high conservation farms.

While we have many good catle herds, both beef and dairy, which win their share of blue ribbons, and utilize our pasture, we lead the state in sheep and wool production.

The land use adjustments necessary to reach higher goals must continue being made. Through the continuous close cooperation of all farmers, groups and agencies, this will gradually take place.

One of our greatest adjustments must be made between pasture and cropland. The proper and adequate use of our cutover timber land that is now being improperly used is slowly being made. We feel that this will come hand in hand with the prospective uses and markets for timber products being developed.

The development of small watersheds in the following years where a large number of land owners have most of their conservation practice established will soon follow. Community leadership will and must be developed. Cooperators are in strong position to assume this leadership because of their past conservation experience.

Probably no soil treatment has helped Davis County agriculture more than the application of agriculture limestone and the growing of deep-rooted legumes and grasses. Combine this with soil and water conservation practices, livestock and management and you have a clear road ahead.

At Your Service

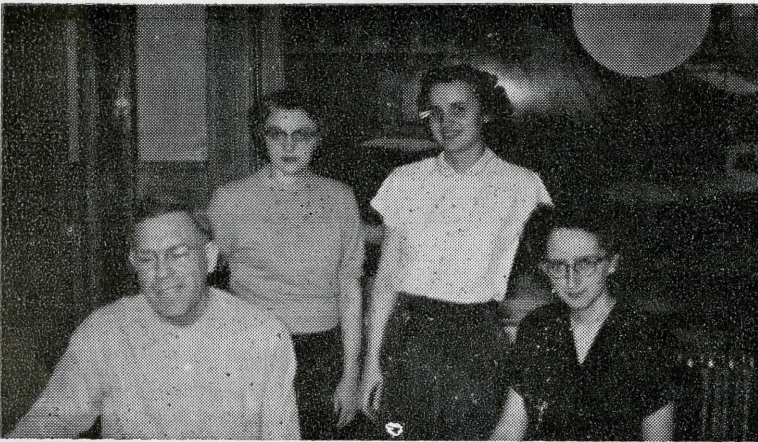
Farm owners and operators are not taking advantage of the many services available to them. For instance, we have frequent calls at the Soil Conservation District office for assistance in solving conservation problems, land use, pasture management, re-seeding, fertilizing, water supply, waterway seeding, gully control and land leveling, clearing, grading, terracing, diversions and others which are included in the Agricultural Stabilization Committee (old AAA) Program for 1956. Incentive payments are being approved up to 50 or 60 per cent of their cost. These are permanent type improvements.

Then, we are also getting other questions regarding insect control and rodent control. When to apply and how, its' affects on livestock, milk cows being milked for family use or sale or to meat animals.

Fertilizer needs, how to take soil samples and what to do with them after the samples have been taken. What to plant, proven varieties of grass, legumes, grains, hedges and even corn. What foreign seeds can we use and get satisfactory stands. Weed and brush control with spray material when to apply, and how much.

This is your soil conservation district. Many services are available, besides those mentioned above. We, as your Commissioners must know you, what you want to do to improve your standard of living and farm. In that way we can really be "At Your Service". It takes the whole team to play the game and win. You are on the team!

DAVIS COUNTY ASC OFFICE STAFF



Left to right:
David Bolick,
Office Mana-
ger, Mabel
Friend (stand-
ing), LuEtta
White (stand-
ing), and Haz-
el Hammer-
sly (seated).

Commission-
ers Pearl Spil-
man, Harold
Baughman
President, and
Dale Black-
well, Treasur-
er, of the
Davis District.

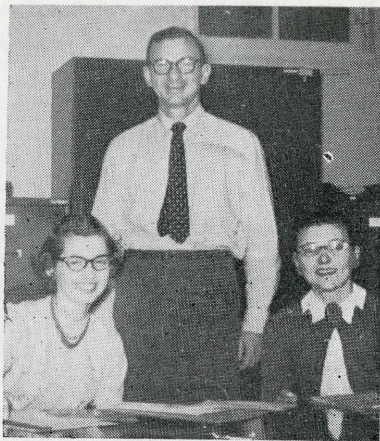


Questions regarding the control of insects and rodents, fertilizer needs, when to apply and how much, how to take soil samples and what to do with them after the sample has been taken are asked us. The place for the answers to those questions is the local County Extension Office.

All of these questions, and many others can be answered satisfactorily by contacting your County Extension Director. He is a good man to know.



Left to right: Bill Byers, County Extension Director, Evalyn Oldham (standing), County Home Economist, and Lois White, Secretary.



Doyle P. Schmitter, Supervisor, with his two secretaries, Mary-Ann Spurgeon, left, and Mae Huffman, right.

Then, there is your Farmers' Home Administrator at your service. When you are in need of both financial and management assistance on a long time basis, on both real estate and chattel loan, consult your banker first. But finances may be available to you to speed up the application of conservation practices, fertilizer and lime needs, pasture reseeding needs, farmstead buildings improvement, etc.

The Soil Conservation District Staff in the District Office is available to help you in developing your basic Conservation Farming Guide. This guide shows the necessary land use adjustments, based upon the soil survey of your farm. Also, the necessary practices to carry out your soil and water conservation program. The maximum use to be made of all land on your farm without waste.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE AND STATE OFFICE STAFF

Left to right: Jack D. Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, Clay C. Barnett, Work Unit Conservationist, Eugene Francis, Conservation Aid, (back) LaVern Weilbrenner, Conservation Aid, and LoRetta Jarvis, State Clerk,



District Governing Body Activities:

In order to carry on their administrative responsibilities they attended meetings and tours as follows:

- 12 regular monthly meetings.
- 8 special meetings.
- 6 meetings outside the District.
- 3 tours outside the District.
- 4 sessions of the Farmers' Conservation School.
- 2 meetings with ASC Committee.

Participated in the management of the Southern Iowa Experimental Farm, Bloomfield, Iowa.

Development of the news items and advertising of the April issue of the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Magazine.

Many other activities were continuously being carried out by each individual Commissioner.

Commissioner Blackwell is Treasurer of the District and Commissioner Spilman has charge of the Districts' equipment.

Commissioner Baughman while attending the annual conservation award program being held at Des Moines, Iowa and sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and cooperating agencies, received an Iowa Soil Conservation award for the following:

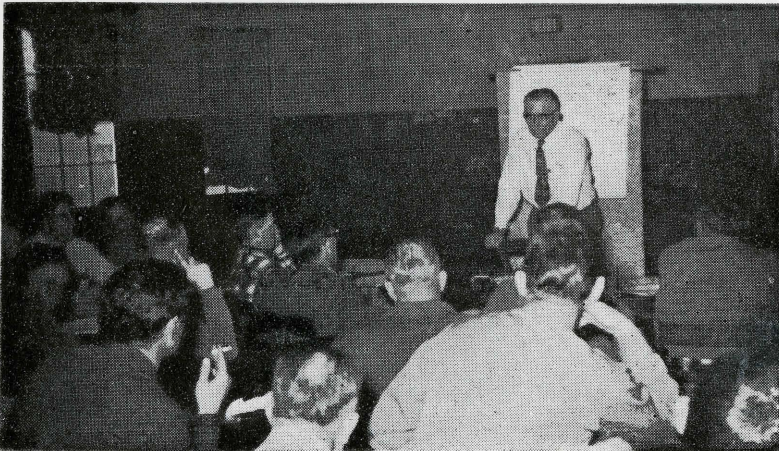
Recognition for leadership in developing a very active District program; for accomplishment in greatly increasing the acreage of birdsfoot trefoil and reeds' canary grass plantings. For increasing the number of farm ponds and for developing an effective cooperative spirit with other agencies serving the farmers.

Farmers' Conservation School

For the past eight years, Farmer Conservation Schools have been sponsored by the Davis Soil Conservation District. Subject matter such as Farm Outlook, summary of farm records for the previous year, new crop varieties, insect and rodent control, control and prevention of diseases in farm animals, rotations, soil treatments, permanent type soil treatments and soil and water conservation practices, summary of results of research and experimental work being carried out on the Bloomfield and other Experimental Farms, pasture renovation and results in meat and milk production, and land use adjustment, markets of timber products, all of these subjects and many more all summed up into the basic farm plan.

All agricultural agencies participate in program arrangement at the request of the farmers and District Commissioner.

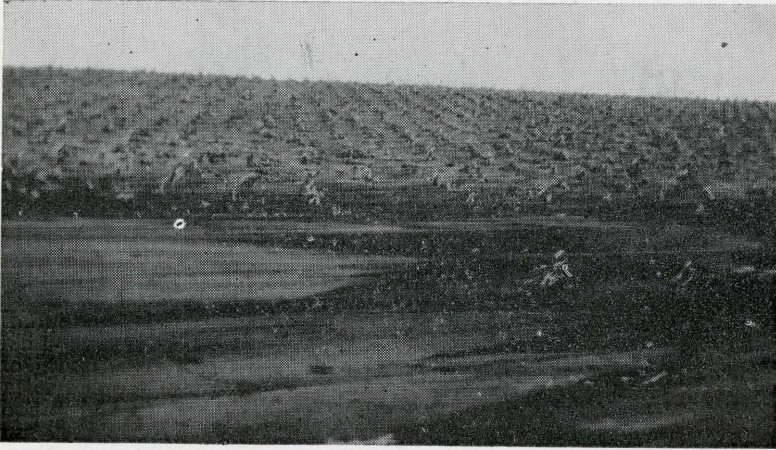
Attendance with few exceptions, when weather interferes, averages from thirty to over a hundred farmers.



Chet Greenlee lectures a class on farm records, different farm enterprises, and results.

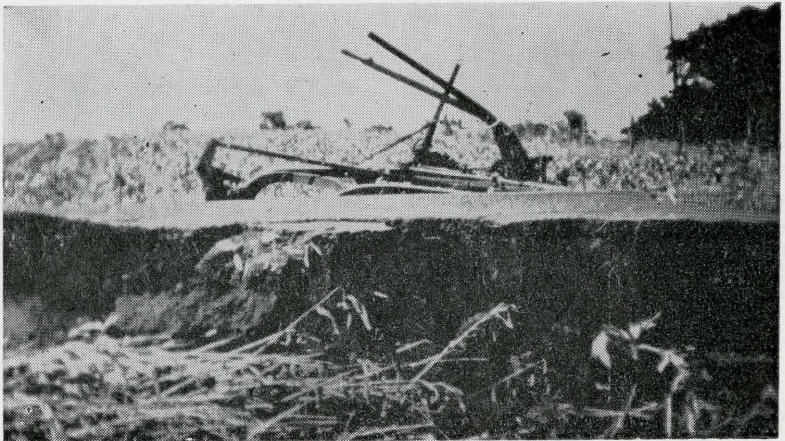
Part Of The Problem

SHEET EROSION, THE BEGINNING OF RILL AND GULLY EROSION



Silting on field low land areas temporary damage to pastures and growing crops.

A plow nearly covered by silt from corn-field in background. A later rain caused the silt to be cut off in this shape by the water course in foreground. Land in final state of destruction.



Gully erosion pictures in Davis county.

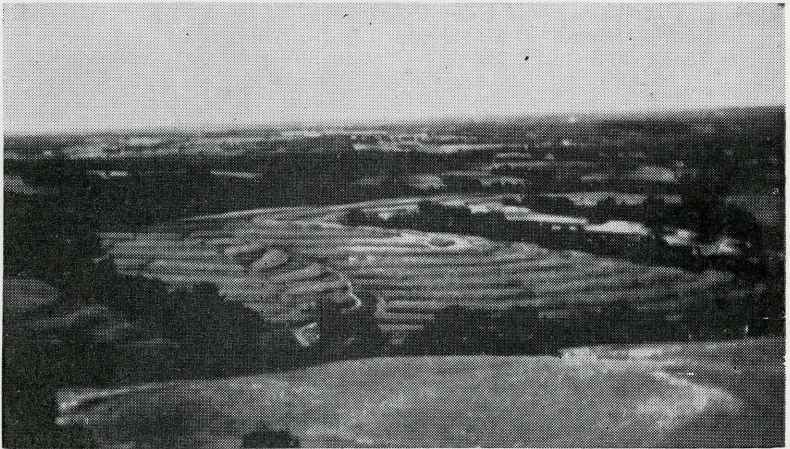
Cure For Sheet Erosion



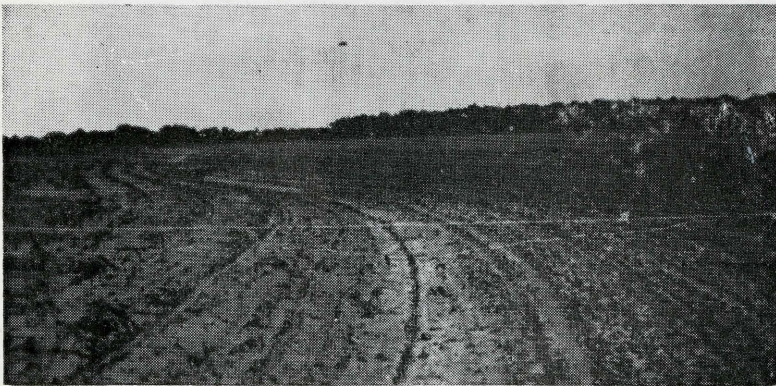
Terracing and strip cropping gives the maximum control when field follows a good rotation.

Strip cropping and grass waterways on the D. Harper farm near West Grove, Ia.

Areas too steep to terrace are strip cropped to long rotations of 2 or more years of meadow.



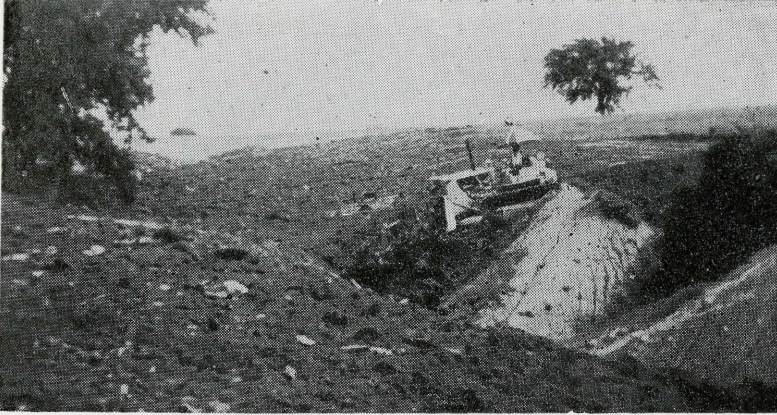
This is not a picture from the Orient but a strip cropping layout on the Kenneth McCormick 280 farm southeast of Floris, Ia.



Terraces give the best control of water runoff regardless of the season. It will fail, as most all practices will when over cropped to beans and corn and yields are low.

The broad based terraces on the Walter Grim farm southwest of Bloomfield, Ia. The rope gives an idea of the broadbase design that is being used on terraces built now.

The Cure For Gully Erosion



This area is now under control and the area that was badly gullied is now being pastured. In the process of filling, leveling, topsoil is stock piled and then spread over the reclaimed area.

Commissioner Spilman and Commissioner Blackwell inspecting a reeds Canary Grass waterway on the Alvin Baughman farm. Reeds Canary grass for maximum control of waterways, terrace outlets and gully bottom stabilization.

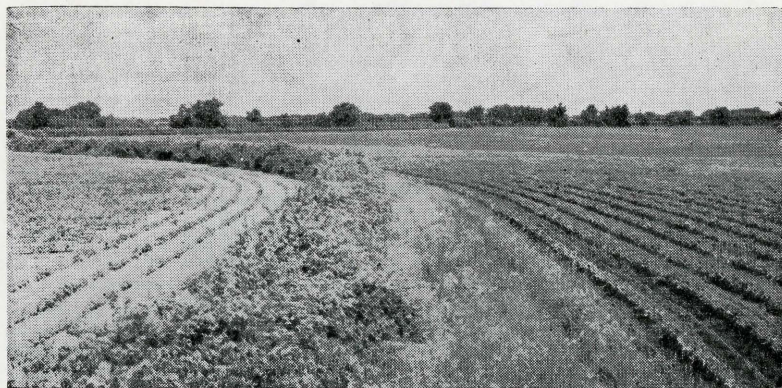


Southern Brome Grass would be second best. If grass waterways are getting high in the middle and gullies forming on either side, you have a sheet erosion problem.



Jack Chamberlain, conservation aid assisting Karl De Vault and O. O. Roberts with their wildlife packets and Rose fence plants, just received from the State Conservation Commission Nursery, Ames, Ia. Wildlife cover and food patches are an important part

of our conservation program. Many of our good farming practices are complimentary to good wildlife habitat. Such as strip cropping, living fences, grassed waterways and turnrows.



A contoured fence of multiflora rose on the Carlon Cary farm east of Bloomfield. This rose fence was planted in 1950 and served as a fence for all livestock in 1952. This is one of the best food and cover areas for quail. It

furnished a travel lane from one end of this contour field to the other. Thanks, Mr. Cary.

Conservation Accomplishments for Davis Soil Conservation

While we are not nearing completion of the conservation job in the district, we are very proud of the 1955 accomplishments. Following are our to-date figures and also accomplishment figures for 1955, as well as goals 1956.

	1955	To Date	Goal (1956)
Contouring - - -	2109 (ac.)	23307 (ac.)	1500 (ac.)
Strip Cropping - - -	219 (")	2276 (ac.)	300 (ac.)
Brush Clearing - - -	199 (ac.)	1174 (ac.)	200 (ac.)
Pasture Planting - - -	717 (ac.)	8942 (ac.)	1000 (ac.)
Land Grading-Leveling -	149 (ac.)	449 (ac.)	150 (ac.)
Drainage - - - -	176 (ac.)	2876 (ac.)	400 (ac.)
Waterway Construction -	36 (ac.)	11315 (ac.)	40 (ac.)
Ponds Stocked with Fish -	13 (no.)	56 (no.)	
Terraces - - - -	50.7 (mi.)	109.0 (mi.)	50 (mi.)
Farm Ponds Built - - -	96 (no.)	605 (no.)	90 (no.)
Diversion Construction - -	9.4 (mi.)	31.3 (mi.)	10.0 (mi.)
Open Drains - - - -	2.3 (mi.)	32.3 (mi.)	4.0 (mi.)
Tile Drainage - - -	1640 (lin. ft.)	28640 (lin. ft.)	
Drop Inlet Structure - - -	2 (no.)	12 (no.)	6 (no.)
New Cooperations - - -	79	523	60 "
New Basic Plans - - -	36	365	40 (no.)
Revised Plans - - - -	17		30 (no.)
Soil Surveys - - - -	9855 Acres	137,803 Acres	8000 Acres
Living Fence - - - -	150 rod	2070 rod	1500 rod
Wildlife Area Development	94 (ac.)	694 (ac.)	200 (ac.)

Young Farmers' Pasture Field Days

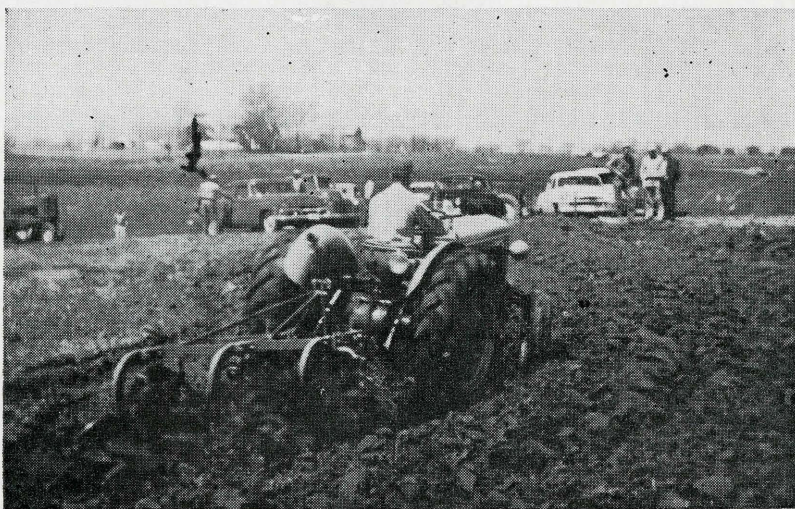
The Davis County Young Farmers are interested in conserving and building up pasture soils.

The Young Farmers sponsored two conservation Field Days. The first Field Day was held at the Dale Dixon Farm, six miles southwest of Bloomfield, April 12, 1955. The other Field Day was held at the Dee Matthews Farm, south of Belknap, a week later. Young farmers cooperating were as follows: Russell Hopkins, Frank McCullough, Ted Dixon, LaVern Weibrenner, Jr. Lister, Gordon Rudd, Wayne Williams, Don Chickering and Richard Friend.

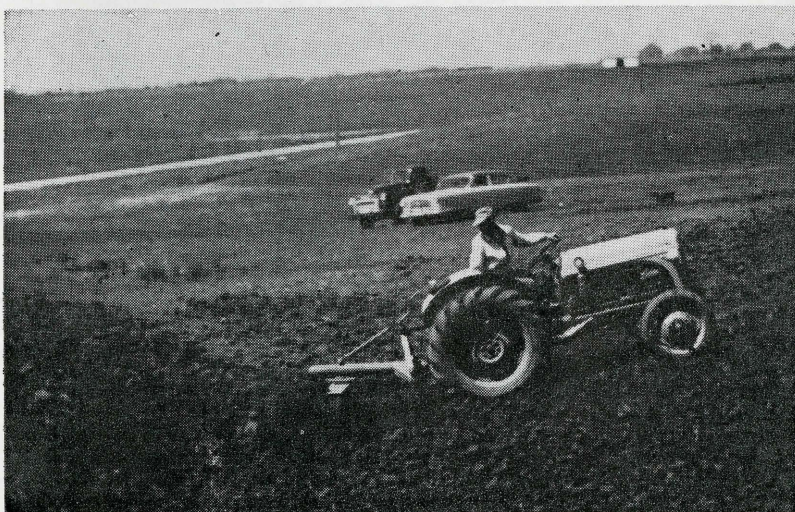
The improvements that they made were as follows: Pushed in ditches prepared grass waterways, contoured seed bed preparations, built terraces and used the new and old methods of establishing seedlings.

Ten Young Farmers and their instructor, Mr. Kermit Howell, with the help of Clay C. Barnett, Farm Planner for the Davis Soils District, M. H. Elson, High School Vocational Agriculture Instructor, and Jack D. Chamberlain, Conservation Aide for the District played the prominent roles in the Field Days.

The equipment and fertilizer used was supplied by the Young Farmers and local cooperative machinery and fertilizer dealers.



Another Young Farmers demonstrates terrace building.



A gully filling demonstration at Young Farmers Field Day.

FFA Boys Observe Terracing

On October 17, 1955, the agriculture boys went to the Mr. and Mrs. Herman Bachman Farm, southwest of Pulaski to observe and participate in the building of terraces and a pond. While there, they saw the two contractors, Bibby and Ritz, accomplish the task step by step. Activities during the day included a talk by Jack Chamberlain, a graduate of Albia High School. It is interesting to note that Jack attained the degree of Iowa Farmer in the FFA. Also included in the day's activities were the three ways of building terraces; the whirlwind system, mold board plow system, and the one way system.

The advantages of terraces are that the water doesn't wash the dirt away; it conserves the moisture by directing the water into the pond, and 5,000 feet of terraces also increase the real estate value of the farm. Containing three-fourths million gallons of water, the one and one-half acre pond will be used for fire protection, wildlife, and recreation. Bachman's were assisted by the local Soil Conservation Technician headed by Clay C. Barnett and Jack Chamberlain. Working with them, is LaVern Weilbrenner, a past graduate of BHS in agriculture. He also attained the Iowa Farmer degree in FFA.

The co-operation between the SCD and the Bachmans has changed the previous deep gullies to terraces and a beautiful pond.

Dunnville Baptist Church Operates Lord's Acres The Conservation Way



**Dunnville
Baptist
Church,
Northeast
of Bloomfield,
Iowa**

This is the story of a church and farm and how each one helped the other to greater service in the community with the assistance of the Davis County Soil Conservation District.

This story begins when the Dunnville Baptist Church started having regular services again after leaving the church idle for some ten years or more.

The building was badly needing repairs and redecorating. It also had never been wired for electricity. These things were accomplished by those interested in seeing the church active again, with the help of the Ladies Aid.

The Pastor, Reverend Jack Anderson, suggested that a "Lord's Acre Program" might be the answer. This program was decided upon by the members and a farm was rented for five years to be operated on a crop share basis by the members. This farm consisted of 160 acres under the agreement all of the tillable ground was to be operated by the church.



Members of the Dunnville Church that have been cultivating are from left to right: Otis McGhee, Orville Martin, and Iles Heady.

In 1947, a farm plan had been made with the assistance of the SCS for this farm, but it had never been followed. At the time the church group took charge, the partition fences were all in bad shape. About 15 acres of what had been cropland was abandoned and another 12 acres of bluegrass pasture had been allowed to grow brush and elm trees because of inadequate fencing. The church workers after first studying the original SCS Farm Plan, took out all partition fences and in one day constructed 120 rods of new fence across the South side of the farm, leaving about 120 acres in one large field.

Next, the SCS Technicians were called in to layout the entire 120 acres in contour strips with adequate waterways as outlined in original farm plan. A brush cutter and bulldozer were hired to clear the old fence rows of brush and trees, shape waterways and to reclaim the 12 acres of abandoned pasture which became a part of the crops. The strips that were to be seeded to alfalfa and clover were limed and about 200 lbs. of 12/20/0 was applied with the nurse crop of oats.

The strips that were planted to corn received 200 lbs. of 12-12-12, plowed down and an additional 100 lbs. of 8/16/8 was added with a planter attachment. The strips were planted to soybeans and received no treatment. The first year corn yields were about 40 bushels per acre which was about the previous average of the farm and when one considers that the corn strips included much of the ground that have been abandoned as too poor to farm, the grain is even more significant. Oats yielded about 40 bushels to the acre and soybeans 25 bushels. The net profit for the church was \$1700 dollars the first year.

The second year the fencing program was constructed with the new seeding and oats receiving 200 lbs. of 10/20/10 and corn strips were fertilized with a three-hopper fertilizer spreader with more nitrogen being applied to the parts of the strips low in fertility and all the corn strips receiving a complete fertilizer plowed down at a 100 lbs. to 400 lbs. rate. Corn yields the second year, went up to 50 bu. average with 12 acres of the corn being on the previously abandoned ground. Oat yields were up around 60 bushels and beans yielded 20 bushels. When we consider both of these years, bad dry summers, the increase in yields is even more outstanding.

The way the fertilized strips stood in drouth was noticed by the entire community. Three farmers in the community adapted strip cropping for their own farms after seeing what fertilized strips would do in one year's operation.

The church netted \$1500 the second year with less acres in row crops.

The highlight of this story is this: The church has helped a rundown farm to become a productive unit able to carry its full load of community responsibility. This farm has helped the church to become a greater spiritual influence in the community and provided funds that will enable it to increase its facilities for community service.

The workers are gaining experience in conservation farming which benefits all of us while enjoying fellowship together. Truly these have been God's acres.

Let those who are called to the sacred vocation of tilling God's soil be reminded of the tremendous moral obligation to protect this obligation of tilling the soil. Conserve it. To neglect this, is a sin against the commandment, "Thous shall not steal," for he who takes from the soil its richness, steals from his Creator, from his sons and daughters, from his neighbor, and from his nation.

1955 Financial Report

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS' FUND

Beginning Balance	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$1010.58
Total Expended for Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$6508.32
Total Income for Year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$5908.60
Amount left in treasury at end of 1955 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$410.60

Harold C. Baughman, Chairman

Dale Black, Commissioner

P. W. Spliman, Commissioner

LoRetta Jarvis, Secretary

This report was signed by the District Commissioners of The Davis County Soil Conservation District, on the 3rd day of May, 1956.

LoRetta Jarvis, Secretary

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APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

By Harold C. Baughman, Chairman

Date March 3, 1956

The signing of the District Annual Report was authorized by a resolution of the District Governing Body adopted at a meeting held in June, 1956.

LoRetta Jarvis, Secretary
District Governing Body

