

1953

ANNUAL REPORT

MILLS COUNTY

SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Mills County, Iowa December 31, 1953

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESENTED BY

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS



D. N. McGrew, Chairman
Emerson, Iowa

J. F. Wearin, Jr.
Hastings, Iowa

S. C. Lincoln, Sr.
Pacific Junction, Iowa

Richard S. Goos, Secretary
Malvern, Iowa

Lillian A. Campbell, Treasurer
Malvern, Iowa



ASSISTED BY

Ray W. Jones, Unit Conservationist
B. Jack Wederquist, Conservation Aid
Gerald I. Bower, Conservation Aid
Frank R. Edie, Engineering Aid
Lawrence A. Jones, Farm Planner Aid

INDEX

District Activities	3
Flood Restoration	6
Cooperating Agencies	11
Summary of Conservation Activities	13
Goals for 1954	14
Financial Statement	15



DISTRICT ACTIVITIES



We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District here report to the people and to the cooperating agencies as to the progress of the soil conservation program at the close of the year 1953.

Planned conservation accomplishments this year were not as great as had been expected for a number of reasons; namely the dry weather during the fall terrace building season, the necessity of keeping some personnel on the job of finishing the Missouri River restoration work started last year, and the development of the Work Plan for the Mule Creek Watershed project. However, the over-all accomplishments were good and the regular routine jobs of terrace layout, waterways and the like proceeded at a satisfactory rate; and as usual a large number of new converts to conservation farming were made. Since the summary of conservation accomplishments which accompanies this narrative report enumerates the statistics of the work done, no further mention need be made of it here.

During the year the Commissioners finally, after several years in the process, obtained title to the TD-18 crawler tractor and dozer which we had had on loan from the Soil Conservation Service. Due to the fact that the tractor did not seem able to pay its own way for us, we decided to dispose of it. This was accomplished by finding a buyer who was willing to assume the sizeable repair bill and pay us some cash too. Of course, we advertised the sale and asked for bids in order to make the offering in as business like a manner as possible. The details of the transaction which followed may be seen in the financial report.

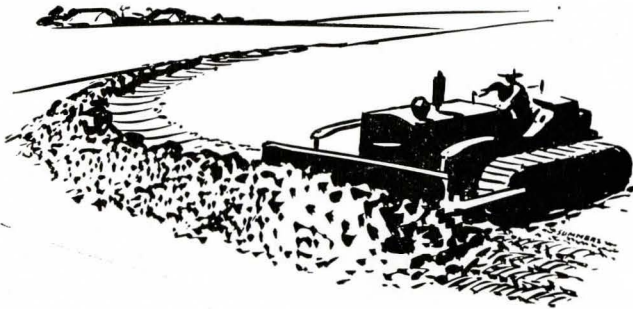
The district was honored to have one of our co-operators of long standing win recognition in the Des Moines Register and Tribune Conservation Accom-

plishment Program. This man was Warren Gregory of Tabor, and he placed first in the southwest Iowa group and second place in the state for having the best balanced farm plan and the largest amount of conservation practices. Other cooperators winning local district honors were; Frederick Larson of Emerson local winner in the landlord-tenant class, and Earl B. Taylor of Silver City being the local winner as the new cooperator that had applied the largest amount of practices in the shortest time.

Activities worthy of special mention here were the rather large scale dams and structures, waterways, and drainage jobs laid out by the work force of the District. Two large dams and structures for gully control were built by the State School at Glenwood (which is a cooperator the same as any individual), and Marion Wilson built a fine Farm pond and silt dam. Earl Maddocks, Jamie Summers and Charles Lakin all built extensive waterways with tile drainage to care for the normal seepage and thus permit a more lasting job. Geo. Graves, Ralph Jackson, and Frank Maxwell built open drainage systems and Gorden Steiner put in an extensive tile system, all with the help of the crew from the office. We had thought that this year we would build the two thousandth mile of terrace in the district, but the extreme dry condition of the soil for so long a time prevented much terrace building, so that our output of terraces fell far below normal.

Perhaps the most important event of the year was an action of the U. S. Congress, which meant that the Mule Creek Watershed was to be one of 50 pilot watersheds in the nation, for the purpose of learning from actual establishment just what may be expected in the way of soil and water conservation and prevention of floods by complete control of the watershed. Our district is very fortunate to have had this watershed already organized and partially covered with conservation practices and consequently ready to be chosen for this demonstration. The government is planning to

spend about \$300,000.00 in the area, which funds are to be matched as nearly as possible with local funds, building dams and structures and generally stopping gullies and retarding flood runoff. Extensive studies and engineering plans have been made this past fall, preparatory to moving the first dirt in the spring. A great deal of planning has gone into the project to date and it is the hope of your district commissioners and the directors of the watershed organization itself that from all of this effort something of value to the future of the nation will be learned over a period of years. Knowledge comes slowly and only after much painstaking work and observation, and information such as should be obtained from this project will no doubt become basic to the science of conservation and flood prevention for the next generation.



FLOOD RESTORATION



This year completed the work approved for Federal assistance on those farms flooded in April 1952. We wish to give credit to the farm land restoration group supervised by B. Jack Wederquist for a job well done.

To those of you who did not have access to our last years report, let us briefly high light the damages done. For a more complete account of the damage, please refer to "Wild Waters" by our Unit Conservationist, Ray W. Jones in our 12th Annual Report.

Immediately following the flood, the following damage report was submitted to the Soil Conservation Service.

Item	Amount
Crop and flooded, acres	32,042
Farmsteads flooded, number	141
Drainage system damaged	
Major drainage, miles	28
Minor drainage, miles	50
Fences damaged, rods	52,160
Wheat damaged, acres	11,000
Hay & Pasture damaged, acres	8,000
Corn in cribs damaged, bushels	18,370

Under the restoration program, set up by the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, this work was divided into two classes; the Channel Restoration of organized and mutual drainage groups and the Farm Land Restoration of individual farmers.

Land leveling, filling holes, deep plowing of sand-ed areas, emergency drainage and repair of farm drainage came under the authorized assistance for Farm Land Restoration. A detailed survey showed that 47 farms had sand deposits on some 1,798 acres and 53 farms needed assistance in cleaning out silted farm drainage ditches.

Under the authorized appropriation for assistance to organized and mutual drainage groups, eight of such groups qualified for assistance in restoring 20.8 miles of ditches and 9.5 miles of levees on ditches.

The amount of Flood Restoration work completed to Dec. 31, 1953 is shown in the following table.

FLOOD RESTORATION PROGRAM

MILLS COUNTY CHANNEL RESTORATION

Ditch Cleanout, Miles	20.8	
Ditch Cleanout, Cu. Yds.	165,184	
Levee Repair, Miles	9.56	
Levee Repair, Cu. Yds.	29,306	
Federal Cost		\$101,056.35
Non-Federal Cost, Structures	\$2993.70	
Non-Federal Cost, Clearing	683.36	
Non-Federal Cost, Misc.	1912.50	
Total Non-Federal Cost		\$5,589.56
Total Channel Restoration Cost		\$106,645.91

MILLS COUNTY FARM LAND RESTORATION

Surface Drainage, Miles	20.4	
Surface Drainage, Cu. Yds.	134,101	
Federal Cost		\$22,191.22
Non-Federal Cost	5,528.01	
TOTAL COST		\$27,719.23
Deep Plowing of Sand, Acres	1713	
Federal Cost		\$85,038.33
Non-Federal Cost	21,256.60	
TOTAL COST		\$106,294.93
Clearing Debris, Acres	167	
Federal Cost		\$1,566.40
Non-Federal Cost	391.60	
TOTAL COST		\$1,958.00
Total Farm Land Restoration Cost		\$135,972.16
Total Combined Flood Restoration Cost		\$242,618.07
Federal Cost		\$209,852.30
Non-Federal Cost		\$32,765.77
TOTAL		\$242,618.07

The Eleventh

**"Thou shalt inherit the hol
conserving its resources and
generation. Thou shalt safegu
thy living waters from drying
and protect thy hills from ove
thy descendants may have ab
fail in this stewardship of th
become sterile stony ground
descendants shall decrease an
from off the face of the earth.**

Commandment

**earth as a faithful steward,
productivity from generation to
rd thy fields from soil erosion,
up, thy forests from desolation,
grazing by thy herds, so that
ndance forever. If any shall
land thy fruitful fields shall
nd wasting gullies, and thy
live in poverty or be destroyed**

**Dr. W. C. Loudermilk
Soil Conservation Service**

You will note that the total cost of the flood restoration program was \$242,618.00; of this amount \$136,000.00 was divided on an 80-20 Federal and Farmer basis. This restoration work to farm land and to drainage channels was a "must" not only to make the land on which installed capable of producing, but was also necessary to carry the run-off water from higher areas to the drainage outlets.

The filling of holes, leveling sand and deep plowing involved a high acreage investment. It did however, return to production some 1700 acres of the Nation's "Bread Basket" land which would have been near desert conditions. The response to this work in yields was phenomenal. Farmers reported corn yields as high as 100 bu. per acre on some of the deep plowed land. Deep rooted crops such as legumes almost doubled their tonnage the second year after the drainage was completed.

This tremendous expenditure of Federal funds can only be charged to a neglect of, National land use pattern, long term permanent practices and the impounding of a portion of run-off waters in up-stream areas.

The Nation has been made increasingly conscious of Soil and Water Conservation and we feel that the lessons learned and the experience gained will many times repay the Federal and State Funds expended.



COOPERATING AGENCIES

The list of cooperating agencies, groups and individuals is a long one in Mills County, however we feel that our success for the year 1953 has been so dependent on them that we wish to give credit to each.

The Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is the first and most important cooperating agency with our District. From the S. C. S. we received the services of three technicians plus additional technical assistance from the Area office, and the Service furnishes all transportation, certain survey and office supplies and a portion of our general office expense.

The Iowa State Soil Conservation Committee furnished \$3,781.45 for the employment of a district clerk, part time rodman hire and office expense.

The Mills County P.M.A. Committee furnished \$3,575.43 for technical and non-technical assistance in checking needs for and completion checks of conservation practices for A. C. P. assistance payments.

The Mills County Agricultural Extension Service, through County Extension Director Richard S. Goos and his staff, have carried on educational work to the limit of available resources.

The Mills County Farm Bureau through the officers and members have given our program their earnest support and have devoted considerable time and effort in their programs and projects to soil conservation.

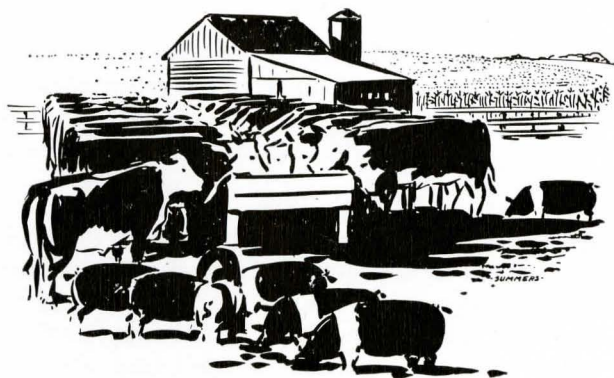
The Mills County Board of Supervisors have given soil conservation their support at every opportunity and have incorporated conservation measures in their highway stabilization. The Board operates the County Farm under a soil conservation plan and completed their terracing program in 1953.

The State Board of Control, Dr. V. J. Meyers, Superintendent of the State School at Glenwood, Ed Green, Farm Manager and Dean Gallup, Dairyman are among our top cooperators and the soil conservation plan has shown excellent results at the State School Farm. Two large retention type dams were completed on the State Farm in 1953.

Other groups that have cooperated with us are; Rural Young People, Farm Home Administration, Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Byron Reed Co. of Omaha, Natural Gas Pipeline of America, Standard Oil Pipeline, Northern Natural Gas Pipeline, American Telephone & Telegraph Co., Banks of Mills County, Churches of the County, Schools of Mills County. Service Clubs and Commercial Clubs.

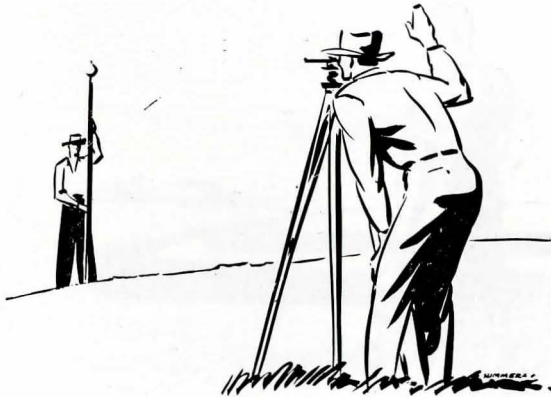
During the year we received excellent coverage of news events from the Press, Radio and T. V.

We have received active cooperation from farm equipment dealers and manufacturers, fertilizer manufacturers and other firms too numerous to mention. We welcome this cooperation and take this means of expressing our appreciation.



SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES
(Exclusive of Flood Restoration)

	1953	To Date
District Cooperators, Number . . .	89	436
Acres	14,322	96,849
Active Applications, Number . . .	111	779
Acres	18,358	163,447
Contouring Supervised, Acres . . .	1,300	69,809
Terraces Completed, Miles . . .	133	1,955
Drainage Completed, Acres . . .	1,684	15,123
Open Ditch, Miles	14	97
Sod Waterways Completed, Miles .	23	191
Diversion Terraces Completed,		
Miles	6	41
Lime Applied Cropland, Acres . .	2,500	33,917
Group Demonstrations, Number .	5	111
Attendance	58	1,518
Conservation Information Meetings,		
Number	3	133
Attendance	79	6,444
Conservation Contest, Number . .	0	5
Attendance	0	33,748
News Articles Released, Number .	14	212
Radio Broadcasts, Number . . .	4	4
T. V. Broadcasts, Number . . .	2	2
Commissioners Meetings, Number .	11	105



WORK LOAD and GOALS for 1954

		Total	
	Unit	Work Load	Goal-1954
Follow Up	No.	100	30
Farm Plans	No.	40	15
Contouring	Acres	12,960	3,240
Terraces	Mi.	514	176
Diversion Terraces	Mi.	16	5
Farm Drainage	Ac.	1,560	364
Open Drains	Mi.	30	7
Tile Drainage	Lin. Ft.	66,240	18,240
Structures	No.	15	1
Waterways	Mi.	57	20
Est. Field Boundaries . . .	Rods	7,300	4,000



FINANCIAL STATEMENT**RECEIPTS**

Balance on hand January 1, 1953 —	
Malvern Bank	\$2,171.07
Balance on hand, Special Fund —	
Mineola State Bank	22.46
Farmer Contribution	
Terraces	\$1,023.75
Drainage	403.40
Other	304.35
Total	1,731.50
Tractor Rental	1,216.00
Sale of Tractor	800.00
Tractor repair bill assumed by purchaser of tractor	1,978.50
Total Sale	2,778.59
State 2-A Budget	3,317.01
State 1-A Budget	464.44
P. M. A. - (Personnel & Mileage)	3,575.43
Total	\$15,276.50



DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen -		
State	\$1,216.80	
P. M. A.	3,575.43	
District	711.63	
Total		\$ 5,503.86
Clerical -		
State	2,100.21	
District	387.04	
Total		2,487.25
TD-18 Tractor Repairs -		
District paid	1,154.00	
Repairs charged and assumed by purchaser	1,978.59	
Total		3,132.59
District Operation -		
State \$	464.44	
District	1,195.19	
Office Supplies	85.41	
Postage	81.87	
Fuel & Utilities	624.10	
Dues and Subscrip- tions to Organi- zations	287.75	
Field Supplies	100.06	
Printing	350.87	
Photographic Supplies	51.02	
Office Equip- ment	78.55	
Total		1,659.63
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		12,783.33
Balance Cash, Dec. 31, 1953,		
Malvern Trust & Savings Bank		1,670.71
Balance Cash, Special		
Fund, Mineola State Bank		822.46
TOTAL		\$15,276.50

April 7, 1954

By D. N. McGrew
Chairman
District Commissioners

The signing of this Annual Report was authorized by
a resolution of the District Commissioners, adopted at
the special meeting on April 7, 1954.

By Richard S. Goos
Secretary
District Commissioners



PRINTED BY THE MALVERN LEADER

