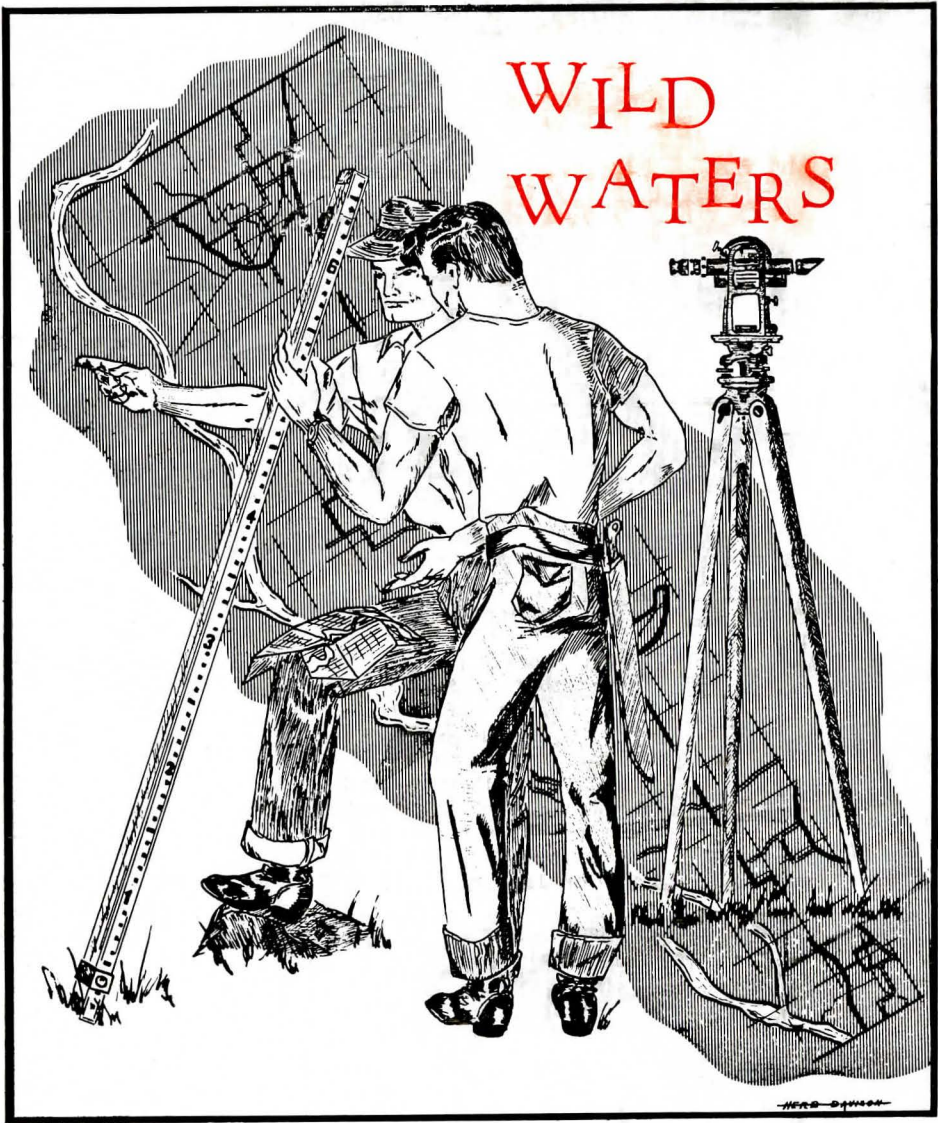


1952



Twelfth Annual Report

Mills County

Soil Conservation District

Mills County, Iowa

December 31, 1952

Our Cover Drawing

by Herbert L. Davison

Herbert worked as State Aid the first part of 1952, but on June 17th was put on as Instrument man on the Flood Restoration work. Drawing numerous maps and surveying through sand, mud and weeds, Herb was inspired to leave us a cover drawing. Herb is entering duty with U. S. Air Force on January 28, 1953.

Wild Waters

PRESENTED BY

District Commissioners



D. N. McGrew, Chairman
Emerson, Iowa

J. F. Wearin, Jr.
Hastings, Iowa

J. M. Steele
Malvern, 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

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District Activities



We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil Conservation District, with the assistance of Ray W. Jones, Unit Conservationist, here report to the people and to the cooperating agencies as to the progress of the conservation program at the close of the year 1952.

It has been an unusual year. A normal spring for the rolling part of the District, but very disastrous for some 35,000 acres of our Missouri bottom land, as April brought one of the most disastrous floods in 74 years. Excellent growing conditions prevailed thru the season with above normal rainfall in August. This coupled with a dry September and October resulted in a record yield and quality corn crop.

The reports filed on the following pages give definite credit for the work done within the District, but do not indicate the personal sacrifices, over time hours and use of personal equipment that is necessary in a year such as this. We had many part-time employees who gave overtime hours without compensation. In fact, a general feeling prevailed that we not only must handle our normal conservation schedule but, also must cope with "Wild Waters." It is to these people, both employees and cooperating groups, who gave so generously of their time and efforts to flood restoration that we dedicate this report "Wild Waters."

During the past year many items of interest above and beyond our normal district activities have occurred. It is with pride that we refer to an article published in the June 1952 issue of Capper's Farmer. This was an article on the land use of Mills County written by Clyde Zimmerman. The title of the article was "If You Want a Bigger Farm." Mr. Zimmerman said, "Here's how to get it. Grow more grass and legumes to build fertility; control erosion; and boost total production from your land." With good illustrations and

interviews, Mr. Zimmerman told of the increase in the production in Mills County through conservation farming. This article was also condensed in the September 1952 issue of the "Windrow" by the New Holland Machine Company.

Last spring the District and the Mills County Extension Service cooperated with DuPont & Company in establishing 24 seeding tests on cooperator farms using Arasan treatment for grass and legume seedings. The results were outstanding and proved that we have been losing a large number of our seedings by "damping off." A report of results set forth in the DuPont Agriculture News Letter stated that the most commonly tested crop was alfalfa and that the top increase for this was shown in Mills County where C. K. Stewart of Malvern, Iowa, had a 118% increase in stand in favor of seed treatment. Rew Burgoin of Silver City, Iowa, showed a 115% increase in stand where treatment was used on red clover seeding.

Another interesting item was a follow-up review of our 1949 "Operation Conservation" held on the Eural H. Anderson farm near Silver City, Iowa. Paul G. Strom, Agriculture Extension Supervisor for American Steel and Wire, wrote the review in the 1952 Winter Edition of The American Farm Pictorial. In this article Mr. Strom stated, "We do not often hear much about one of these farms after the Field Day is over, so for that reason we visited the Anderson farm last summer to see what progress had been made since 1949. On the 160 acre Anderson farm such conservation practices as terraces, waterways, contour fencing and a four-year rotation were established at the time of the Field Day. It was very gratifying to see the progress Mr. Anderson had made with his farm plan since it was started. The outstanding conservation practice is 7½ miles of broad-base terraces.

While the Andersons are very enthusiastic about the place that terraces and waterways have, they maintain the job of conservation is also very dependent on a good rotation. His rotation is — corn, oats,

alfalfa-brome, alfalfa-brome. Mr. Anderson likes the contour fencing and said, 'If a fellow is farming hills he should farm around them, on the contour and also fence on the contour.' Crop yield on the Anderson farm since the Field Day has been the proof of the pudding. Corn yields have increased 50%, oats doubled and one 12-acre field of alfalfa-brome hay has averaged 5 tons per acre for the past two years."

Another item of interest comes to us from the Nov. 6, 1952 issue of The Malvern Leader. In this Felix D. Summers, now of Milwaukee, won the highest award to be conferred on artists in the field of agriculture during 1952, when he won the National Emblem contest sponsored by the Soil Conservation Society of America.

During 1952 the District followed a new system of progressive planning. This new system allows farmers to become cooperators immediately upon application and to get District assistance from us with practices that will eventually become part of their basic farm plan. This enables any farmer interested in conservation to start gradually and move progressively into conservation farming. We have found during the past years that the cooperator who grows with his plan to be the one whose vision and ability go hand in hand.

As the year closes the Soil Conservation Service is being realigned to improve operations and efficiency. This does not affect our local District office only in that we have hope of securing additional assistance with our ever increasing work load.

Our present work load indicates the need of an assistant farm planner and a conservation aid who could devote his full time in assisting old cooperators with further improvements in their plans.

As our former annual reports indicate, we still maintain that follow-up work with plans is a sadly neglected field.

Wild Waters start at the top of some watershed and in their infancy are mere trickles. It is only due to lack of control by mankind that they become Wild. It is our opinion that upstream engineering as advocated by the U.S.D.A., in their watershed approach, is the logical answer.



Cooperating Agencies



While the list of cooperating agencies is a long one in Mills County, we feel that our success for the year 1952 has been so dependent on them that we wish to mention each specifically.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture is the first and foremost cooperating agency with our District. When our District was first formed, 12 years ago, we had no funds, no personnel, no office and no transportation. We did have a district program, a plan of work and a very definite need for soil conservation. The Soil Conservation Service had trained personnel which they loaned to us, they paid our office rent, our telephone bills and furnished us necessary transportation. They also gave us the benefit of experience from Soil Conservation Districts over the United States. Through the years we have continued to receive the highest type of cooperation from them and through their assistance our soil conservation program has shown a healthy advance each year.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This group makes a very important contribution to our District. By the use of State funds we are able to have a full time clerk at our office, the hire of a Conservation Aid for about 100 days per year and an allocation of \$500 per year for District expenses.

This is a tremendous assistance to our program and we are very appreciative to the State Committee. We recommend that their program be given full support by our State Representative and State Senator.

MILLS COUNTY PRODUCTION & MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

The continued cooperation which has existed between the County P.M.A. Committee, of which J. F.

Wearin Sr. is Chairman, and our District has been an influential factor in our over-all conservation program. We have made every effort to give them the maximum amount of technical assistance in the layout, supervision, and checking of conservation practices and they have given us every possible assistance, including 5% funds and program practice assistance. A large percentage of the Township Committeemen are District Cooperators.

MILLS COUNTY AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

The County Extension Director, Richard S. Goos, and his office force have carried on the educational work to the limit of available resources. He has given fullest cooperation in establishment of local recommendations on rotation, grass and legume mixes and in fertilizers most adapted to Mills County. He has also carried out extensive work on the profitable use of forage and constantly presented soil conservation to the 4-H Clubs of the County.

MILLS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

We have an excellent Farm Bureau organization in our County. C. K. Stewart is president. He and the other officers of the organization have always given the soil conservation program their hearty support and devote considerable time in their programs and projects to conservation. Most important of all is the fact that the Officers and Directors of the Farm Bureau are among our top conservation farmers.

MILLS COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Two of the three members are District Cooperators. They have given soil conservation their support at every opportunity and continue to incorporate conservation measures in their road work. The Board continues to operate the County Farm under a soil conservation plan and will complete their terracing program during 1953.

STATE BOARD OF CONTROL

The State Board of Control of the State School at Glenwood, Dr. V. J. Meyers, Superintendent of the School, Ed Green, Farm Manager and Dean Callup, Dairyman at the Farm are all enthusiastic in the application of conservation to the State Farm. Dean Callup has widely used grass silage for the Dairy Herd and Mr. Green can and will show groups and individuals a wide use of conservation practices at the Farm. In October 1952 a contract was signed for the construction of two retention-type dams on the State Farm. These dams will be completed in the Fall of 1953.

OTHER GROUPS THAT HAVE COOPERATED WITH US ARE

Rural Young People, Farm Home Administration, Federal Land Bank of Omaha, Natural Gas Pipeline of America, Standard Oil Pipeline, American Tel. & Tel. Company, Banks of Mills County, Churches of the County, Schools of Mills County (rural and town), Service Clubs and Commercial Clubs.

PRESS (WEEKLIES AND DAILIES)

The Press was our first cooperator and has continued to give us their loyal support. Our local papers, The Malvern Leader and The Glenwood Opinion Tribune give excellent coverage to all soil conservation news items. The Glenwood Opinion-Tribune gave excellent coverage to Soil Conservation in their Centennial issue of July 1952. We have only to name any item in soil conservation and The Malvern Leader cooperates.

We continue to get excellent news coverage from The Omaha World-Herald and the Council Bluffs Nonpareil. We also wish to extend our appreciation to Capper's Farmer for their fine article of June 1952.

COMMERCIAL AGENCIES

During the year we have received active cooperation from Farm Equipment dealers and manufactur-

ers, fertilizer manufacturers and other firms too numerous to mention. We welcome this cooperation and take this means of expressing our appreciation.

USE OF STATE FUNDS

During the calendar year of 1952 we used State appropriated funds in the amount of \$4636.75. These funds were budgeted for definite use, the sum of \$2098.72 being used for Clerical hire, the sum of \$1940.90 for Rodman hire and \$597.13 being used for office operation.

The time distribution for the Rodmen is as follows:

Activity	Hours
Farm Planning	121
Application	815
Maintenance	482
Group Enterprise	64
Information	14
Total	1496

USE OF P.M.A. FUNDS

Under a Federal ruling the Soil Conservation Service is charged with the responsibility of assisting the Production & Marketing Administration with all technical practices of the Agricultural Conservation Program. The Mills County P.M.A. Committee has been very cooperative in this program, and has made payments only after approval of work by the S.C.S. technician.

A total of 281 man days labor and 3434 miles of travel were financed from P.M.A. funds. The use made of this labor was in prior approval, layout of practices, supervising construction and final checking. Served 454 farms.

We were allocated P.M.A. funds in the amount of \$3659.48; the sum of \$370.00 coming from Program Practice funds and \$3289.48 from 5% Allotment funds.

The time distribution for this labor was as follows:

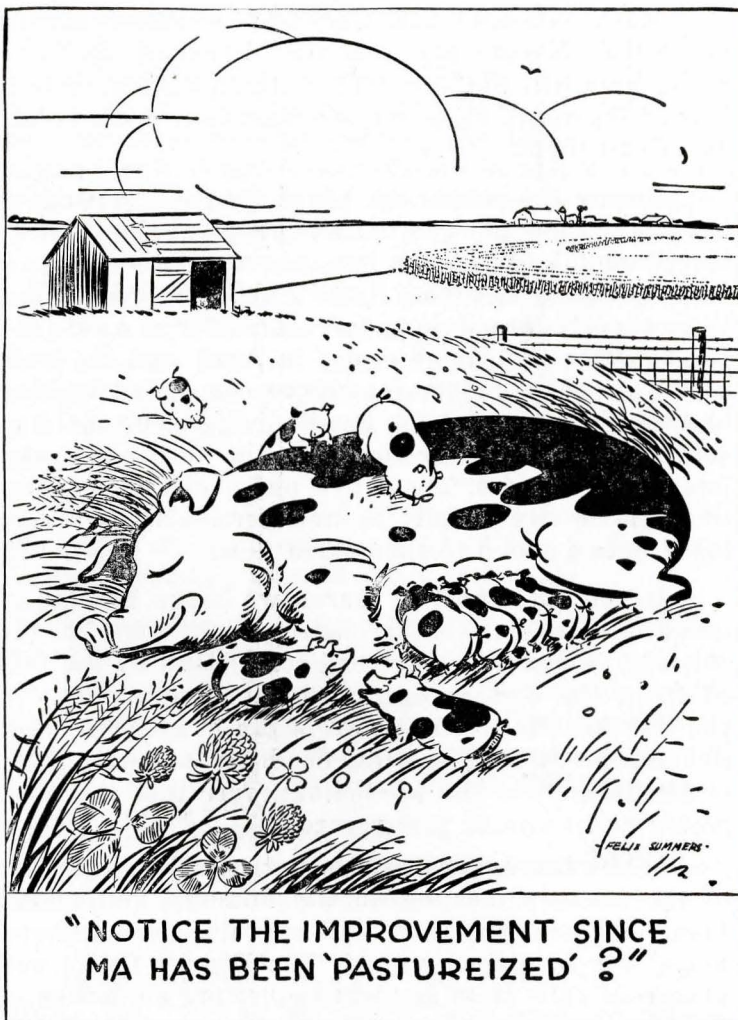
1. Prior approval . . .	80 man hours
2. Layout of practices . .	1489 man hours
3. Supervising construction .	311 man hours
4. Final checking . . .	365 man hours
Total	2245 man hours

No man in Mills County is more familiar with the flood damage of April and the Flood Restoration that followed than our Unit Conservationist, Ray W. Jones to him we assign the subject — Wild Waters.





U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE



WILD WATERS



Many accounts and reports have been written about the "Mighty Mo" and the "Flood of '52," our words here will add very little to the historical recordings of the event. However, we must record the events as we saw them.

During the winter we heard frequent reports of the heavy snow pack in the mountains at the head of the Missouri and also of a heavy accumulation of snow in the plains of Montana, North and South Dakota. But these reports caused no undue alarm, for as a rule the run-off from the plains comes in April and the bulk of the run-off from the mountains comes in late May and the first part of June. People living along the Missouri had become accustomed to the spring rise and later the June rise. These two periods of high water in the main stream only became serious when severe local storms added to their flood flow.

In the latter part of March we began hearing of unseasonal warm weather in the upper part of the Missouri Watershed, of record run-off and by the first of April the first reports of flooded communities in the Dakotas. By April 4th we began to get some very definite predictions on the flood stages that might occur. In general the predictions were that the flood would equal any of past record.

While there were some skeptics, a large percent of the farmers residing on the Missouri bottomland area began moving corn, other grain, livestock and machinery to higher ground. The District Office had numerous calls from farmers requesting elevations of their buildings, and in many cases farmers planned to move household goods to second floor, or feed and seed to haymows.

Our office received daily reports and estimates on flood stage from the Omaha Office of U. S. Engineers and were therefore able to advise many farmers.

On April 11th, the first over-topping of dikes occurred in Mills County and most of the bottomland area was inundated by evening of April 12th. The rise was very rapid for the next five days, at which time past flood stages were equaled.

One noticeable feature of the flood was the unusual high velocity which seemed to increase daily as the flood stage became higher. The District had arranged for the Unit Conservationist to hire a plane to make a daily survey of the flooded area and to secure aerial photos. During these daily flights it became apparent that the velocity of the flood was much greater in Mills County than in other counties to the south or to the north. The apparent reason for this seemed to be that the narrow diked area between Council Bluffs and Omaha acted as a funnel and the water was coming out of the funneled area at extreme velocity.

The crest of the flood occurred on April 19th, at which time the flood stage was 3 to 4 feet higher than it had been in the past 80 years of records.

We here quote from a report released on April 21, 1952, "Farmers had received adequate warning and had evacuated livestock and household goods. Some families did move a portion of their possessions to second story rooms or attics and we now have reports of cases where the flood waters did reach some of these stored items.

"Most tractors and motors were evacuated, but some items such as plows, disks, harrows and cultivating machinery were left in machine sheds.

"A few small homes have floated from their foundations, some houses and barns have been twisted on their foundations by heavy currents, and numerous small buildings have floated down stream, lodging on railroads, highways or in trees.

"Most of the corn and other grain was moved in advance of the flood, although some 18,370 bushels of

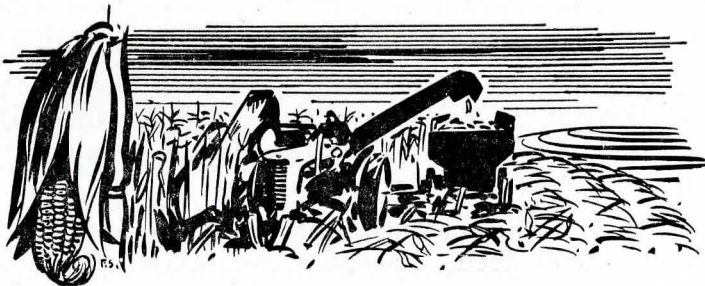
ear corn are reported as being under water. Through foresight of the County P.M.A. Committee all Government-owned grain was moved with no loss. A small amount of hay was also reported as being caught on the flood.

"There was practically no loss of livestock, other than chickens which could not be caught. In some cases there was a financial loss in forced sales of livestock.

"The problem requiring immediate attention and financial assistance is that of rehabilitating farm buildings, wells and fences; clearing debris from farm land, open outlets and clearing major drainage ditches and clearing shallow farm ditches."

Yes, the Wild Waters came because little men had not learned how to live with the God-given resources. If the energy expended by groups fighting against groups could only be channeled to the formation of a national land use pattern, if the appropriations could be invested in long term permanent practices, and if a small percentage of the run-off waters could be impounded in small upstream dams, then and only then will men live in peace with the natural forces and God given resources.

We hope that we may see the day when an awakened public will demand of their representatives that a program based on sound use of land and water be adopted and so administered as to stop the bickerings of agency against agency.



A. DAMAGE SURVEY

On Friday, April 25, 1952 the Mills County Agricultural Mobilization Committee met and set up a damage survey program. The initial survey showed the below listed facts:

Cropland flooded, Acres . . .	32,042
Farmsteads flooded, Number . .	141
Drainage systems silted	
Major drainage, Miles . . .	28
Minor drainage, Miles . . .	50
Fences damaged, Rods . . .	52,160
Wheat damaged, Acres . . .	11,000
Hay and Pastures damages,	
Acres	8,000
Corn in cribs damaged, Bushels .	18,370

A few weeks later, a farm land restoration program was initiated through the Production & Marketing Administration whereby all farmers suffering damage to farm land made application for assistance. The farms were then visited by a team made up of a P.M.A. Township Committeeman and a S.C.S. representative.

At this time the Soil Conservation Service was given the responsibility of making all surveys for land leveling, filling holes, deep plowing of sand, emergency drainage and repair of farm drainage.

The check by P.M.A. and S.C.S. showed that 47 farms had sand deposits on 1798 acres, and that 53 farms needed assistance in clearing out silted farm drainage ditches.

In the meantime the Soil Conservation Service had received authorization and appropriation to assist organized drainage districts and mutual drainage groups to clear silt and debris from the channels of major drainage ditches. Nine drainage groups in Mills County qualified for assistance in restoration of 28 miles of ditches and 17 miles of levee on the ditches.

B. MEASURES AND PRACTICES FOR FLOOD RESTORATION

As the sand deposits on the 1,798 acres varied from 6 inches to 6 feet deep, it was necessary to make a topographic survey of each sanded area. It had been set forth in regulations governing flood restoration that where land was to be deep plowed, sand and soil must be mixed in equal amounts. As most of the plows available were 3 foot, this meant that the sand must be leveled to a depth not to exceed 18 inches. After the survey was complete a report and estimate of cost was presented to County P.M.A. After approval of the expenditure by P.M.A., the S.C.S. force laid out, supervised and made final inspection of the practice.

To date of this report, 1020 acres have been leveled, deep plowed and leveled after plowing.

The restoration of farm drainage also required extensive survey for large silt deposits against natural barriers, such as fences, trees and shrubs, had in many cases changed the direction of slope. A large amount of this farm drainage restoration could not be completed until the channel restoration work or the major drains was completed to the outlet of the farm ditch.

C. PROGRESS TO DATE — FLOOD RESTORATION**ITEM**Filling Holes, Leveling Sand and Deep Plowing

Requests requiring technical services .	47
Requests surveyed	32
Requests completed	24
Level sand and holes, acres completed .	995
Deep plow, acres completed	1020
Level after plow, acres completed .	743

Repair of Farm Drainage

Requests requiring technical services .	53
Requests surveyed	30
Requests completed	17
Farm Drainage completed, miles .	11
Farm Drainage completed, cu. yds. .	73692
Benefited, acres	1771

Channel Restoration

	Number	Ditch Miles	Levee Miles	Surveyed Number	Contracted Number	Progress
Drainage						
Districts	9	28	17	9	8	2 complete
Flood Restoration Assistance, Man Days						1738

SUMMARY OF CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

(Exclusive of Flood Restoration)

	1952	Total to Date
District Cooperators, Number	67	388
Acres	16,243	80,922
Active Applications, Number	268	668
Acres	47,882	145,089
Contouring supervised, Acres	4,948	68,509
Terraces completed, Miles	139	1,821
Drainage completed, Acres	1,248	13,439
Open Ditch, Miles	9	82
Sod Waterways completed, Miles	38	168
Diversion Terraces completed, Miles	7	35
Lime applied Cropland, Acres	9,825	31,417
Group Demonstration, Number	3	106
Attendance	36	1,460
Conservation Information Meet- ings, Number	2	130
Attendance	65	6,365
Conservation Contests, Number	0	5
Attendance	0	33,748
News Articles released, Number	8	198
Commissioner Meetings, Number	5	94

NARRATIVE

Many of our normal conservation activities had lighter accomplishments in 1952 than in former years, but this was not due to lack of interest or lack of applications for assistance.

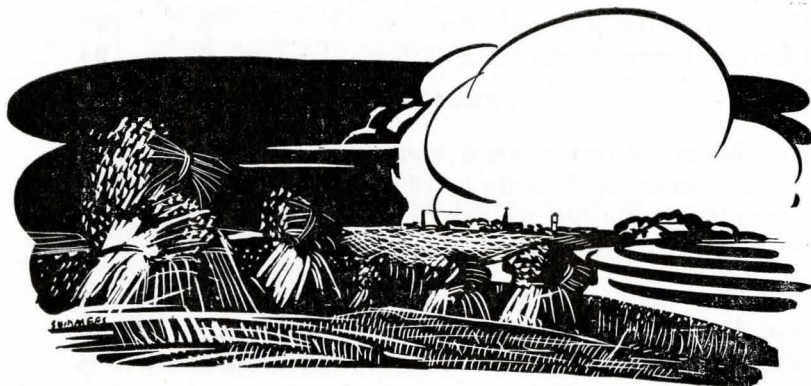
The flood restoration program drew heavily on our limited equipment and transportation. Due to large amount of work on the flooded area, there was

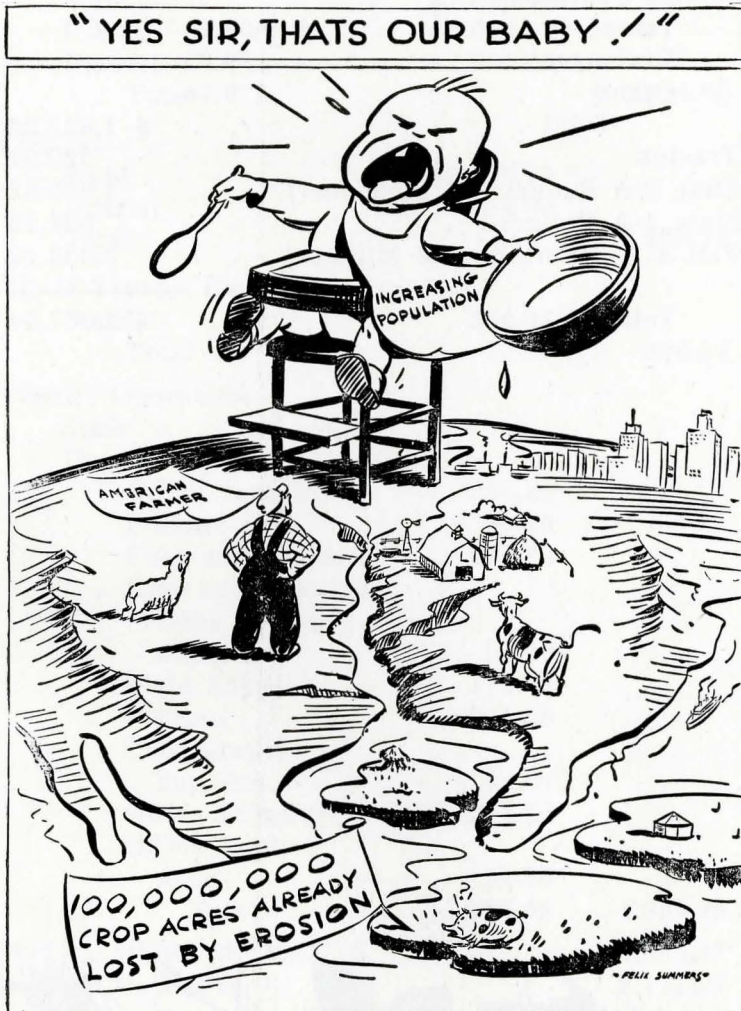
a lack of qualified operators and equipment for some of the seasonal work.

Due to the heavy load of applications our District needs additional planning assistance and additional assistance for follow-up work on the older conservation plans.

WORK LOAD AND GOALS FOR 1953

Item	Unit	Total Work Load	Goal, 1953
Follow Up	Number	100	80
New Cooperators	Number	200	90
Contouring	Acres	6,480	4,800
Terraces	Miles	514	200
Diversion Terraces	Miles	10	10
Farm Drainage	Acres	3,180	840
Open Drains	Miles	60	16
Structures	Number	5	2
Waterways	Miles	57	30
Tile Drainage	Lin. Ft.	50,490	25,000



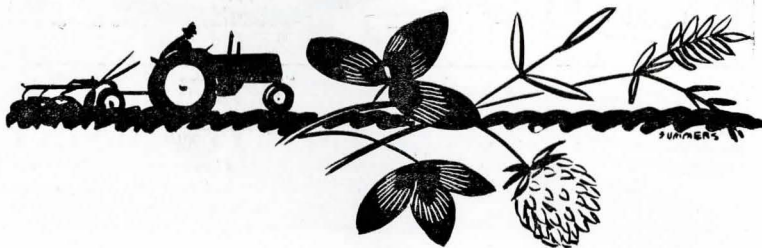


U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

RECEIPTS

Balance on hand January 1, 1952	\$ 2,949.52
Service Charges—	
Terraces	\$ 868.28
Drainage	179.25
Other	579.70
Total	\$ 1,627.23
Tractor	420.92
State 2-A Budget — (Personnel)	4,039.62
State 1-A Budget	597.13
P.M.A. — (Personnel & Mileage)	3,233.12
 Total	 \$12,867.54



DISBURSEMENTS

Rodmen—

State . . .	\$1,940.90	
P.M.A. . . .	3,233.12	
District . . .	650.04	
Total		\$ 5,824.06

Clerical—

State	\$2,098.72	
District . . .	522.00	
Total		2,620.72

TD-18 Tractor Repairs—

District	396.01	
Total		396.01

District Operation—

State	\$ 597.13	
District . . .	1,258.55	
Office Supplies .	297.30	
Postage	70.50	
Fuel and Utilities	663.12	
Dues and Subscrip- tions to Organ- izations	56.00	
Field Supplies .	116.98	
Printing	301.25	
Photographic Supplies	48.28	
Office Furniture .	207.50	
Office Equip- ment	94.75	
Total	\$1,855.68	1,855.68

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS . . .		10,696.47
Balance Cash Dec. 31, 1952 . .		2,171.07

TOTAL		\$12,867.54
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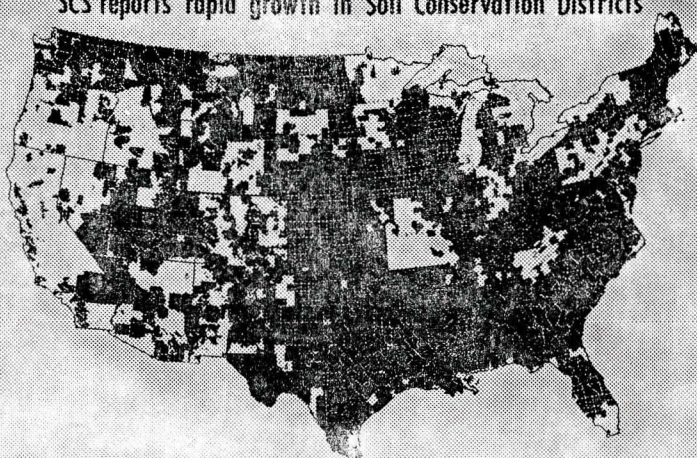
February 3, 1953

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 regular meeting on February 3, 1953

By Richard S. Goos
Secretary
District Commissioners

SCS reports rapid growth in Soil Conservation Districts



	93,000	278,000	476,000	668,000	883,000	1,120,000
Year.....	1943	1945	1947	1949	1951	1952
Soil Conservation Districts...	901	1346	1883	2154	2373	2467

