

1962 ANNUAL REPORT
FOR
DAVIS SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS

Clay C. Barnett, Chairman
Harold C. Baughman, Commissioner
Sam Botts Jr., Commissioner

Lionel C. Herteen, Secretary & Assistant Commissioner
Dale Blackwell, Treasurer and Assistant Commissioner
Charles Chickering, Assistant Commissioner
P. W. Spilman, Assistant Commissioner

SCS PERSONNEL

Verle M. Arnold, Work Unit Conservationist
Eugene Francis, Conservation Aid
Larry Harper (Conservation Aids, Part Time
Teddy Dixon (Conservation Aids, Part Time
L. Loretta Augspurger, State Clerk

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Foreword

The winter of 1961-62, which started early in the fall of 1961, before harvesting of corn and beans was completed, was one of our most severe winters on record. Harvesting of these two 1961 crops was completed late in the spring of 1962. Beans and corn yields were both damaged and in some cases, soybeans were almost a complete loss.

However, 1962 turned out to be an ideal crop year. The highest yields on record for corn and beans were reported for the 1962 harvest. The ideal growing and harvesting weather for 1962 had a tendency to make us forget the past severe winter. However, it is hard to forget the 1961 crop losses -- notes not paid on time, interest accumulation on these notes and only a damaged crop to pay the bill.

So, even with the all-time, high yields of 1962, many Davis County farmers were not able to break even because of the 1961 crop loss.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

It is a pleasure to work with cooperative people. We have that kind of people to exchange views, decide on changes and approaches that should be made to get the all important job of soil and water conservation job done.

The "job ahead in conservation" for the Davis Soil Conservation District was completed, printed and circulated in 1962, under the title "Davis County Looks Ahead."

In 1962, we held twelve (12) regular and three (3) special Commissioners' meetings to carry on the work of the District. Additional special program planning meetings were held with the ASCS, Extension Service, Farmers' Home Administration and Soil Conservation Service.

Commissioner, Harold Baughman, and Assistant Commissioner, Lionel Herteen, attended the NASCD Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February of 1962.

Four Commissioners and assistants attended the annual Short Course, held at the Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa. They returned well pleased, with the program, and better equipped for the Commissioners' job, ahead.

Early in 1962, more interest developed in the watershed approach, so that by the end of the year, two more watersheds in the District were moving along well towards organization and petitioning for assistance. These were, North Wyacondah and Carter Creek, consisting of 18,800 and 24,480 acres, respectively.

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES, CON'T.

Leonard Larsen, Head of the Watershed Party, and Lyall Mitchell, Area Conservationist, both of the Soil Conservation Service, explained the Big Wyacondah Watershed Work Plan to the farmers of the watershed and answered questions.

While in the District, Mr. Larsen made a preliminary survey of possible development of watersheds on Fox River, Carter Creek and Soap Creek.

The District paid subscriptions to the Iowa Soil and Water Conservation Magazine so that it could be placed in the library of the Vocational Agriculture Department of the Davis County Community Schools, and the Bloomfield Public Library.

The "Queen of Conservation" Contest was held during the Old Soldiers and Settlers Reunion, in Drakesville, Iowa. Miss Kay Clyman was selected as the county queen and Miss Barbara Allen was chosen as Miss Clyman's attendant. Miss Clyman advanced to win the regional contest and from there advanced to state competition. All Commissioners and wives attended the Plowman's Banquet and state "Queen of Conservation Contest", at Atlantic, Iowa. This was a very interesting and colorful contest, however, Southeastern Iowa (Region 9), did not win.

Meeting with the District Commissioners on January 8, 1962, were: LaVern Kincart, John Swartzendruber, Gene Grim, Ed Whirrett, Earl Trachsel, Kenneth Good, Stanley Baughman, Oscar Dieffenbach, Ralph Taylor, Ryan Parks, Harlan Widmer and Henry Kline, regarding the formation of the North Wyacondah Watershed.

COMMISSIONERS ACTIVITIES, CON'T.

Two (2) meetings were held with the Davis County Board of Supervisors to explain the one-quarter mill levy as set up in the state Code of Iowa, in which they could, under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Davis Soil Conservation District, levy up to 1/4 mill on all agricultural land in the District for maintenance of watershed structural measures installed with federal assistance.

To date, December 31, 1962, no action has been taken by the County Board of Supervisors. The District is delaying further action on surveying or construction in the Big Wyacondah Watershed, until final decision of the County Board of Supervisors is made.

One of the local teachers, Mrs. Don Davis, made application to attend the Springbrook Conservation Camp, near Guthrie Center, Iowa. Her application was approved by the District and Mrs. Davis attended one session at this camp.

Twenty (20) booklets and one thousand (1000) inserts were ordered for the churches of the county to be used during Soil Stewardship Week. This material has been greatly appreciated by the ministers and has resulted in many good sermons on soil and water conservation.

At a special meeting, April 25, 1962, held in the County Court House, the Big Wyacondah Watershed was approved.

Commissioner Barnett attended the State Soil Conservation District Commissioners' Convention held in Sioux City, in September of 1962.

At the October regular meeting, a nominating committee of, Dewey Harper, Iles Heady, Cleo Rinkenberger, made the following report on nominations for Commissioner: Sam Botts, Jr., Lionel

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES, CON'T.

Herteen, Charles Chickering, all present assistant commissioners, and Ed Amstutz, long-time cooperator with the District, and according to his record, one of our best. One of these men to be elected to succeed retiring Commissioner, Dale Blackwell.

The Annual Meeting and Election on November 14, was well attended. Representatives of the State Soil Conservation Committee Office, two representatives from the Des Moines Register and Tribune Office, and Commissioners from Keokuk Soil Conservation District, Sigourney, Iowa were in attendance. Dr. George Browning from the Iowa State University was the speaker for the event. He did his usual outstanding job, being both informative and constructive. Sam Botts, Jr., was elected as the new Commissioner, to replace Dale Blackwell.

At the re-organization meeting in December of 1962, Clay Barnett was re-elected, Chairman, Dale Blackwell, retiring Commissioner, was re-elected Treasurer, and Lionel Herteen was elected Secretary.

It was also agreed to recommend to the State Association that legislation be enacted to change the District title to "Soil and Water Conservation Districts", rather than the present, "Soil Conservation District."

COMMISSIONER BLACKWELL RETIRES

It was with a great deal of feeling and regret that Dale Blackwell made his decision to retire as Commissioner. Dale was elected Commissioner upon organization of the Davis Soil District in 1944, and has served as Commissioner for a total of eighteen (18) consecutive years.

COMMISSIONER BLACKWELL RETIRES, CONTINUED.

Mr. Blackwell received two (2) well deserved awards - a plaque from the State Soil Conservation Committee, presented by Richard Prestemon, Assistant Director of the State Committee, and a second plaque of recognition from the local Soil Conservation District. These plaques were presented to Blackwell during the Annual Meeting of Cooperators, November 14, 1963.

We wish to extend our thanks to Dale Blackwell for his constructive and continuous service to the District and community and sincerely hope that he has the best of success in his farming operations.

DISTRICT AWARDS

The District can be proud of its accomplishments and awards won by its' cooperating families.

Miss Kay Clyman, daughter of Cooperator, Neal Clyman and wife, Bonnie, won the title of Davis County Queen of Conservation and was also Regional winner at the Regional Contest, held in Fairfield, Iowa, during September of 1962.

Mr. and Mrs. Iles Heady were the Sweepstakes winners for the Region Nine (9) Register & Tribune Contest.

Mrs. Alvin Baughman and son, Stanley, won the District Contest in the Landlord-Tenant Group.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harsch won the county contest in the New Cooperator Group. It should be stated here, that, Mr. Harsch was one of the first cooperators of the District. However, this award was on a farm they purchased in 1960.

Awards were presented to the above mentioned by the Bloomfield newspapers and Des Moines Register and Tribune.

WILDLIFE AREAS

Each year, ponds and gully control structures have been built and fenced and many of them planted to wildlife food and cover areas. This year, the acres added are as follows: ponds, 100 acres, permanent structures, 50 acres, trees planted, 18 acres, and the number of water storage structures stocked with fish were 60. All of these improvements add to the game bird, and song bird habitat as well as recreation for hunting and fishing.

1962 PRECIPITATION

Following, is a report on the amount of precipitation received in Davis County, during the year of 1962:

The highest temperature was 100 degrees on August 23, 1962.

A low of 12 degrees below zero was recorded on three different days during the year - January 11 and 20, and again on March 1, 1962.

Total amount of rainfall recorded for the year was 27.17 inches, and 4.21 inches of moisture was attributed as snow. The total amount of moisture recorded was 31.38 inches.

The average amount of precipitation for Davis County is usually between 31 and 32 inches per year. Therefore, the above report would indicate that the previous year was about normal, precipitation wise.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>CAL. YR.</u> <u>1962</u>	<u>ACCOMPLISHED</u> <u>TO DATE</u>
District Cooperator	Number	70	857
District Cooperator	Acres	13594	180,411
Basic Plans	Number	37	532
Basic Plans	Acres	8646	115,788
Contouring	Acres	1437	40,736
Diversion	Lineal Ft.	33665	635,585
Farm Pond	Number	75	1324
Fishpond Stocking	Number	60	884
Structures	Number	17	135
Waterways	Acres	80	954
Hedgerow	Lineal Ft.	3500	187,730
Land Grading	Acres	15	51
Mains and Laterals	Lineal Ft.	21755	180,155
Pasture Renovation	Acres	1016	15,205
Strip Cropping	Acres	55	2749
Surface Field Ditch	Lineal Ft.	23870	362,840
Terraces, standard	Lineal Ft.	53,200	2,664,964
Terraces, parallel	Lineal Ft.	24,285	77,085
Tile drains	Lineal Ft.	4390	30,790
Tree planting	Acres	18	174
Wildlife Habitat Development	Acres	269	2148

FORESTRY

Farmers in Davis District continue to increase their interest in the planting of conifers for pulpwood, posts and lumber. To date, some 17½ acres have been planted to conifers.

The following cooperators planted some 18,000 trees in 1962: Billy J. Howk, 4 acres, James Bailey, 2 acres, Raymond Howard, 4 acres, R. E. Rasmussen, 1 acre, Virgil Pickerall, 1 acre, Esco Campbell, 2 acres, Donald Van Steenis, 2.5 acres, and R. C. Hockersmith, 1 acre.

District Forester, Bruce Plum, Fairfield, Iowa, assisted several cooperators in timber management problems.

Some pulpwood has been sold to the Crandon Paper Mill at Fort Madison, Iowa.

WATERSHED ACTIVITY

Big Wyacondah Watershed

The Work Plan for the Big Wyacondah Watershed was completed early in 1962. It was reviewed with the local people in April of 1962, during a public hearing, held in the Davis County Court House. The local people and sponsors accepted the plan at this meeting.

Congress approved the watershed Work Plan and it was approved for operation, October of 1962.

Structural measures in the watershed work plan include two flood water retarding structures, 57 grade stabilization structures, three miles of stream channel improvement on the little Wyacondah channel and nine acres of structural waterways. Two of the proposed structures will serve as public road crossings and will replace existing bridges. The county will also realize benefits at 19

Big Wyacondah Watershed, Continued.

bridge and 5 culvert locations through reduced future costs of replacements.

Total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,088,292, of which the federal contribution will be about \$815,632, with local interest providing about \$272,660, including land, easements, and right-of-ways, operation and maintenance of the project when it is completed. The project will return \$1.60 in direct benefits for every dollar of project cost.

If operation and maintenance agreements can be completed, soon, and the necessary easements signed, it is planned to let contracts and start construction this summer. An eight year period is planned for completion of the project.

Carter Creek Watershed

Carter Creek Watershed is a 24,500 acre watershed in the West and South part of Davis County. It heads at Moulton, Iowa, in Appanoose County. This watershed probably floods more frequently than any other watershed in the county. Sheet and gully erosion are also major problems.

Several meetings have been held with Carter Creek farmers over the past four years. At a meeting held, August 7, 1962, at the Davis County Savings Bank Building, farmers in the Carter Creek Watershed voted to form an organization and to petition for watershed assistance.

Watershed directors elected were: G. D. Lunsford, Chairman, S. M. White, Vice-Chairman, Tom Hardy, Secretary. Other directors include Truman Aleshire, Lem Jarvis, Austin Davis and Gerald McMains.

The Davis Soils Commissioners plan to meet with the Appanoose District Commissioners, in February, to complete the petition for

Carter Creek Watershed

Con't.

assistance so it can be submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

North Wyacondah Watershed

North Wyacondah Watershed is a 72,000 acre watershed that heads just south of Bloomfield and runs diagonally southeast through Davis County into Scotland and Clark Counties in Missouri.

The drainage area includes some 18, 800 acres in Davis County, some 4800 acres in Van Buren County and the balance in Missouri.

Major problems in the watershed are sheet and gully erosion, damage to the agricultural land and flood water damage to crops, pasture, roads and buildings.

Farmers in the Missouri part of the watershed have organized and submitted a watershed petition for assistance. Their request has been approved by the Governor of Missouri.

Several information meetings were held this year with the farmers living in the Davis part of the watershed. At a meeting held, July 27, 1962, at Pulaski, Iowa, the farmers voted to petition for watershed assistance and selected the following directors, Charles Harsch, Ed Whirrett, LaVern Kincart, Vaughn Baughman and Earl Traschel.

Present plans are to meet this spring, with the Soil Conservation Commissioners of Van Buren County and submit a petition for assistance to the State Soil Conservation Committee.

Other Watersheds

Interest has been expressed by farmers living in Fox, Chequest, and Soap Creek Watersheds, regarding the possible formation of watershed organizations in these watersheds. To date, no formal organizations have been organized in any of the above mentioned watersheds.

TREASURER'S REPORT

1962 Calendar Year

Cash on hand, January 1, 1962,	\$ 661. 53
Royalties Received during the year	7201. 84
Other Income	436. 92
Royalties paid during the year	6003. 19
Other Expenses	918. 53
Cash on hand, January 1, 1963	\$1378. 57

2-M BUDGET

This fund is made possible by the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee for the purpose of hiring a State Clerk and two (2) part-time Conservation Aids. This fund is determined on a fiscal year basis. On July 1, 1962, the Davis County Soils District was credited with \$4578.00 to be used for the salaries of the above mentioned employees.

1-M BUDGET

An account of \$500 for each soil conservation district in Iowa is also set up on a fiscal year basis, for the purpose of Commissioners' travel expenses (on duty), office expenses, meeting expenses, prizes for contests, and printing expenses.

We are most grateful to the Iowa Soil Conservation Committee for making these two (2) funds available for our use in the promotion of soil and water conservation.

LOOKING AHEAD

The District has planned to carry out the following projects in 1963:

Revise the Program and Work Plan for the District.

Promote the long-time conservation needs application,

("Davis County Looks Ahead").

Cooperate in called meetings by the State Conservation

Committee and ASC-ACP, both Regional and County.

Attend the Commissioners' Short Course at ISU, in

Ames, Iowa.

Observe Stewardship Week, furnishing material on conser-

vation to local churches and hold tours.

Attend State and National SCD Annual Meetings.

Submit Watershed petitions for Carter Creek and North

Wyacondah Watersheds.

Observe Soil Conservation Week by holding tours and

banquet with service clubs and cooperating agen-

cies.

Hold contractors' banquet and information meetings.

Sponsor the "Queen of Conservation Contest".

Hold the Annual Meeting of District Cooperators.

Enter the Goodyear Contest.

Enter the Register and Tribune Contest.

We will sponsor two teachers (tuition paid) to the Springbrook Conservation Training Camp, as in past years. We will also hold a speech contest for young people, of high school age, in Davis County.

LOOKING AHEAD, CONTINUED.

Prizes for speech contest are as follows:

District	(1st.) \$10	(2nd.) \$7.50	(3rd.) \$5
Regional	(1st.) \$25	(2nd.) \$15	(3rd.) \$5
State	(1st.) \$50	(2nd.) \$25	(3rd.) \$25

A 4-H Club, boy or girl, will be awarded prizes as follows,
for the outstanding record book (conservation) --

\$10	for first prize
\$ 5	for second prize
\$ 2	for third and fourth prizes