

MILLS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FISCAL YEAR '76
ANNUAL REPORT

ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT

Thou shall inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion, thy living waters from drying up, thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land thy fruitful fields shall become sterile stony ground and wasting gullies, and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty from off the face of the earth.

We, the Commissioners of the Mills County Soil and Water Conservation District respectfully submit this annual report for Fiscal Year '76 to you, for your review and consideration.

Each year we try to involve more individuals in our program. Special efforts will be directed toward controlling erosion and pollution resulting from new construction on highways, in cities and towns, from feedlot and chemical wastes and from industry and urban areas.

KEEP IN MIND -- Pollution is a convenience -- not a necessity. Only through the help and support of everyone can we carry out a successful program.

We would like to say "THANK YOU" to the Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service, State Soil Conservation Committee, Department of Soil Conservation, County Extension, Iowa Conservation Commission, and all the many schools, banks, churches, newspapers, radio stations, plus all of the other groups and individuals who have helped us carry out our program. A very special "THANK YOU" goes to the more than 100 individuals in Mills County who sent donations to help further the cause of soil and water conservation. Their generosity is certainly appreciated.

Many people are of the opinion that the Soil Conservation Districts assist only agricultural land users. This is not the case. Cities and towns are included in the District and land use assistance is provided to landowners in towns, cities, and units of government. The only thing these people must do to receive assistance is to request it. If it falls within our jurisdiction we'll be happy to provide the necessary assistance.

COMMISSIONERS:

ALBERT WASHBURN, CHAIRMAN
HAROLD TACKETT, VICE-CHAIRMAN
WILLIAM STACY
ROGER JACKSON
GLEN SELL

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS:

HENRY PEIN
PAUL HATHAWAY
RICHARD BIERMAN

"The history of every nation is eventually written in the way in which it cares for its soil" Franklin D. Roosevelt.

WATERSHEDS:

WAUBONSIE CREEK -- The construction is moving right along. Site 9-1 was completed on May 11, 1976. Levings Construction Company of Tarkio, Missouri was the contractor. Sites 11-1 and M-1 were started in June. Stanley Construction Co. has this contract. The district has been busy trying to obtain easements for the next part of the watershed. Hopefully a contract can be let in the late fall. At this time we are right on schedule.

PONY CREEK WATERSHED -- All but one of the 22 grade stabilization structures are completed. The remaining one is the road structure where the 4.3 miles of channel will begin. We anticipate letting the contract for this late in fall '76.

"A farmer is always going to be rich next year." Philemon

MILLS COUNTY SOIL SURVEY -- The soil survey of Mills County is approximately 60% completed as of July 1, 1976. The Soil Scientists of the Soil Conservation Service have completed approximately 163,000 acres of the 285,000 acres in the county. John R. Nixon, Soil Survey Party Leader, Pat Pisarik, and Mary Ann Barger are scheduled to complete the Standard Soil Survey in the fall of 1977.

"Of all occupations from which gain is secured, there is none better than agriculture, nothing more productive, nothing sweeter, nothing more worthy of a free man." Cicero

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The Mills County Soil Conservation District won first prize at the State Fair with our Watershed mock-up and the reproductions of the Ding Darling Cartoons painted by Sue Pisarik.

Four Commissioners, 2 assistant Commissioners, D.C. and Clerk attended the annual conference in Des Moines.

Co-sponsored soil judging contest. Held in Fremont County with Fremont Co. SCD as host.

Held contractors meeting to discuss cost-share programs.

Amateur oil painting contest judging 11-14-75. Adult winners were Lois Yates, Sue Pisarik, and Virginia Stinard. Mark Collins was youth winner.

Poster contest held for all elementary school children in the county.

Paid \$200.00 National Dues.

1500 placemats and 50 posters were ordered for Soil Stewardship Week.

Regular meeting date was changed from 1st Tuesday of each month to the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 P.M.

Book "Handbook for Farmers on Conservation Tillage" was purchased.

Purchased "Ghost Towns of Mills County, Iowa".

Purchased Bohn Rex Rotary mimeograph.

Signed Memorandum of Agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers.

Corner Conservation Development Community - a four county non-profit group was formed. Counties involved are Mills, Fremont, Montgomery and Page.

Six persons were hired under Title VI, CETA, for this four county group.
A clerk and technician are stationed at Malvern.

Working towards a nine district (8 county) RC&D project.

"God did not will that the way of cultivation should be easy." Virgil

FARMERS SATURDAY NIGHT

Another old tradition
Is fading out of sight
The custom of the family trip
To town on Saturday night.

For Saturday night on Main
Street
Always a big affair
And everyone from Ad to Zeek
Congregated there.

Folks did a lot of shopping
There was no doubt of that...
But it took second fiddle
To the real friendly chat.

You stopped on every corner
And the middle of the block;
You talked of children and
crops of corn,
And sun and rain and stock.

The children all had a dime or
so
To spend as they might wish
For perhaps a five-cent movie
Or a nickel ice-cream dish.

For nickels then had value
And we, with children skill
Could have more fun than
youngsters today
Get from a dollar bill.

The load of groceries Dad
picked up
And carried to the rig
Cost almost five dollars
But, gee, it sure was big.

And packed amongst the
groceries
Were yard goods, buttons,
thread
No store-bought clothes for
most of us.
Mom made them all instead.

And on the night that Dad went
in
To pay his monthly bill
We crowded very close to him
For that extra pleasant thrill.

Of the big free bag of candy
That the grocer always gave
We not only filled our pockets
But our nickel, too, we'd save.

Yes, the Saturday night
tradition
Is stealing fast away
Along with many other things
Of that slower, happier day.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I-M Budget

Total Allocation		\$2196.14
Commissioners Mileage	\$1212.97	
Office Supplies	707.70	
Contest Prizes	24.86	
Rental for Typewriter	64.00	
Materials for demonstrations	85.79	
Office Expense	34.39	
Meeting Expense	66.43	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2196.14	

II-M Budget

Total Allocation		\$19,186.36
Salaries - Clerk & St. Aide	\$16,727.20	
State share of IPERS	662.15	
State share of FICA	978.54	
Health Insurance	498.00	
Life Insurance	72.00	
Travel	225.22	
Equipment	23.25	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$19,186.36	

III-M Budgets State Cost-share

73/74	Total Allocation		\$22,850.00
	42 Landowners used \$22,711.27		
	Released to State 1-1-76	\$138.73	
74/75	Total Allocation		\$22,600.00
	2 Yrs., 2 landowners LTA	\$7,645.50	
	20 landowners used	\$14,769.54	
	Released to State 7-1-76	184.96	
75/76	Total Allocation		\$25,000.00
	18 landowners used	\$24,486.98	
	Balance unobligated funds	513.02	

COMMISSIONERS REVOLVING FUND

Balance on hand 7-1-75		\$1299.38
Office Expense	\$313.21	
Office Supplies	1638.45	
Watershed Expense	137461.80	
Contests & promotions	661.57	
Postage	354.23	
Misc. dues, demonstrations, meeting exp., janitor, Insurance, tuitions, etc.	1483.20	
TOTAL EXPENSES	141912.46	

Total Deposits, including reimbursements,
landowner donations and janitor \$141,010.73

Balance on hand 7-1-76 \$397.65

"The main crop that keeps a farmer alive is hope." English Proverb

D.C.'s Comments

This year has been the most productive year yet for accomplishments by the Mills County Soil Conservation District. A record fifty-nine (59) landowners became cooperators with the District. Goals were exceeded in the Conservation Planning areas, as sixty-five (65) Resource and Conservation Plans were developed for the year.

In addition, it has been an exceptional year in the amount of conservation practices applied to the landscape. More than 61 miles of terraces were built, 95% of which were parallel. We know at least 15,302 acres of contouring was done; more than 81 acres of critical area was seeded; and nearly 17,000 acres of crop residue was left on the soil surface. The acres of minimum tillage are still continuing to increase, as nearly 6,000 acres was reported this year. I am sure there are many more acres of various minimum tillage operations being done in the district that were not reported. Minimum tillage will continue, and may prove to be a very useable method of controlling erosion to the District's 5 ton per acre soil loss limit.

Pasture and Hayland seeding and management is holding its own as approximately 1,500 acres was done during the year. Two additional (LTA) Long Term Agreements were prepared this year, bringing the total in the district to five (5); covering over 2,000 acres. Many additional requests have been received, and local interest is still very strong for this program.

Construction was started in the Waubonsie Creek Watershed with one structure completed, and two others started. Over \$900,000 will be spent on these three structures. Work is continuing on design and obtaining easements for additional construction in Waubonsie Creek as well as Pony Creek Watershed. A lot of hard work and cooperation is needed from the landowners, watershed trustees, local sponsors and SCS and State Personnel to complete these watershed projects. The efforts will be worthwhile, since these projects add to the overall conservation efforts of the District.

The Soil Survey is also progressing well in the district. Approximately 60%, or 163,000 acres, has been mapped to date. The field mapping will be completed in 1977.

All of the above and many additional activities add up to over 3,600 acres of our county's land being adequately treated for the 76 FY or 3,600 acres that have less than five (5) ton soil movement per acre per year. It is gratifying that 75% of the landowners receiving our assistance applied one or more conservation practice.

As we look to the future, we can see more of the same activities for the years ahead as well as additional challenges and opportunities; such things as the 208 Planning, and the development of Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Projects. These projects and activities have the potential for adding greatly to the overall conservation program in the Mills District, the state, and the nation.

Louis P. Grissom, District Conservationist

WHAT IS A FARMER?

A farmer is a paradox--he is an executive with his office in his home; a scientist using fertilizer attachments; a purchasing agent in an old straw hat; a personnel director with grease under his fingernails; a dietitian with a passion for alfalfa; a production expert with a surplus; and a manager battling a price-cost squeeze.

He manages more capital than most of the businessmen in town.

He likes sunshine, good food, state fairs, dinner at noon, auctions, his neighbors, his shirt collar unbuttoned, and, above all, a good soaking rain in August.

He is not much for droughts, gullies, or helping with the housework.

Wives help them, little boys follow them, weather can delay them, but it takes Heaven to stop them.

He is your countryman--a denim dressed, businesswise, fast growing statesman of stature, and when he comes in at noon, having spent the energy of his hopes and dreams, he can be recharged with the magic words: "The market's up."

As employees of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, we are at his service.

OFFICE STAFF

Louis P. Grissom, D.C., SCS

Leo VanFosson, Cons. Tech., SCS

Richard Maaske, St. Cons. Aide

Leslie Betts (Transferred)

Randy Berhow, Soil Cons. Trainee, SCS

Ruth E. Stevens, State Clerk

Deborah Wallace, CETA Emp.

Charles Chambers, CETA Emp.

SOIL SURVEY PARTY

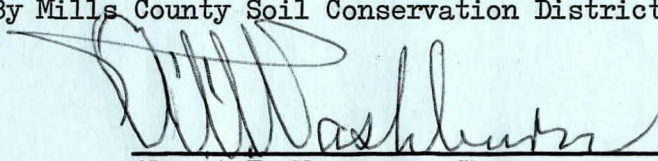
John R. Nixon, Party Leader, SCS

Patrick Pisarik, Soil Scientist, SCS

Mary Ann Barger, Research Associate
Iowa State University

I GIVE MY
PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN
TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO
DEFEND FROM WASTE THE
NATURAL RESOURCES OF
MY COUNTRY - ITS SOIL
AND MINERALS, ITS
FORESTS, WATERS,
AND WILDLIFE

Respectfully submitted By Mills County Soil Conservation District



Albert T. Washburn, Chairman