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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service

Amos, Iowa
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To: District Conservationists
From: Kenneth E. King, Acting State Conservationist
Subject: "Job Ahead in Districts"

Attached is an outline that might be used for the development of a long-time program in the district, some instructions or interpretations that might be used and notes on the "Job ahead in districts."

You will recall some of you asked if these notes would be sent out when you were here for the District Conservationists meeting on February 7 and 8th.

Please make use of the enclosed material only as suggestions in making plans for the development of the "Job ahead in districts."

Attachments

Kenneth E. King

Notes on "Job Ahead in Districts"

Job ahead in districts - (1) To determine the total conservation job ahead, if all farms are to be adequately treated (2) to estimate the cost of the job in terms of labor, equipment, material and technical assistance for planning, installation and maintenance (3) To make a long time plan to get that total job done, including the time required to do it. This job is important to the districts and to the Service. Following are some of the important uses for this information:

In Districts

Uses

1. To emphasize importance of using physical facts as a basis for planning operations.
2. To give reliable estimates of needs as a basis for action.
3. As a basis for determining the amount of outside assistance needed.
4. To furnish information both for and against WPA type of public assistance.
5. To provide guidance to contractors and manufacturers working within the district.
6. To provide a basis for requesting SCS and other agency assistance.
7. As a guide to the development of an effective informational and educational program.
8. As a basis for administrative decisions by the governing body in establishing priorities of work and of areas within the district.
9. As a basis for establishing calendars of activities.
10. As orientation and training material for SCS and other agency workers assisting the districts.
11. To get support of other agencies for District Program.
12. To decide additional research needed.
13. Program was not too good -- Isn't this a good time to revise your program and work plan? We've worked several years and now have lots of new experience and data to help us.
14. Use in news articles - increase prestige - increase rate of progress.

In Service

1. For refining and improving State, Regional and National "Conservation Needs" data.
2. As a basis for requesting budgets.

3. As a basis for administrative decisions regarding allocation of Service resources.
4. As a basis for an effective informational and educational program.

This activity was first proposed to the field last February. A time table was set up as follows: One district in each state to complete the operation by November 1 as a pilot operation. All districts where adequate Conservation Survey Samples are available, to complete tabulation of surveys by November 1. All districts with adequate samples to complete this activity by March 1, 1945.

We are behind schedule. It is our purpose today to try to make plans to get the job done as early as possible. January 1, 1946 is the date when material must be available to be of most use to the Service in connection with following years' fiscal planning.

This activity must not tie up farm planners unnecessarily. It is primarily the district conservationists' job and the farm planners' participation must be held to the minimum.

Conservation Survey Supervisors have been made responsible for selection of samples, their measurement, tabulation and projection to the district.

District governing bodies, local agency representatives, farmers and others must be drawn into this activity to the greatest degree possible.

Regional staff will help wherever they can, but since the work must largely be done in the districts, the D.C.'s must take the initiative.

Methods of Approach

1. Governing body appoint committee to prepare first draft.
2. D.C.'s ask questions of individual board members to stimulate thinking along these lines:
 - a. How much of various practices are needed in districts?
 - b. How much has already been done?
 - c. Are you satisfied with your present rate of progress?
 - d. How long will it take to reach all farmers at present rate?
 - e. How much, if any, outside assistance will be needed?
 - f. How much will farmers be able to do themselves with only technical assistance?
 - g. How much materials (lime, etc.) will be needed?
 - h. How is this material to be supplied.
 - i. How much technical and educational assistance will be needed
How much equipment and what kind?
 - j. What are you going to do with land when you take it out of corn and soybeans?

Whitsett used "War Production Goals of Illinois" as a starter - switched over to capability - then governing body recommendations - then to changes they need to make.

Brown - concentrate work in one or two watersheds - bring in highway - tie into this and use watershed plans as samples to project to balance of county.

Whitsett - State Conservation Department want 20,000,000 for lakes - S. C. Districts disagree so they step into Conservation Needs study to have ammunition.

I. Inventory

Survey Supervisor responsible for sampling, tabulation of physical information from conservation surveys. Will have major land uses by capability class by Soil Group.

II. Conversion of land uses - practices - materials, equipment, labor, etc.

(Whitsett suggests that survey information be set up in bar charts, pie charts, etc. so that governing body can visualize the physical picture.)

Survey Supervisor will assist D.C.'s in developing charts - (bar, pie) to adequately present physical pictures.

Expedient method - our personnel will make conversions (with all assistance possible - submit to governing body - revise - take out later to farmers for refinement, etc.

Behymer's Approach

All districts in which we have adequate samples and in which personnel is in by April 1, 1945 will be done by January 1, 1946.

Minimum Needed by January 1, 1946

1. Present land use by capability class.
2. Recommended converted land use by capability distribution.
3. Quantities of practices needed to support this pattern of land use.
4. Quantities (in terms of labor, equipment, materials, etc.) for planning, installing and maintaining these needed practices.
5. Plans for getting the total conservation job done.
 - a. How much of the total job will be done?
 - b. How long will it take with present resources?
 - c. What additional resources are needed? What will be the effect on progress of the plan if these resources became available?
 - d. Where should these resources come from and how should they be administered.

SUGGESTED FORM
July 5, 1944

LONG-TIME PROGRAM FOR
Soil Conservation District
State of _____

I. Introduction

Explanation of program - how it was prepared - who participated - objectives of program - how it will be used.

II. General Description of District

- A. District boundaries and area - dominant soils, topography, and drainage.
- B. Brief history; major problems of district.
- C. Accomplishments to date.
- D. Objectives of the district.

III. The Total Soil Conservation District Job

- A. Description of the present pattern of land according to use capability. (Table 1)
- B. Adjustments needed in present land use. (Table 2)
- C. Land treatment needed.
 - 1. Table 3. (Individual farm conservation jobs.) Resources needed - man-years technical - labor - months usage of equipment - amount of material. By individual conservation practices.
 - 2. Table 4. (Community-type conservation jobs.) Resources needed - man-years technical - labor - months usage of equipment - amount of material. By individual conservation practices.

IV. Analysis of the Total Soil Conservation Job.

- A. Individual farm conservation jobs (from Table 3.)
 - 1. Can be done by farmers' own resources with only technical assistance.

Amount of resources - technical - labor - equipment - material (Table 5.)
 - 2. Require public labor projects and technical assistance.

Amount of public resources (projects) - technical - labor - equipment - material (Table 5A.)

B. Indicate individual farm conservation jobs (from Table 5A.)

1. Of first priority if capabilities of the land are to be maintained or improved.
2. Of second priority if capabilities of the land are to be maintained or improved.
3. Of third priority if capabilities of the land are to be maintained or improved.

C. Indicate first, second, or third priority of community-type conservation jobs (from Table 4.)

D. Summary of public aid (from Tables 4 and 5A) needed by the district (Table 6.)

V. Plans to Get the Total Soil Conservation Job Done.

A. The Individual Farm Conservation Jobs.

1. When technical assistance only is available. (Agencies that can assist district in specific ways.)
2. When public resources are available.

Note: Discuss time to carry out and effect of public assistance on the rate of completion.

B. The Community-Type Conservation Jobs.

1. Groups (formal or informal) that can sponsor projects.
2. New groups that need to be organized to sponsor projects.

Note: Discuss time to carry out and effect of public assistance on the rate of completion.

C. Recommendations for Administering Public Projects.

if public projects are authorized by the National Congress. Almost unanimously district governing bodies have been opposed to making plans for setting up another WPA. These ideas are in line with Service policy. At the same time we cannot afford to ignore the fact that periods of unemployment may develop, necessitating public employment. It is also apparent that huge quantities of public equipment and materials will be available at the end of the war for distribution to such public agencies as soil conservation districts.

By having a complete inventory of the total job in each soil conservation district, showing the employment possibilities within that district, it may be possible to point out where much labor may be employed directly by farmers, and thus eliminate the clamor for employment through public projects. Those districts which have made the soundest plans for efficiently using public labor, equipment, and material will be most apt to profit from its distribution.

Section V-C, therefore, becomes an important part of this program. The recommendations expressed in it may have an important bearing on the kind of legislation Congress ultimately establishes for the utilization of public resources after the war.

July 5, 1944

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING OUTLINE FOR
LONG-TIME PROGRAM FOR SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

I. Introduction

This section may be very brief - not over one paragraph.

II. General Description of District

Virtually all the information needed in this section will have been compiled in connection with the present program of the district. It might seem to be repetition to include it here, but we must remember that many individuals will inspect this program who will not have access to the original program of the district. We believe it is essential for any one inspecting this type of program to have a general knowledge of the district, and so we believe it is worth while to include the section, even though the information is merely lifted from the present program.

III. The Total Soil Conservation District Job.

Some questions have been raised as to why it is desirable or necessary to compile an inventory of the total conservation job in a district as a basis for developing a long-time program. Information compiled on this basis will be useful for the following reasons:

- (a) As a basis for allocating funds between regions, States, and districts.
- (b) As a basis for supporting appropriation requests in the Congress.
- (c) As a guide for the educational program, showing where emphasis needs to be placed.
- (d) As factual material regarding the district for public talks, newspaper stories, radio scripts, etc.
- (e) As a basis for a recruitment and training program to indicate the quantity and type of technical assistance needed.
- (f) As a guide to district governing bodies in arranging for assistance by all agencies in position to cooperate on the total conservation job.
- (g) As a basis for preparing annual calendars of work.
- (h) To provide continuity to the district program, and to assure that all activities of the district progress toward the ultimate goal on the basis of appropriate priority.

The material called for in the outline under III-A, B, and C should consist largely of tabular material. Only sufficient narrative need accompany these tables to adequately explain and describe them.

Under section III-C, Land Treatment Needed, some question may arise as to how useful material gathered some years ago under the "Work Inventory" may be. Where that material was carefully compiled by means of field studies, it should serve a useful purpose as a sample which might be projected to the district. It should be recognized, however, that land treatments reported under the "Work Inventory" were not specifically tied to land use capability classifications, as we desire to do in the preparation of Tables 3 and 4 in this outline.

Section III should be compiled by technicians of the Service during the summer months so as to be ready for consideration of the governing body next winter. Tables 1, 2, 3, and 4 will therefore represent the professional statements of this Service as to what the total conservation job is in a given district. The question of how fast that job can be completed and in what order it should be carried out is provided for in section IV as a job for the district governing body, with Service technicians and other agency representatives acting in an advisory capacity when requested to do so.

IV. Analysis of the Total Soil Conservation Job

This section may be largely tabular, with only sufficient narrative to explain the various tables.

In IV-B and C, we are requesting the governing body to indicate first, second, and third priority by use of the numerical ratings 1, 2, and 3 opposite the individual types of practices on Tables 4 and 5A. It would not require a separate table or a long narrative description.

In section IV-D we have asked that a summary table be prepared which merely means adding together Tables 4 and 5A, so as to give in one table the total of public assistance needed in a given district. This is more for the convenience of the Service in presenting the needs for public assistance to appropriate officials in Washington than it is for the benefit of the district. Since the district will ultimately benefit, however, from this public assistance, we are asking that this summary table be made.

V. Plans to Get the Total Soil Conservation Job Done

The material in section V-A and B merely constitutes an amendment or revision to the present district program made in light of the knowledge of the total conservation job to be done, and recognizing that information regarding that total job was not available at the time the original district program was prepared. We have suggested that it be treated in about the same order as the analysis of the job was made, merely for the sake of continuity.

Under section V-C we are particularly anxious to have each district express freely and fully their recommendations for administering public projects