

ANNUAL FISCAL REPORT

JULY 1, 1964—JUNE 30, 1965

of the

Cherokee County Soil Conservation District

Cherokee County, Iowa

BY YOUR COMMISSIONERS

VERE CORRINGTON

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ACTIVITIES OF YOUR DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

- 9- 1-64 Regional "Queen of the Furrow" contest at Cherokee (Vere Corrington, Chairman)
- 10- 9-64 Met with Osceola District Commissioners on tree planting programs.
- 11- 6-64 Reviewed Ralston and Grand Meadow Watersheds to get information for priority recommendations.
- 11-18-64 Little Sioux Works Committee Meeting at Sioux City
- 11-18-64 Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture Banquet at Sioux City
- 12-21-64 County Conservation Board meeting on recreation projects.
- 12-30-64 Meeting on the 1965 ACP Program
- 1-19-65 Awards dinner for winners in the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards program. Robert Rawson was sweepstakes winner. Des Moines Register presented the awards
- 2-24-65 Meeting of priority sub-committee of Little Sioux Works Committee at Sioux City
- 3-11-65 Grand Meadow Watershed meeting
- 3-19-65 Meeting on 1966 ACP program
- 3-24-65 Meeting of priority sub-committee of Little Sioux Works Committee at Merville
- 3-29-65 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Sioux City
- 4-25-65 National Watershed Congress at Sioux City
- 4-30-65 Grand Meadow Watershed meeting
- 5- 1-65 Distributed material for Soil Stewardship Week
- 6- 4-65 Inspection of completed watersheds
- 6- 7-65 Special meeting to discuss flood problems held at Cherokee State Bank. Presenting material were representatives of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Iowa State Conservation Commission, Soil Conservation Service, Iowa Natural Resources Council and local people
- 6- 9-65 Inspection of completed watersheds
- 6-21-65 Little Sioux Works Committee meeting at Sioux City
- 11 Regular business meeting of your Commissioners during fiscal year

MISCELLANEOUS DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- 3-10-64 Conservation program for Aurelia Garden Club
- 8-22-64 Aurelia Boy Scouts on tour of Pilot Rock Watershed
- 10- 1-64 Conservation program for Cherokee High School Agriculture Class
- 10- 5-64 Cherokee High Agricultural class toured Pilot Rock Watershed
- 12-14-64 Conservation program for Marcus Rotary Club
- 5-10-65 Assisted members of Cherokee Boy Scout troop with work on conservation merit badges
- 5-17-65 Assisted with conservation school for Marcus and Marcus Holy Name School pupils at Riney Knob Access area near Washta
- 5-19-65 Assisted with conservation school for Meriden school pupils at Martin Access area
- 6-22-65 Watershed program for Marcus Rotary Club
- 6-25-65 Iowa Chapter of Soil Conservation Society of America picnic and meeting at Martin Access area

The Cherokee District participated in the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture sponsored by the Sioux City Journal and the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and the Iowa Soil Conservation Achievement Awards Program sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune



AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

The ACP cost sharing program continues to be a major aid in encouraging the establishment of conservation practices. All of the terraces, waterways, erosion control dams and most of the tile installed during fiscal year 1965 by Cherokee County farmers was done with ACP cost sharing assistance. Other practices installed with ACP cost sharing assistance included diversions, drainage ditches, wildlife plantings and contouring.

CONSERVATION PROGRESS IN FISCAL YEAR 1965

- 32 New district cooperators
- 40 Basic conservation plans completed
- 19 Conservation plans revised
- 365 Farms received assistance from district technicians during fiscal year
- 3,620 Acres soil surveyed
- 1,371 Acres of new contouring
- 2,527 Lineal feet of diversions built
- 10 Dams constructed
- 12 Ponds stocked with fish
- 51 Acres of grass waterways shaped and seeded
- 1,437 Lineal feet of drainage ditch constructed
- 78,520 Lineal feet of tile surveyed and checked
- 130,080 Lineal feet of terraces constructed
- 2 Acres of wildlife plantings

Cherokee County farmers planted about 175,000 acres of corn and soybeans; almost 88,000 acres of them were on the contour.



WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

28 farmers planted trees and shrubs in the spring of 1965. This included wildlife area plantings and wildlife borders around existing windbreaks. Most of the trees were purchased from the State Conservation Commission Nursery (for wildlife plantings) and the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District (used for all purposes).

This is the first year the District has had tree planting stock available for sale. 5,450 trees were sold and the district commissioners donated the time it took to pick up the planting stock and package it for delivery to the purchasers. Profits from the sale of planting stock are deposited in the District's general fund and are used to promote the District soil and water conservation program.

The State Conservation Commission stocked 12 ponds with large mouth bass in June of 1965. Conservation Officer Frank Starr handled arrangements for fish stocking. The ponds stocked were formed as the result of construction of erosion control dams by conservation minded landowners.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Soil Conservation Service made available to the Cherokee District during fiscal year 1965, the following technical assistance:

Work Unit Conservationist (12 months)	Harvey Lindberg
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Glen Craft
Conservation Technician (12 months)	Monas Nixon
Soil Conservationist (9 months)	Thaine Hogue

Thaine Hogue was promoted to Work Unit Conservationist for Butler County Soil Conservation District with headquarters at Allison, Iowa, and assumed his duties there on April 1, 1965.

In addition to the above, the District received assistance from the Area Conservationist and his staff (Soil Conservation Service) with headquarters at Sioux City. This assistance was primarily on soil surveys, engineering design and inspection and watershed surveys and planning.



LITTLE SIOUX FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

The Grand Meadow Watershed received a construction priority from the Little Sioux Works Committee on March 29, 1965. Surveys have been made and recommended flood detention and gully control measures submitted to the landowners. Landowners have approved the recommendations. Present plans are to complete all agreements and designs so that contracts for construction can be let in the spring of 1966. This watershed includes all or parts of 22 farms (16 in Grand Meadow Township and 6 in Plymouth County). It totals 2,885 acres.

The Ralston Watershed received a work plan priority on March 29, 1965. If conservation progress continues at the present pace and landowners approve, the District will request a construction priority for this watershed at the fall meeting of the Little Sioux Works Committee. This watershed, located west of Washta, includes all or parts of 20 farms (13 in Cherokee County and 7 in Woodbury County).

CONSERVATION NEEDS IN CHEROKEE COUNTY

Iowa census summaries indicate that Cherokee County farmers are planting two-thirds of their cropland to row crops. This is intensive use of our cropland and it raised a question in our minds: "can we continue cropping our land in this manner without seriously depleting it because of excessive soil losses?"

A review of the Cherokee County Conservation Needs Inventory provided us with the following information: About 276,000 acres of our land is used as cropland. This cropland falls into the following slope categories:

Level land (0 to 1% slope)	-----	approximately 38,000 acres
Gently rolling (2 to 4% slope)	----	approximately 153,000 acres
Rolling (5 to 8% slope)	-----	approximately 81,000 acres
Steeply Rolling (9 to 13% slope)	----	approximately 3,000 acres

Studies indicate that our level land (38,000 acres) could be planted almost continuously to row crop without depletion through erosion.

With contouring, we can continue to plant two thirds of our gently rolling cropland (153,000) to row crop without excessive soil losses. In fact, we could increase our percentage of row crop on this land. Our 2% slopes, if contoured, could be row cropped almost continuously. Our 3% and 4% slopes, if terraced and contoured, could be row cropped almost continuously with minimum soil losses. However, without contour tillage we cannot continue to row crop two thirds of our gently rolling land without serious depletion through erosion.

Our 81,000 acres of rolling land, where two thirds of it is in row crop, is being seriously depleted. With contouring, it would still be depleted. However, with terraces plus contouring, we can safely continue to farm two thirds of it to row crop.

Our steeply rolling cropland (3000 acres) cannot be safely farmed this intensively even with terraces. With terraces and contouring not over 40% of this land should be row cropped in any one year.

In summary, 70% of Cherokee's cropland could be planted to row crop without serious soil depletion from erosion, if the following conditions were met:

1. The highest percentage of row crop is concentrated on the level to gently rolling cropland.
2. If all gently rolling cropland is tilled on the contour.

3. If all rolling to steeply rolling land is both terraced and contoured.

The percentage of row crop could be increased still upward (from 70% of total cropland) if much of the gently rolling land was terraced.

Until the above conditions are met, Cherokee County cropland will continue to be depleted because of excessive soil losses.

Currently about 133,000 acres of Cherokee County cropland is being tilled on the contour. Roughly 8000 acres are terraced. We should have more than ten times that amount terraced.



FLOODS

In the spring of 1965, residents along the Little Sioux saw the river go on the biggest rampage known in over 70 years. On April 6th, the Little Sioux River reached a crest of 27.1 at Cherokee. The highest crest in the previous 20 years was 24.0. Old-timers say that back in 1892, the flood crest exceeded 27.1. The 27.1 crest put 39 inches of water in the Soil Conservation Service office and disrupted operations for almost two weeks. Water swirled around the building from the 4th of April through the 8th of April. On April 9th, it had receded enough so that cleaning work could be started.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers estimated that flood damage in Cherokee County reached \$918,000.00. This included \$166,100.00 in crop damage; damage in the City of Cherokee was estimated at \$666,000.00; and the remainder was in damage to transportation (highways, roads, bridges, streets, railroads).

The damage in the Mill Creek basin (O'Brien and Cherokee Counties), when evaluated separately, was estimated at \$393,400.00.

The U.S. Corps of Engineers has been authorized by Congress to review the need and practicability of flood control installations in the Little Sioux Basin. This study is currently scheduled for completion in October 1967.

At a meeting in Cherokee on June 7, 1965, a representative of the Corps of Engineers informed local people that they were studying the feasibility of locating a multi-purpose reservoir on the Little Sioux about 5 or 6 miles upstream from Cherokee and another on Mill Creek just upstream from the U.S. 59 bridge north of Cherokee.

As district commissioners, we would like to point out that if,

in the future, such reservoirs became a reality, the importance of soil conservation and the small watershed control program should be emphasized more than ever before. The storage capacity of reservoirs can be drastically reduced if large amounts of silt pour into them. Is there any better insurance than an effective soil conservation and small watershed control program?



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1965

- I. State funds (appropriated by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa and disbursed to soil conservation districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee):

Commissioners expenses	\$ 169.83
Office expenses	75.25
Printing annual report	86.50
Prizes for conservation contests	15.00
Supplies	146.62
Sub-Total	\$ 493.20
Clerical help (includes social security & state retirement)	3,663.68
Received from State Soil Conservation Committee	\$4,156.88
TOTAL	\$4,156.88 \$4,156.88

- II. District's General Fund:

Cash on hand July 1, 1964	\$ 75.56
Sale of tickets for Recognition Dinner	147.00
Sale of trees and shrubs	659.25
Des Moines Register (for Recognition dinner expenses)	25.00
Expenses incurred in sale of trees and shrubs	\$ 390.65
Expenses of Recognition Dinner	171.36
Sub-Total	\$ 906.81 \$ 562.01
Balance on Hand 6-30-65	344.80
TOTALS	\$ 906.81 \$ 906.81

NOTE: The balance of \$344.80 in the District General Fund is deposited in a checking account at the Farmers National Bank of Aurelia.

III. District Maintenance Fund:

Balance on hand July 1, 1964 -----\$18,183.52

Maintenance payments received during
fiscal year 1965:

Clarence Pennington -----	70.00
Whitfield Adamson -----	127.00
James Fee -----	45.00
Ralph Robeson -----	65.00
Elsie Conley -----	45.00
Ralph Simonsen -----	48.50
D. W. Simonsen -----	150.00
Lewis Shea -----	90.00
Joe Nelson -----	87.00
Harold Clark -----	70.00
Ed Beck -----	48.50
Earl Ebert -----	121.33
Robert Alff -----	50.00
Forrest Spencer -----	30.34
Smith Bros. -----	125.00
Neil Warner -----	45.00
Walter Mortenson -----	157.50

Other Income:

Interest on time certificate ----	425.48
Interest on H Bonds -----	170.00
Total -----	\$20,154.17
Balance on Hand June 30, 1965--	\$20,154.17
TOTAL -----	\$20,154.17 \$20,154.17

NOTE: As of June 30, 1965, the \$20,154.17 is disposed of as follows:

\$11,062.52 in a certificate of deposit
\$ 6,000.00 in H Bonds
\$ 3,091.65 in checking account

Bank accounts are at the Farmers National Bank in Aurelia, Iowa.

