

ANNUAL REPORT

CHEROKEE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

787 North Second Street

Cherokee, Iowa

1970 DISTRICT HIGHLIGHTS

The commissioners held eleven regular meetings during the year and one special meeting. In addition, Donald DeWitt attended the commissioners short course at Iowa State University in January and two commissioners attended the regional commissioners meeting in March.

Donald DeWitt is the Cherokee County representative on the Little Sioux Works Committee and also the chairman of the Watershed Priority Committee.

Over 7,200 trees and shrubs were distributed through the district tree sales program.

Les Licklider was awarded the regional award for Conservation Teacher of the year at recognition ceremonies conducted in Primghar in September. Les also attended the fall teacher's workshop at Luther, Iowa in October.

Eugene Ebert received county honors in the soil conservation speech contest and went on to take third place in the regional contest.

Harold Clark, Art Nothwehr and Bob Rawson received the area wide recognition for conservation achievement in the Sioux City Program for Permanent Agriculture. This makes the third consecutive year of honors for Cherokee County in this respect.

Three county ministers attended a conservation tour prior to Soil Stewardship Sunday. Information was forwarded to all county ministers about this special observance.

The Marcus, Meriden-Cleghorn and Cherokee sixth grade classes attended four day outdoor conservation workshop at Ranney Knob and Martin Access in May. This is a cooperative venture supported by the Soil Conservation Service, Extension Service and State Conservation Commission.

The biennial commissioners election was a special event this year in that the number of commissioners has been increased from three to five. Arthur Dorr of Marcus retired after eighteen years service as a commissioner and Elmer Brehmer, Joe Dessel and Max Mugge elected to bring the board to five members.

Donald DeWitt was featured as Cherokee County Outstanding Commissioner for 1970.

The District purchased a polaraid camera and a slide camera to facilitate the information program.

Donald DeWitt and Max Mugge were present for the inspection tour of the completed works of improvement in the Ralston Watershed in November. Final inspection and acceptance will be held in 1971 as weather stopped final clean up work on the structures as well as seeding.

Preliminary information meetings were held to discuss with landowners the possibility of starting a watershed project in the Stratton Creek area east of Washta. This area is approximately 4,500 acres.

The function of the soil conservation district has expanded during 1970 in that cities and towns are now included in the district's sphere of assistance.

CONSERVATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

July 1, 1969 to June 30, 1970

	This Year	Total to Date
Terraces	12,761 feet	2,915,301 feet
Grass Waterways	65 acres	1,450 acres
Ponds	3 each	97 each
Concrete Structures	5 each	124 each
Tile Drains	187,989 feet	2,082,870 feet
Diversions	2,490 feet	58,844 feet
Contouring	387 acres	93,476 acres
District Cooperators	43 each	895 each
Conservation Plans	16 each	736 each
Conservation Plans Revised	19 each	
Wildlife Plantings	9 acres	271 acres

This, the 26th annual report of the Cherokee County Soil Conservation District Commissioners wish to recognize Arthur J. Dorr of Marcus for his service as a commissioner.

Art retired as commissioner in June 1970 after eighteen years on the governing board.

Commissioners serve without pay and are reimbursed for their actual expenses in their performance of duties.

Art served the conservation movement in Cherokee County after being elected to three consecutive six year terms by the voters of Cherokee County.

IN MEMORIAM

J. Ford Ralston passed away in October 1970. Ford is remembered as "Mr. Conservation" in Cherokee County. He was a commissioner for two terms from 1950-1962, was the first man to sign up with the soil conservation district when organized in 1945, and was actively engaged in the layout of many soil conservation practices on his and neighboring farms in the early conservation movement. Ford was one of the first directors to the Northwest Iowa Experiment Farm Association and helped work with State and Pilot Rock Plowing Matches which did much to publicize the soil conservation efforts of a few years ago.

The recently completed Ralston Watershed received it's name from the many neighbors of Ford who recognized his leadership in conservation.

RALSTON WATERSHED

The major conservation accomplishment for the past year was the completion of the Ralston Watershed west of Washta.

This 2,652 acre sub-watershed contains land treatment measures to protect the installation of nine structures, four of which are flood control structures with a permanent pond. Five are concrete grade stabilization structures.

Part or all of 23 farms are involved in the watershed. Conservation land treatment applied in the drainage area include more than 17 miles of level terraces, 1,300 acres of contouring, 2,600 feet of basin terraces and one grade stabilization structure.

The landowners involved organized in 1965 to form the watershed organization and actively supported and worked toward the completion of this flood control measure. The soil conservation districts of Cherokee, Ida and Woodbury Counties sponsored the watershed project and the Soil Conservation Service provided the technical assistance for survey, design and supervision of construction of the project. Maple Valley Construction Company of Mapleton, Iowa was the contractor for the project.

The completion of the Ralston Watershed brings to ten the number of watershed projects in Cherokee County.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1969 - June 30, 1970

Louis C. Bengtson, Treasurer

The 1-M and 2-M budgets are provided by the State of Iowa

1-M Budget Allocation \$ 500.00

Expenses:

Commissioners expenses	221.21
Office Supplies	62.22
Printing expenses	76.00
Prizes for Contests	25.00
Meeting expenses	6.00
Demonstration Materials	26.55
Office expense	66.67

TOTAL EXPENDED \$ 483.65

Carried forward to 1971 Fiscal Year \$ 16.35

2-M Budget Allocation \$ 4,987.00

Expenses:

Salary, F.I.C.A., I.P.E.R.S., Travel, Insurance	<u>4,881.49</u>
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Returned to State Committee \$ 105.51

District Watershed Maintenance Fund

Balance on Hand July 1, 1969 \$30,907.08

Watershed Maintenance Payments	1,863.45
Earned Interest	<u>1,309.76</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$34,080.29</u>

Expenses	<u>181.25</u>
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Balance on Hand June 30, 1970 \$33,899.04

District General Fund

Balance on Hand July 1, 1969 \$ 498.32

Income	<u>1,663.20</u>
TOTAL	<u>2,161.52</u>

Expenses	<u>1,319.24</u>
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Balance on Hand June 30, 1970 \$ 842.28

PERSONNEL

District Commissioners

Vere Corrington	Cherokee	Chairman
Joe Dessel	Cherokee	Vice-chairman
Donald DeWitt	Washta	Member
Elmer Brehmer	Aurelia	Member
Max Hugel	Cleghorn	Member

Department of Soil Conservation

Mrs. Gladys Schroeder	Quimby	Clerk
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Soil Conservation Service

Bernard Braband	District Conservationist
Monas Nixon	Conservation Technician
Alex Paul (Cherokee & O'Brien Counties)	Cons. Eng. Technician

Technical Assistance on request from:

Wallis Tonsfeldt	Area Conservationist
Richard Hall	Civil Engineer
Elmer Harvey	Soil Scientist
Fern Delbridge	Area Clerk
Robert Hibbs, District Forester	State Conservation Commission

The Cherokee County Soil Conservation Commissioners wish to thank the following agencies and businesses for contributing to the soil and water conservation program during the past year:

Cooperative Extension Service	State Conservation Commission
Radio Station KCHE	Farmers Home Administration
Department of Soil Conservation	Soil Conservation Service
Federal Crop Insurance Corp.	Western Cherokee Mutual Ins. Assoc.
Agricultural Stabilization & Conservation Service	
Cherokee Daily Times, Aurelia Sentinel, Marcus News, & Farm Bureau Spokesman	
County Board of Supervisors and County Engineer	

There should be included a long list of individuals who assisted also such as volunteer leaders in the Ralston Watershed, county ministers, the commissioners wives who do a lot of "behind the scenes" work, judges for contests and especially the conservation minded farmers of the county who install the conservation measures on their lands.

