

IOWA SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT RECOGNITION PROGRAM



MEMORIAL UNION, AMES, IOWA
FEBRUARY 14, 1952

8-18

FIRST STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Earl Elijah, Clarence, Iowa.....Chairman
 Clark W. Huntley, Chariton (Deceased).....Farmer Member
 Clyde Spry, Bronson.....Farmer Member
 R. K. Bliss, Ames.....Director of Extension, Iowa State College, Ames
 Mark G. Thornburg, Des Moines.....Secretary of Agriculture
 Frank H. Mendell, Ames.....U. S. Soil Conservation Service
 Harry D. Linn, Des Moines.....Secretary

PRESENT STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

Wm. Darbyshire, Rockwell City.....Chairman
 Chris H. Jensen, Audubon.....Farmer Member
 James W. Foster, Albia.....Farmer Member
 J. F. Ingels, Maynard.....Farmer Member
 Kenneth M. Wagner, West Liberty.....Farmer Member
 Floyd Andre, Ames.....Director of Extension, Iowa State College, Ames
 Clyde Spry, Des Moines.....Secretary of Agriculture
 Frank H. Mendell, Ames.....U. S. Soil Conservation Service
 Othie R. McMurry, Des Moines.....Secretary

OTHERS WHO HAVE SERVED WITH THE COMMITTEE

H. H. Kildee, Ames.....Director of Extension
 Harry D. Linn, Des Moines.....Secretary of Agriculture
 Clyde Spry, Des Moines.....Secretary
 David S. Dohrman, Des Moines.....Secretary
 H. Wayne Pritchard, Des Moines.....Secretary
 Lester Clapp, Ames.....Extension Conservationist

PAST FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
LEO HEROLD, Winneshiek		ED BAUR, Madison	
WM. STANTON, Jones		DON ANDERSON, W. Pottawattamie	
FLETCHER COPE, Wapello		LEE STEPHENSON, Wapello	
CECIL SMITH, Mahaska		R. C. WILSON, Appanoose	
PAUL STRICKLER, Appanoose		LAWRENCE HAMMERLY, Jasper	
VICTOR ANDERSON, Lucas		EARL DOUGLAS, Black Hawk	
FRANK McARTHUR, E. Pottawattamie		J. J. BOATMAN, Poweshiek	
C. D. FINK (Deceased), Crawford		LE ROY GETTING, O'Brien	
RALPH MIKKELSON, Monona		RAY HAGIE, Wright	
JOSEPH O'HAHA, JR., Page		EDGAR HOVEY, Webster	

PRESENT FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE AND REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY, 1952

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
ED BAUR, Madison		ED HOFER, Floyd	
LEE STEPHENSON, Wapello		GUY WOOSTER, Soldier Maple Valley	
JOSEPH O'HARA, Page		KERMIT KLOPPENBURG, O'Brien	
FRED CHERRY, Buchanan		WM. MITCHELL, Grundy	
DON FRANKS, Wright			

PAST FIELD REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE AND PAST REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

NAME	DISTRICT	NAME	DISTRICT
E. R. DOUGLAS, Black Hawk		DON ANDERSON, W. Pottawattamie	
C. D. Fink (Deceased), Crawford		LEO HEROLD, Winneshiek	
RAY HAGIE, Wright		WM. STANTON, Jones	
J. J. BOATMAN, Poweshiek		LE ROY GETTING, O'Brien	
E. C. WICKERSHAM, Marshall		ROY PURDY, Chickasaw	

PROGRAM

GREAT HALL, MEMORIAL UNION—AMES, IOWA

FEBRUARY 14, 1952

1:00 P. M.

Co-Chairmen.....Earl Elijah, Wm. Darbyshire

Introduction of present and formers members of State Soil Conservation Committee and Special Guests

Earl Elijah, Wm. Darbyshire

Farmers Authorized to Organize Soil Conservation Districts

Clyde Spry

Early Experiences of State Committee

Earl Elijah

The Farmer and Early District Development

R. K. Bliss

Soil Conservation Districts, The Essence of Grass Root Democracy

Judge Harold Levis

Land Use Program—Districts 1 to 100

Frank H. Mendell

Soil Conservation Today

Governor Wm. S. Beardsley

Presentation of the Charter to Howard District

Wm. Darbyshire

Organized to Finish the Job

Dr. Robert M. Salter, Chief U. S. Soil Conservation Service

"WHAT IS A SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER?"

There is nothing mysterious about an Iowa Soil Conservation District Commissioner. He doesn't wear a halo and he wouldn't know what to do with a pair of wings if he had them.

He is the fellow who lives over the hill south of town on 160 acres of good Iowa farm land. Sometimes you see him in town on shopping night, with his wife and youngsters, buying the groceries. Chances are he will be wearing a sheepskin coat, if it's cold enough, and a pair of new overalls. But not always. Sometimes he dresses up in his good suit just like anyone else.

He isn't a bronze giant of a man; not at all. Farmers come in different sizes. He might even be a little on the runty side. But you can depend on one thing—if he's only five feet six or if he is six feet four, he's a good man and nobody pushes him around. Long hours in the open air, jolting across country on a tractor, or scooping corn, take care of his waistline.

The chances are he has his farm paid for because things have been pretty good the last few years. A man could hardly help but make money on his cattle and hogs, providing he used common horse sense and worked hard.

Now, all these things add up to the picture of a regular Iowa farmer who pays his bills, minds his own business and takes his family to church on Sunday. Nothing heroic about it.

But where does the Soil Conservation District come in? Well, this farmer and others like him decided they ought to do more about keeping their good farm land at home, out of the river. And they were after bigger and better crop yields, so they organized their own Soil Conservation District.

Some of his neighbors came around and wanted him to run for District Commissioner, but he didn't want any kind of office. He told them he wasn't used to making speeches and standing up before people. But they pointed out that he had been one of the men who pushed the District, so now he ought to go ahead and make the District work. Finally he agreed, probably because he knows soil conservation is good for his farm and the whole county. He didn't go around preaching conservation but deep inside he believed in it.

So his neighbors elected him as one of the commissioners. He's been on the district board quite a few years now. He seldom misses the board meeting, unless there's sickness at home. Every time he drives in for a meeting it means an evening at home all shot to pieces and 25 or 30 miles of driving. There are district problems that worry him sometimes and he may lay awake after he gets home. Probably he's wondering whether they should have told the technician to give that young GI farmer some help before he went out to stake the terraces for the old fellow. Maybe the GI needed the help the most. Maybe they ought to talk it over some more.

Problems! Problems! Well, anything worth having is worth working for, and his District has more terraces and good rotations than any other in his part of the state.

What kind of a salary does he draw for this kind of a neighborly job? None. None, whatever. It is doubtful if he would serve as commissioner on a salary basis because he is probably proud that he serves without pay, even though he wouldn't admit it. Enough money is available for his actual out of pocket expenses, but even here he sometimes doesn't ask for it if the money is needed for other District purposes.

This is the picture of a typical Soil Conservation District Commissioner in Iowa. A man with callouses on his hands who raises top-quality cattle and hogs to feed the city people; who wants a good living for his family, a good education for his kids, and who would like to leave the farm in better shape than he found it. Just an average Iowa farmer, but a good citizen and a credit to his community.

COOPERATION A KEY TO SUCCESS

Progress in soil conservation centers around the cooperation and friendly working relationships that exist between the district commissioners and the agencies, organizations and individuals who are in a position to assist the district.

Each soil conservation district in Iowa has developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the U. S. Department of Agriculture and has signed a supplemental memorandum with the Soil Conservation Service. Each district in Iowa has likewise developed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Agricultural Extension Service. A number of districts also have a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement with other agencies, including the State Conservation Commission, County Boards of Supervisors and contractors. These Agreements are the basis of cooperation in which the soil conservation district secures assistance from outside sources.

In addition to local, state and national agencies of government, many soil conservation districts have worked with other agencies and organizations. Among some of the notable events which districts have sponsored cooperatively are:

Marion County SCD—First so-called Facelifthing event, sponsored by Radio Station WHO.

Warren County SCD—First All Iowa Soil Conservation Field Day, sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

Mills and Page County SCDs—First Iowa Districts to win the World-Herald Soil Conservation Recognition Program.

Dickinson, Cherokee and Crawford SCDs—First Iowa Districts to win the Sioux City Conservation Recognition Program.

Jones District—Grassland program, sponsored by Radio Station WMT.

West Pottawattamie District—First Iowa District to win the Goodyear Soil Conservation Award Program.

Mills District—Sponsor of the first Plow-built Terrace Contest and the first National Contest.

Calhoun District—Represented by Darbyshire at the first Livestock and Land Institute, sponsored by Wilson and Company, Albert Lea, Minnesota.

Cherokee District—Pilot Rock Plowing Contest; switched to conservation event following the war.

Many Soil Conservation Districts sponsor the 10-Acre Contour Corn Yield Contest. The high yield record of 224 bushels is held by Carroll Brown of the Mahaska District.

Soil Conservation District Commissioners throughout Iowa have taken the leadership necessary to make possible the establishment of farms for soil conservation and related research in the following Districts: Monona, Woodbury, Davis, Wayne, Ringgold, Buchanan and North Central Iowa. (Site to be selected.)

The Adams, Woodbury and Adair Districts were among the first to cooperate with teachers in giving soil conservation its proper emphasis in the schools. Today conservation is recognized in practically every school in the state, and much special material has been developed by the State Department of Public Instruction and others.

These are only a few of the many conservation events and activities that have been sponsored and carried out cooperatively by soil conservation districts, agencies, organizations and individuals who believe in this important work.

The State Association of Soil Conservation Districts was organized in October, 1947, for the express purpose of helping to further soil and water conservation.

Press and radio people throughout the state have been continually on the lookout for good material on soil and water conservation and have been a valuable ally to the District programs, as have the educational institutions.

The Iowa Watersheds Association was organized in 1949. This group is interested in soil and water conservation, flood control and in the success of Soil Conservation Districts.

The State Soil Conservation Committee has presented plaques for outstanding contributions to "soil conservation" to: J. S. Russell, Herb Plambeck, R. K. Bliss, Kirk Fox, Mark Thornburg and Earl Elijah.



