

WORK PLAN

OF

WARREN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Indianola, Iowa

March 3, 1944

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SECRET
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1. The following information was obtained from a confidential source who has provided reliable information in the past.

2. The source has provided information regarding the activities of the [redacted] in the [redacted] area.

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II. CLASSIFYING LAND

As a means of arriving at proper land use the district has used the original soil conservation service report for the purpose of dividing the land of the county into six divisions, taking into consideration the soil types, slopes, degrees of erosion, depth of top soil remaining and past use.

In mapping the land the following color system is recommended in order to have the Warren County maps uniform with those used in adjoining counties.

A. Class I. Cropland (Green)

This class will include level upland, as well as first and second bottom lands, which are highly productive, and which have little or no erosion. The land should not be in clean-tilled crops more than 50 per cent of the time in order to maintain satisfactory yield.

B. Class II. Cropland (Yellow)

This class will include lands of nearly level to sloping topography and of good to high fertility, which may be subject to minor erosion even under good management. A short rotation may be used, but may require simple erosion control practices such as contouring or strip-cropping. The per cent of time this land should be in clean-tilled crops will vary from 33 to 50 per cent, depending on the type of supporting practices.

C. Class III. Cropland (Red)

This class will include lands of good inherent fertility subject to serious erosion and lands of low fertility with moderate erosion. A medium rotation may be practiced on these lands, but with erosion control practices such as strip-cropping or terraces, or a combination of both. Clean tilled crops should occupy the land only 16 to 33 per cent of the time, depending on the type of supporting practices. If practices are not used this land should be used for permanent hay or permanent pasture.

WARREN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

WORK PLAN

FOREWORD

The District Work Plan is a presentation of the proposed conservation practices and methods of getting their application effectively applied upon the land within the district.

It will be kept current in order that the district activities and procedures for carrying on those activities will be known to all assisting agencies, or individuals.

When new types of work are to be done or new methods of doing old work becomes known they should be brought to the attention of the District Governing Body and if necessary, revision of the Work Plan made.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

The district embraces all the land lying within the boundaries of Warren County exclusive or that lying within the limits of incorporated towns and villages.

METHOD OF TREATMENT

I. CONSERVATION SURVEY PROCEEDURE

A detailed conservation survey of the county will be prepared as a basis for planning the best use of the land. Experience has shown that this type of survey can be made more economically in large units. However, due to the shortage of trained men such a survey cannot be attempted till after the war.

Therefore, surveys will be run on groups of farms. These groups shall consist of not less than five farms and preferably not more than fifteen farms. No individual farms will be mapped without a signed request for assistance which shall be approved by the district commissioners.

Table of Recommendations

Land Use :		Suggested	Supporting	Soil
Class :	Land Use	Cropping	Conservation	Treatments
		Systems	Practices	
I.		C-C-G-M		Lime,
(Green)	Cultivation	C-C-G-M-M	None	Manure,
		C-C-G (Sw. Cl.)		Phosphate
II.		C-C-G-M	Terraces (Contoured)	
(Yellow)	Cultivation	C-C-G-M-M	Strip Cropped	Manure,
		C-G-M	Contoured	Lime,
		C-G-M-M-M	None	Phosphate
III.		C-C-G-M-M	Terraces (Contoured)	
(Red)	Cultivation	C-G-M-M	Strip Cropped	Manure,
		C-G-M-M-M	Contoured	Lime,
		Perm. Hay	None	Phosphate
IV.	Permanent Hay	C-G-M-M-M-M	Contoured	Manure, Lime
(Blue)	Permanent Past	Perm. Pasture	Contour Furrows	Phosphate
VI.	Permanent Past	Good Management	Controlled Grazing.	Manure, Lime
(Orange)	Wildlife	Game Management	Woodland. Protect	Phosphate
	Woodland	Selective Cutting	from fire and grazing	Pastured area
VII.	Permanent Vege	Intensive	Protect from Fire	On Sight
(Brown)	tation	Management	and Grazing	Recommendations

C - - Corn; G - - Small Grain; M - - Meadow.

III. LAND USE PLANNING

Any change in land use will necessitate the shift in rotations, soil treatments, applying supporting conservation practices and the establishment of the correct permanent vegetation on land retired from crops, pasture, and/or on land now classed as idle or abandoned.

A. Crop Rotations

The recommendations set forth by the Warren County Agricultural Planning Committee will be generally used in planning rotation. A rotation must include a legume crop as their value has been proven many times. It must be kept in mind, however, the soil types and their physical conditions in this part of the state, as well as the use to be made of the crops grown, will have a great deal to do with the type of rotation to be used.

D. Class IV. (Blue)

This class of land includes those of moderate slopes and low fertility as well as those of steep slopes with high fertility. However, due to various factors, all of this class of land is subject to serious erosion while in clean-tilled crops, and should have a long rotation with permanent vegetation as the dominating crop.

E. Class VI. (Orange)

This class includes any soil type, severely eroded or badly gullied, and all soil types over 16 per cent slope. The land use of this class shall consist only of permanent vegetation, such as pasture, or woodland and wildlife. Extensive soil treatment and conservation practices such as diversion dykes or contour furrows may be necessary to establish vegetation.

F. Class VII. (Brown)

Similar characteristics as Class VI land but of such a combination of condition that it requires severe restrictions as to use. On sight recommendations as to practice and treatments will be made.

B. Soil Treatments

It is recommended that limestone be applied as the need is indicated by tests, and at least 200 lbs. of 0-20-0 fertilizer, or its equivalent, be used with all legume seedings; that all available manure be applied to permanent pasture or hayland at any time of the year or to cropland preceeding first year corn, and that all crop residues be returned to the soil as far as consistent with insect control.

C. Pasture Recommendations

Many of the pastures in the district have a low production because of decreased fertility, weeds, and over-grazing. They should be limed, fertilized, and reseeded according to the recommendations of the Extension Service. Controlled grazing will be strongly emphasized, and supplementary pastures such as sweet clover, second year meadow, etc., will be used.

D. Practices

We have outlined in the following paragraphs the practices which are recommended for general use. More detailed information will be supplied at information and planning meetings, tours, and field demonstrations by the Soil Conservation Service Technicians.

1. Drainage

All drainage work on individual or groups of farms will be in compliance with the State Laws. Due consideration will be given to the public health, convenience, and welfare aspects of the proposed work, as well as its value in preserving and conserving the land so that it may be more profitably used for the purpose for which it is best suited.

2. Contour Farming

This practice means farming on the level, which is necessary for soil and moisture conservation and to increase yield.

3. Correction Buffer Strips

This practice means seeding permanent meadow strips at specified intervals on the slopes, for the purpose of controlling erosion, eliminating point rows, and as a guide for contoured field boundaries.

4. Strip Cropping

This practice consists of farming alternate strips of clean tilled and hay or grain crops, with all farming operations done on the contour. This practice will be used extensively because of its economy of establishment and its effectiveness in controlling erosion.

5. Grassed Waterways

Meadow strips should be established and maintained in all waterways in cultivated fields. The strips may be established by leveling to a width sufficient to carry the runoff and then manured and seeded with a mixture of grass and legumes which can be used as a hay crop.

6. Terracing

Terracing will allow the planting of one crop to a field with effective control by breaking a long slope into several short ones and carrying away the runoff with minimum of soil loss. A combination of both terraces and strip-cropping has been found to be more effective control than either method used alone. Also, the combination of terraces carrying the rainfall from the upper parts of the slope with strip-cropping below has been very satisfactory.

7. Terrace Outlets

This is the most important part of the terrace system and should be established before terrace construction. Blue grass pastures, natural grassed waterways, and constructed outlets are suitable.

8. Gully Control

Where vegetative control is not practical or possible structures of a more permanent type will be used. In some cases, several individuals or the county may share in the benefits and in the expense of such structures. Livestock should be excluded from raw gullied areas and controlled grazing should be practiced on such areas as have been re-seeded.

9. Contour Furrows

This is the practice of plowing furrows on the contour at specified intervals on the slope, for gully control and conservation of moisture. This is an approved pasture land practice.

10. Farm Ponds

Ponds will be constructed to serve a three-fold purpose -- gully control, water for livestock, and environment for wildlife.

E. Permanent Vegetation

1. Woodland Recommendations

Steep or badly eroded land should be used for woodland and wildlife areas. Contour furrows for planting and diversion dikes will be used in controlling erosion while the trees are being established. Both new plantings and established woodlands should be protected from livestock

2. Wildlife Recommendations

Wildlife in a conservation plan must be considered from the social aspect and insect control, as well as a source of cash income. The Iowa State Conservation Commission has offered definite recommendations and are prepared to assist in the promotion of wildlife and game management.

F. Miscellaneous

1. Highway Erosion

Permanent and vegetative control measures should be used by the farmers in cooperation with the highway commission and county board of supervisors in preventing erosion of roadsides, banks, and ditches, undermining of culverts, and the forming of gullies in adjoining fields. Control of erosion should be made a part of construction of all roads of the county to eliminate maintenance cost.

IV. ADJUSTMENTS IN FARM ENTERPRISE

It is evident that as the district program gets into operation in the county many adjustments in the livestock and cropping practices will be necessary.

The goals set up in this program would increase meadow and pasture acreage and the proposed practices would increase yield of hay and pasture grasses.

It is not anticipated that adjustments will be rapid but if the goal of a balanced livestock and feed production program is kept in mind the adjustments may be gradual and made without any sudden disturbance in farm management.

Among major adjustments which must be taken into consideration are changes in labor requirements, in types of farm machinery, in numbers of livestock and in shelter and equipment for caring for livestock and feed grains and roughage.

A. Labor

The effect of a balanced livestock and feed program as recommended by the district program should be to reduce labor peaks and to spread the labor of operators and hired help out over the entire year. This should work two ways--the operator would be able to make more efficient use of his labor and the hired worker would be sure of steady employment.

B. Machinery

Since, under the district plan, farmers must work in groups on their conservation programs, an excellent opportunity will be provided to pool machinery. This might just as well include some of the regular farm machinery as well as special machinery which may be needed as the conservation program progresses.

Among the farm machines in more general use which could be used cooperatively by a group are combines, corn pickers, heavy hay tools, such as stackers and pick-up balers, feed mills, fanning mills, spray outfits and several others which those mentioned will suggest to the group members. Among special tools groups might use cooperatively are fertilizer drills and spreaders, furrow openers, jointers, duckfoot chisels, loose soil listers, grain drills, etc.

As the program progresses some heavy earth moving machinery will be needed. Some of the more expensive of these should be a matter of business for the district. Some of the less expensive, as small terracers and scrapers could well be owned cooperatively by the groups.

C. Seeds, Gardens and Orchards

The district recommends that all cooperators in the district program make full use of the Extension Service in securing information on seeds, gardens and orchards, including selection, cultivation and care.

However, the district soils conservationists who are responsible for the general farm plans and who will be on the ground frequently can assist greatly in planning locations, protecting against soils losses and recommending soil treatment.

These matters can be discussed in season at the group meetings.

D. Field Seeds

The district will promote careful selection, cleaning and grading of all field grains and grass seeds and the inoculation of legume seeds when needed.

E. Livestock

The livestock produced in the county consists of dairy and beef cattle, hogs and sheep. Dairy cattle predominate in the north half of the county and beef cattle are depended upon to convert the grasses produced on the Shelby areas in the south half of the county into beef. Hogs are grown throughout the county and bring into the county more wealth than any other class of livestock. Scattered over the county are many excellent flocks of sheep.

As the shift is made from cropland to permanent pasture of 12,000 acres a corresponding shift must be made to additional roughage consuming animals, including dairy cattle, beef cattle and sheep.

F. Tillage Methods

Use of special tillage implements will be of an experimental nature and results will be checked with the experiment station and Extension Service of Iowa State College. Implements which will be used in experiments are disc hillers, loose soil listers and furrow openers.

PLAN OF ACTION

V. EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

The district commissioners will carry on an education and information program in the entire district at all times. More detailed information will be given to interested groups upon request. They will direct and participate in the above meetings but will delegate the active leadership to the County Extension Director who in turn may call on farm leaders, soil conservation service technicians, and other organizations to assist. The district will cooperate with the state in observing special days devoted to conservation. The methods of conducting educational activities will be:

A. Demonstration Farms

Existing and new demonstration farms which will be used to illustrate various farm practices in the field.

B. Meetings

The district will hold general information meetings as requested by the various cooperating agencies and by farm or civic groups. These meetings may be held either in farm homes, rural schools, or community centers.

C. Tours

The district will sponsor tours at opportune times to observe the various practices and methods used.

D. Field Demonstrations

The district will cooperate with the County Extension Director in demonstrations to show the methods of contouring, terracing, strip-cropping, gully control, tree planting, and other practices in the field.

E. News Releases

The district will periodically release news stories to the county papers concerning the district policies and progress, educational activities, planning meetings and other items of interest.

F. Group Organization

At the request of individuals or groups of individuals information pertaining to farm planning, conservation practices and their general effect on the farm enterprise will be presented for the purpose of organizing groups.

These will be discussion meetings at which questions regarding the program will be welcomed.

VI. FARM PLANNING PROCEEDURES

The district will direct farm planning activities, receive petitions, establish group priorities, and enter into cooperative agreements and working agreements with the farmers. A detailed conservation farm plan will be completed before the signing of the cooperative agreement. The Soil Conservation Service will be requested to furnish conservation surveys and technical assistance to lead the farm planning activities, the preparation of the plan, and the application of the plan to the land. They in turn will be assisted by farm group leaders, the farmer, and the County Extension Director.

Any individual farmer or group of farmers who will assume responsibility for setting up a neighborhood meeting may request assistance in presenting information relative to the soils district to those attending such a meeting.

At this meeting farmers may petition the district commissioners for assistance in conservation farm planning or for help in establishing practices to aid them in meeting their war production goals, or both. Such petitions must be signed by five or more farm operators.

A. The Conservation Farm Plan

Farm planning will be divided into two steps. The first will consist of a series of meetings in which a neighborhood group of farmers will be presented with technical and other information leading toward the development by the individual of his own farm plan. This plan will include land use adjustments, crop rotation, soil treatments, conservation practices, pasture improvements, livestock changes if necessary, and farm management. In these meetings each plan will be brought as near completion as possible. By working in groups, participation by all present will be more successful and more efficient use of the leaders' time will be attained. Each farmer must attend these planning meetings, otherwise plans will not be written without special permission of The District Commissioners.

The second step will consist of individual assistance to the farmer on his own farm by the Soil Conservation Service Technicians in completing his plan. This will be given following the third planning meeting in preparation of plans for the fourth and final planning meeting when plans are checked and signed by the individual farmer.

The farmer who completes his conservation farm plan and enters into agreement with the district will have included in his plan the following:

1. Soil Inventory Map

Aerial photograph of his individual farm showing soil type, land use class by color, degree of erosion, percentage of slope and top soil remaining.

2. Land Use Map

Also an aerial photograph of the individual farm but showing land use by fields, field numbers, size of fields, drainage ways, field boundaries, location of roads and lanes, ponds, buildings, etc.

3. Cropping Plan

Showing crops to be grown, rotation to be followed, lime and fertilizer program, where, when, and how much to be applied.

4. Plan of Conservation Operations

This gives a few simple reminders of what not to do and what to do to make the plan function as agreed by the farmer and planning technician and approved by the district commissioners.

5. Land Use Recommendations and Legend Sheet

This will explain the soil inventory map legend and the land classes by color. Also the recommended crop rotation or use and the corresponding conservation practices for each class.

6. Suggested Order of Establishing Practices

This form shows the time practices are to be established, amount of acres treated, cubic yards or feet of earth moved, etc., and when it is to be done. The amount of seed, trees, fish, material, labor, and equipment to be furnished by the district and/or the farmer to get the farm conservation plan into operation.

7. Game Management Clause

Each group of farms or an individual farm (group preferred) may become an established game area and recognized by the State as such if the following paragraph is made a part of the conservation farm plan: "Wildlife will be protected and its propagation encouraged by leaving grass nesting areas in fence corners and along fence rows. Feed and gravel will be provided when necessary during the winter months. The farm will be posted and hunting controlled in cooperation with the Iowa State Conservation Commission to the extent that seed stocks of game on the farm will be protected until a shootable surplus of game has been produced and then hunting will be permitted to the extent of harvesting the surplus game crop."

B. Working Agreement

1. Group Working Agreement

This agreement was developed in keeping with the Memorandum of Understanding between the District and the United States Department of Agriculture and in order to get a wider spread of conservation production practices on the land, to assist farmers in meeting their war production goals and to more nearly meet the growing demand by farmers for assistance in their establishment. The same method of organizing groups must be followed as in paragraph above under Group Organization.

2. Individual Working Agreement

The group leader elected by the farmers signing the request for assistance and approved by the District Commissioners will approve the Individual Working Agreements. He will then enter the farmers' names, practices to be established, and acres or lineal feet involved on the Group Working Agreement and submit it to the District Commissioners for their approval and signature.

No maps, cropping plan, schedule of operations, etc., will be included with this type of agreement and the district's obligations to farmer ends when the starting practices are established.

Practices to be applied under the working agreement are as follows:

Soil Treatments
Grass Waterways
Contour Farming

Correction Buffer Strips
Strip Cropping
Pasture Reseeding

or other practices approved by the district commissioners.

C. Application and Execution

The responsibility for application of the plan will rest with the farmer and the execution will be the responsibility of the District Commissioners who will coordinate and direct the use of technical assistance, materials, equipment, and labor made available to the district. Plans may be changed and the rate of completing the plan may be stepped up or delayed, depending upon conditions such as finances, change of operator, or health. Farms under Conservation Farm Plans will receive priority on assistance over farms under Working Agreement.

1. Observations The district commissioners will assume the responsibility for checking completeness of the execution of the plan. However, they may request the assistance of the County Extension Director, farmers, farm leaders, technicians, and others in making observations on the effectiveness of the various methods used.

2. Reports

The district commissioners will be assisted by the Soil Conservation Service and farmers in keeping the necessary records and will make the scheduled reports to the assisting agencies.

VII. AVAILABLE ASSISTANCE

A. Extension Service

The Extension Service, through the County Extension Director and specialists, will assist the district in the educational activities by setting up and conducting meetings, organizing planning groups, holding field demonstrations, and furnishing special information.

The commissioners will use the Soil Conservation Service personnel assigned to the district to assist in conducting conservation surveys, in educational activities, in developing farm plans, and putting same into operation, in keeping necessary records, and in revising or improving from time to time the program and plans for the district. All activities of the district will be in keeping with the Memorandums of Understanding between the district commissioners of Warren County and assisting agencies.

The district, through its commissioners, will ask for and receive assistance from the following specific agencies through agreements already made -- the Extension Service of Iowa State College and Soils Conservation Service.

The district acknowledges full cooperation and assistance of the Warren County Agricultural Conservation Association (A.A.A.) and the Warren County office of the Farm Security Association in organization of the district. It will ask the last named agencies for combined aid in carrying out the objectives of the district.

The County Agricultural Conservation Association (A.A.A.) will of necessity work very closely with the district because of the close association of the two programs.

They will through their township committeemen promote and recommend the practices which the district initiates. They will also furnish lime through their materials service program, make such payments as the U.S.D.A. directs for conservation practices and assume responsibility for land measurements.

The county superintendent of schools will assist by placing in all rural schools a three months program on soil conservation which will be timed so as to fit in with the educational work of the district in setting up its informational meetings.

Subject matter for this rural school program will be submitted to the district commissioners for approval.

The district will cooperate with the State Conservation Commission, the Soil Conservation Service Nurseries, and the United States Forest Service in the production and distribution of forest trees for reforestation, gully control and game cover plantings.

It will also cooperate with all agencies devoted to the production of new or improved varieties of grass and legume seed and will promote the harvesting of such seed when grown by cooperators for the use of other cooperators within the district.

Because of the close connection between soil fertility and public revenue the county board of supervisors have a direct stake in the soils district program. There will also be problems to be ironed out between the soils and highway engineers in matters effecting drainage of fields in many cases. For these and other reasons the district wishes to work closely and cooperatively with the board of supervisors and the county engineer.

Plans of the commissioners include field trips for editors so that first hand information may be available.

Other agencies not enumerated here will undoubtedly become interested in the soils district program and offer assistance from time to time.

VIII. SUMMARY OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Commissioners

1. Are responsible for developing and administering Soil Conservation Program in the district.
2. Request technical assistance from the several agencies in a position to give help.
3. Encourage maximum participation from individual farmers.
4. Designate farmer groups or committees necessary for carrying out the District Work Plan.
5. Enter into cooperative agreements with farmers.
6. Allow and recommend necessary changes in Cooperative Agreements.
7. Exchange with the county land use planning committees information relating to programs and correlating same.
8. Review periodicals and suggestions of assisting agencies and place into effect when feasible.

B. Farm Group Leaders

1. Assume leadership of organized group for planning.
2. Make arrangements for meeting place and contact or notify each farmer before each meeting to insure attendance.
3. Open each planning meeting.
4. Enter into discussion fully.
5. Assist commissioners in execution of plans and getting material for records, reports, and news articles.

6. Represent the group at all county meetings.

C. Farmer

1. Organize own neighborhood group and elect leader.
2. Petition the district commissioners for conservation surveys and assistance in farm planning.
3. Attend planning meetings and write their own farm plan with the assistance and information given them by the District Commissioners, Soil Conservation Service Technicians, and other agencies assisting the district.
4. Enter into agreement with the District Commissioners.
5. Put into execution the farm plan as far as possible himself and call upon the assistance of the Farm Group Leader, Technicians, or Commissioners when necessary to avoid mistakes in application.
6. Make request for revision of plan when necessary due to weather, crop failure, war, or other conditions.
7. Assist the commissioners in the compiling of information for records, reports, and news articles by answering all questionnaires promptly and accurately.
8. Assist in any other way that will promote the conservation of our greatest natural resource, the soil, within the county.

IX. REVISIONS

Revisions of work plan will be made from time to time for improvement as experience and additional information indicate need for such revision.

X. BULLETINS AND REFERENCE MATERIAL

Because of the frequent changes in the content of reference material and the constant revision of bulletins caused by new developments in the field of soil conservation no list of such material is published in this WORK PLAN.

Such lists and copies of current bulletins will be available at the Extension (Farm Bureau) Office in Indianola.

APPROVAL OF WORK PLAN

WARREN COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BY:

J. E. Hatcher
Chairman, District Governing Body

DATE:

3 - 3 - 1944

"The adoption of this WORK PLAN was authorized and the plan approved by a resolution of the District Governing Body adopted at a meeting held on March 3rd, 1944.

L. J. Nickle
Secretary, District Governing Body