

24TH ANNUAL REPORT

1968

**WEST POTTAWATTAMIE
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA**



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

WE TURN OUR EYES TO THE FUTURE

FORWARD

The West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District wishes to report the accomplishments in soil and water conservation for 1968. This year has been one of our best years for the establishment of soil and water conservation practices.

More often than not, man has blundered in his relationship with his environment. Analyzing these blunders, we see that they are the result either of man's ignorance, his greed, or his thoughtlessness. This is why we have begun to look to education as the greatest source of power available to us for the work of rehabilitating, conserving and improving our environment.

Teachers want more depth in supplementary materials and where it can be found. The wiser management of resources is not commonly free printed materials prepared for either schools or the general public.

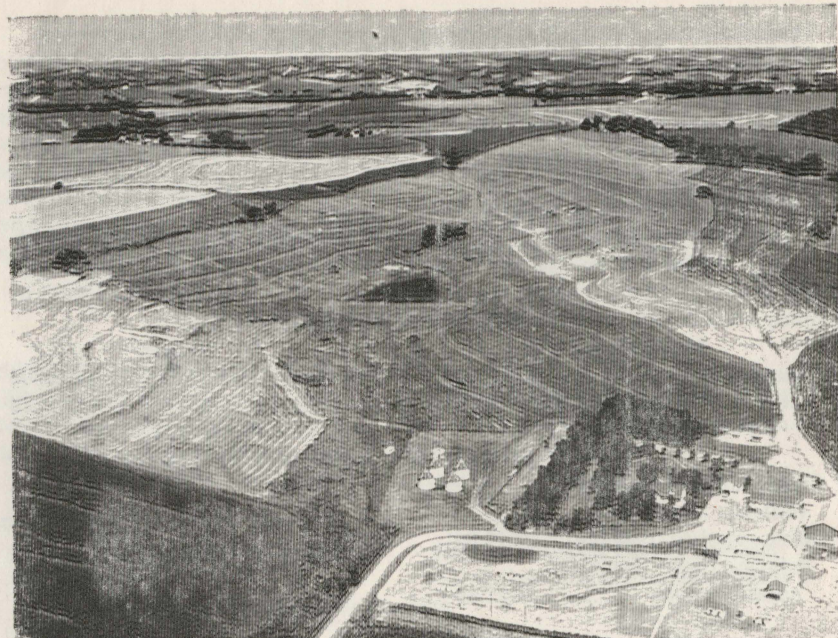
Your district commissioners this past year took a first step in supplying education material to all 5th and 6th grade pupils in the district with a package of soil and water conservation material. We also placed a list of soil and water conservation films, slides, etc. with the Area 13 Media Center. All teachers may use these as they desire free of charge.

We want to express our appreciation for their assistance in promoting soil and water conservation to the Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Extension Service, the County Board of Supervisors, the Agriculture Research Service, all news media, all banks, Area 13 Media Center, school boards, superintendents, and teachers in the district, and all District cooperators.

Eldon Ravlin, District Chairman



Conducted tours show how our environment can be improved by the wise use and management of our natural resources. This erosion control structure is on the Dick Smith farm 9 miles east and 1 mile south of Council Bluffs. The primary purpose was to control and help heal an existing gully. Erosion control is good resource management.



This neat, well-kept farmstead windbreak has the area protected from prevailing winds and snow accumulation. It is in the Twin Ponies Watershed located 5 miles east of Council Bluffs. This farm, owned by Walter Ambrose, is well protected against erosion. Terraces and an erosion control structure in the background are evidence of good land treatment measures.

Well-planned farmstead windbreaks, given proper care and maintenance, are a real asset to any farm. They provide protection to buildings and livestock, save on fuel bills and keep snow from the work area. They also provide food and cover to wildlife, add to the beauty of the farm and countryside, and increase the value of the farm.

When considering a windbreak, keep in mind that it will be a permanent part of the farm landscape, therefore careful thought and planning should be done prior to planting any trees and shrubs. Soil Conservation Service technicians assisting your District can help in the design of the windbreak.

Things that should be considered in planning a farmstead windbreak are the type of soil, the location and the natural drainage which help to determine the kinds of trees to use. Spacing should be such that the end result is a compact, dense windbreak. Overplanting will eventually result in the loss of a windbreak.

So — if you want to protect the farmstead against hot summer winds and raw winter blasts, and if you want to add to the beauty and homeliness of the farm, as well as increase its value, plant a farmstead windbreak. Have a farmstead windbreak with the help of your local Soil Conservation Service technicians.

FINANCIAL REPORT

1967-1968 fiscal year

The General Assembly of Iowa provides funds to assist soil conservation districts in their local programs. These funds are allocated to districts by the State Soil Conservation Committee on the basis of needs as evidenced by budgets submitted by the district commissioners.

Two separate funds are provided by the State Soil Conservation Committee. They are the 1M budget used for commissioners expenses, office supplies, printing and other office expenses; and the 2M budget which is used to employ a clerk and technical help to assist with layout work.

1M Budget	2M Budget
Allocation 7/1/67\$500.00	Salaries — Clerical\$3288.00
Additional Allocation 3/68..\$140.00	Technical\$1868.25
	District's Share of State
\$640.00	& Federal Retirement....\$ 400.22
Commissioners expenses	
(mileage and meals).....\$297.20	\$5556.47
Office supplies (postage).....\$210.30	
Printing (letterheads & annual report)\$132.50	
\$640.00	

In addition, the District has a revolving fund to finance programs for which the 1M and 2M budget allocations cannot be used. These programs include: conservation education materials, information program, dues to State and National Associations of Soil Conservation Districts. This fund is maintained by contributions.

1968 receipts	\$571.60
1968 expenditures	\$428.29
Balance on hand 12/31/68	\$456.54



Bulldozer building grassed backslope terrace. Notice how the slope is flattened below the terrace. The 2:1 backslope is seeded to brome grass.

Approximately 98% of the level terraces built in the District in 1968 were the grassed backslope type. Some of the projects feature intakes in the terrace channel to eliminate impounded areas. Water is removed through intakes into underground conduit (metal pipe or field drain tile) outletting into natural drainageways or below each terrace. Tile size is such that all surface water is removed in 24 hours so that crops are not damaged. Besides straighter row alignment, this type of terracing eliminates grass waterways and generally less earth moving is involved. However, the cost is greater and care must be exercised not to damage the intakes in field operations.

COMMISSIONERS

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY

Eldon Ravlin, Chairman	Con Fischer, Assistant Commissioner
Derald Blois, Commissioner	Darrell Hartje, Assistant Commissioner
Harvey Moss, Commissioner	Cliff Johnson, Secretary
Louie Fahrenkrog, Assistant Commissioner	

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE EMPLOYEES

Walt Weiss, Area Conservationist	Cal Cox, District Conservationist
Gerald Hollander, Area Engineer	Arlyn Gesell, Soil Conservationist
Don Barnhart, Conservation Technician	

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Mona Mackey, Clerk	Howard Angeroth, State Aid
-------------------------	----------------------------

In February, Don Kauffman was promoted to District Conservationist and transferred to Ida County. Arlyn Gesell replaced him as Soil Conservationist, transferring here from Mitchell County.

Walt Weiss, Area Conservationist for 15 years, retired in January, 1969. Cal Cox is Acting Area Conservationist until a replacement is named.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CONSERVATION PLANNING

New cooperators	41
Farmers assisted*	405
Farmers applying practices**	153
Conservation plans prepared	44
Conservation plans revised	19

MAJOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES APPLIED

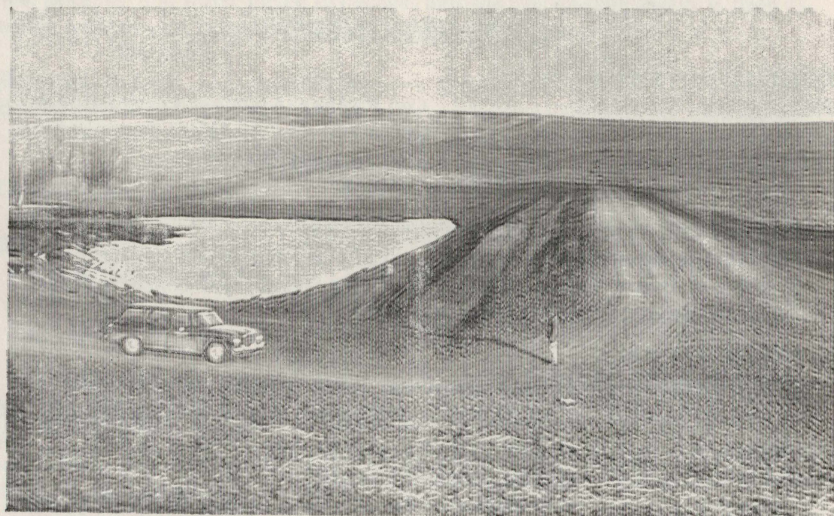
Diversion terraces	2,659 ft.	
Structures	6	
Waterways	13 ac.	
Level terraces	12,285 ft.	(2.3 mi.)
Parallel terraces	393,475 ft.	(74.5 mi.)
Basin terraces	45,180 ft.	(8.6 mi.)
Drainage field ditch	3,200 ft.	
Tile	14,976 ft.	
Drainage land grading	49.6 ac.	

* This number includes 25 projects started in 1968 and will be carried over for completion in 1969.

** These are farmers applying one or more conservation practices in 1968.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Meetings held	16
New stories published	8
Office callers	650
Phone calls	902



What once was a deep, raw gully has now been healed by this earthfill structure on the properties of Howard Jenson and Maynard Ridlen in the Ryan-Henschal Watershed. Approximately 287 acres of farmland drain to this structure. This watershed structure when filled with water, approximately 9 acres, helps to prevent downstream flooding and also provides recreational benefits such as swimming, fishing, boating and hunting.

WATERSHED REPORT

by Eldon Ravlin, Chairman

The year 1968 has been a good year for most conservation work in West Pottawattamie Soil Conservation District. However, our watershed program has been stopped due to lack of funds created by the cutback in government spending initiated to stop inflation. We, here in this District, feel this has been a costly move by those responsible due to the added expense in getting projects already underway started again.

With actual construction stopped due to a lack of funds our engineers are designing structures in Ryan-Henschal and Indian Creek Watersheds where possible so that work can start as soon as funds are available. In the

meantime, all cooperators in all watersheds should get the maximum amount of upland treatment, mainly terraces, on the land this year.

Competition for funds will be great when they become available and the watersheds with the highest percentage of upland practices completed will have priority.

Structure installation in the Ryan-Henschal Watershed is nearing completion. One more contract will probably complete construction on all off-road structures. This leaves only two road structures to install to complete all structure application in the watershed.

Four structures, including one road structure, have been completed in the Indian Creek Watershed. Design and construction on additional sites will proceed pending availability of easements.

Construction of the North Pigeon Watershed is awaiting final approval and release of the Work Plan in Washington.

The Work Plan for the Simon Run Watershed is in the development stage. Topographic maps and sample borings have been made of several of the proposed sites.

The Twin Ponies and Mamie Creek Watershed applications have been approved but have not, as yet, received planning priority.

This is a brief summarization of watershed progress. Again, a lot of importance is placed on upland treatment and without a doubt, those watersheds with the highest percentage of upland treatment will be given first priority.

OUR CHANGING WORLD

We are living in a changing world. In this great changing world of ours, our lives are becoming evermore complex. Even our attitudes toward natural resources, as toward too many other things, are changing. We are more worried about resource quality and more concerned about resource use. Recently, pollution has entered the picture. All of these are of concern to us and require good judgment. It would be a coward's way out to turn our back on these issues. We must consider the issues.

To begin with, in America, the resources available to us were tremendous. There was more than enough for all. We had plenty of land and not too many people. At that time, we faced the issues by leaning heavily on the concepts of personality and freedom. Then, the issues were such that people left the concepts of community and of responsibility largely unused. Neither of these two concepts have played a real significant role in shaping our value system today.

We lacked personal relationship to the soil as found in some of the European countries. We looked upon agriculture primarily as utilizing the soil. We became more individualistic and in doing we neglected concern for the community.

Today, we have grown up. We have become a mature nation. That which we once took for granted can no longer be taken for granted. We are confronted with a new set of issues. We must face the issues. To do this we must work together as a team in the field of soil and water conservation. Are you with us?

WEST POTTAWATTAMIE

Soil Conservation District

Room 238 Federal Building

Council Bluffs, Iowa

Phone 328-1543 Ext. 24