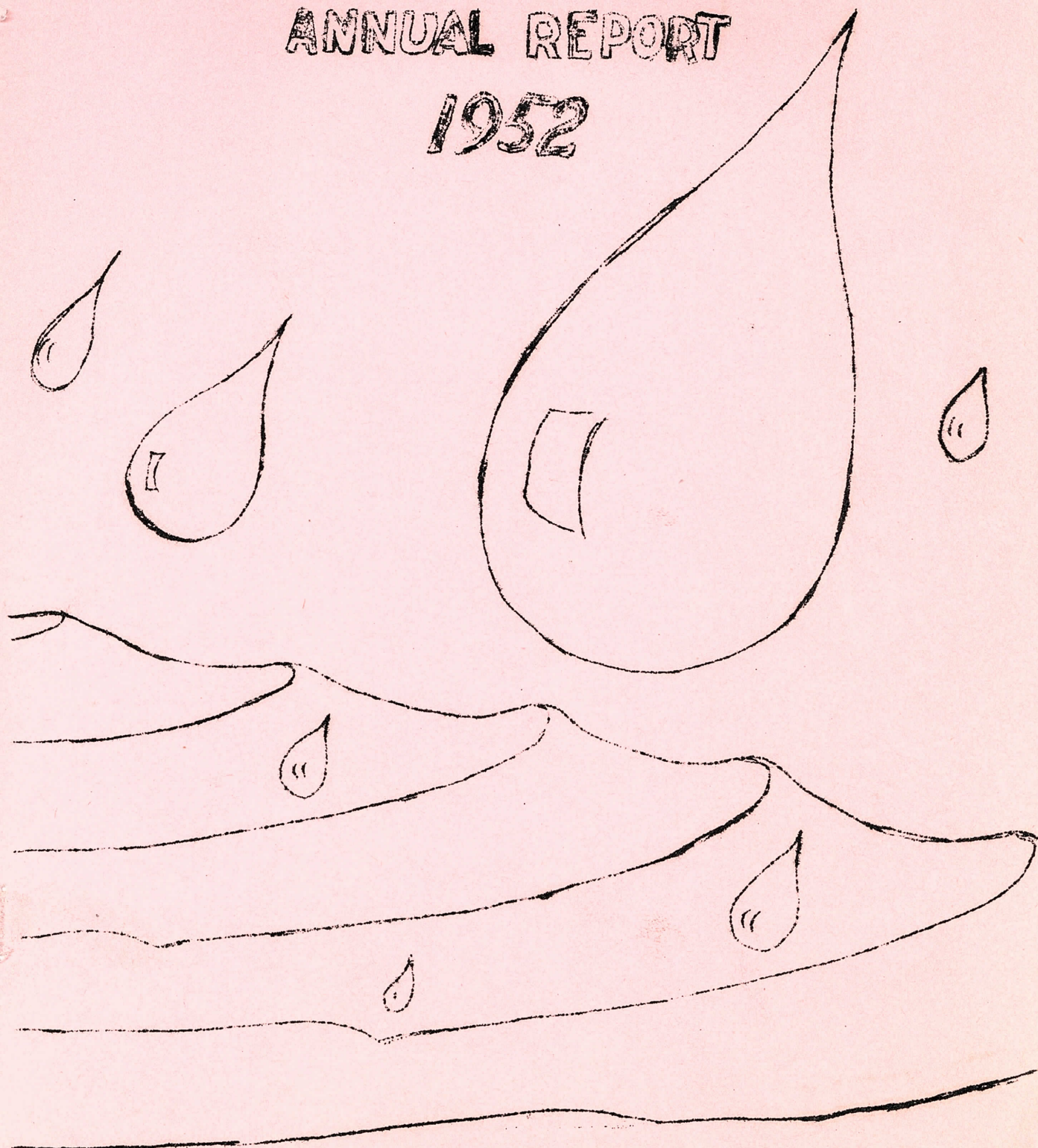


CEDAR COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DIST.
ANNUAL REPORT
1952



HOLD IT WHERE IT FALLS

ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District was carried on by the commissioners with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service personnel through regular and special meetings. The district was also assisted by members of the State Soil Conservation Committee.

The commissioners have to the best of their ability, budgeted the funds available from the State of Iowa. The \$500.00, or 1 A budget which allots equal amounts to each district, was partially expended as follows: Prizes for contest on Soil Conservation, posters and display material, film and newspaper mats, pictures, postage and commissioner's mileage. Total of \$305.68 was expended. The 2 A budget, or funds for extra technical help and equipment, is set up on a new basis by districts. A total of \$395.35 was expended for equipment, clerical and technical assistance.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The district's activities were quite varied and were carried on with the assistance of Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service personnel. The activities being carried as part of the district's program of work.

Conducted regular monthly business meetings as part of the district administration, reviewed and approved Farm Conservation Plans and requests for assistance.

Interest meetings (3) were held for the purpose of explaining district's program and policies, and problems, benefits and methods of adopting and practicing soil and water conservation practices on the land.

Special educational meetings (5) for farm groups to explain Conservation practices along with their adaptations. Also presented material on harvesting, storing and utilization of high quality forages.

Assistance to G. I. and Vocational Agriculture classes in form of class room discussions and field trips. Also demonstrations.

Exhibits on conservation work were used at County Fair and grass-land field day, etc.

Poster contest on soil, water and wildlife conservation was sponsored for grades 4 through 8.

Participated in inter-district activities.

Conducted grass silage tour in cooperation with extension service.

Grassland field day held at Willard Eiler's farm, almost every implement dealer in the county cooperated.

The Ferguson people requested technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in layout and planning of the Glen Aene farm where they held a Conservation field day. This was one of six such field days held in Iowa.

EDUCATIONAL & INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

The educational activities of the district were carried out with the assistance of the Soil Conservation Service and Extension Service and directed toward the advancement of a sound soil and water conservation program.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Interest meetings	3	31
Educational meetings (farm groups)	5	182
Farm planning	6	48
Vocational Agriculture	4	96
G. I. Agriculture classes	2	44
Films	6	180
Tours (Grass silage)	1	120
Night School (Conservation Group)	4	32
Exhibits	3	
Radio	2	
New releases	44	
Grassland field day	1	1200
Ferguson day	1	1400

PROGRESS

The district's main objective remains that of getting "Soil Conservation applied to the Land of Cedar County Farms". This the district feels can be accomplished through the development of Farm Conservation Plans with proper application of needed conservation practices. Also to assist as many as possible with starting practices, such as contouring and grassed waterways, as a starting point toward the development of a complete conservation plan. In the end to raise yields on a per acre basis and at the same time make a deposit in our Soil Bank.

During the year, 22 Farm Conservation Plans were developed. Ninety initial and advanced cooperators were added making a total of 283 district cooperators given assistance. In addition, 218 other farmers were contacted or work with. Thus, a total of more than 450 farmers were contacted or worked with out on the land. A total of over 1500 persons were reached through meetings and office calls.

Application of conservation practices as part of district efforts in 1952.

Contour farming	4214 acres
Strip cropping	63 acres
Pasture improvement	148 acres
Farm ponds	3
Terraces	3600 lineal ft.
Farm drainage	208 acres
Tile	196,734 lineal ft.
Open drainage ditch	.5 mile
Waterways constructed	2.8 miles
Establishment of field boundaries	1854 rods
Soil surveys	9383
Structures	1

DISTRICT EQUIPMENT

The district has a whirlwind terracer for use by district cooperators and others in the construction of terraces, shaping waterways, draining pot holes and constructing small drainage ditches. One farmer used this terracer to level off a section of railroad right-of-way on his farm. Equipment available on a rental fee basis of \$1.50 per hour. Contact Cedar County Soil Conservation District Office, Tipton, Phone 385, or any of the commissioners.

The district has also been working with local contractors in surveying, staking and checking of construction of farm ponds, gully work and tile drainage.

PRODUCTION GOALS FOR 1953

	<u>Total Amount</u>
Follow-up	40
New Plans	25
Cons. Farming Guides	50
Initial Agreements	50
Conservation Surveys	12000 acres
Establishment	
Contour Farming	3550 acres
Strip Cropping	90 acres
Terraces	2 miles
Diversions	
Tile Drains	220500 lineal ft.
Open Drains	2 miles
Const. Waterways	8 miles
Stock Ponds	3
Structures	1
Est. Field Boundaries	2250 rods
Pasture Improvement	200 acres

Wildlife Area Imp.
Referrals
Needs Determination
Inspection & Certification

3 acres
As requested
by
PMA

In arriving at these estimated goals, it was assumed that we can hire an additional man for 8 or 9 month's work which would just about use up the available funds. Some of these goals could be materially increased if additional money and help could be secured.

ORGANIZATION

The commissioners wish to acknowledge the assistance given to the Cedar County Soil Conservation District by the PMA, the Soil Conservation Service and their staff at Tipton and the local County Agriculture Extension Director. Also wish to recognize the assistances rendered by the following organization and agencies in assisting with the soils work in Cedar County:

Vocational Agriculture
State Conservation Commission
Farm Loan Association
Farm Bureau
Production Credit
Rural and Urban Schools
Radio and Television
Churches
Banks
Farm Implement Dealers

SUMMARY

It is encouraging to note that soil conservation work has increased in Cedar County until the work load of the local district is now limited by the help and money available. This is partly due to the increased requests for soil conservation assistance and the supervision and certification of permanent type practices in the A.C.P. program. It is felt, however, that the use of initial agreement forms for single practices and farm planning guides for more advanced layouts will start and guide farmers on the conservation program and will eventually build up to a greater number of complete farm plans. Short term leases and leases unsuitable to conservation farming, high mortgages on purchased farms and the effect of price fluctuations on year-to-year farm planning are problems that must be coped with.

However, the benefits of conservation farming are: bigger grain yields, less acres under plow, abundance of pasture for live-stock, constitute a versatile operating unit and can be adapted to a balanced project even in unfavorable times and the increased

income from the conservation plan contributes reserves to carry through years of low profits.

Soil Conservation is growing as more farmers see these benefits and decide to become a part of this great movement by cooperating with their soil conservation district - an organization which promotes a permanent agriculture through local self-government.

COMMISSIONERS

Wm. Wertzbaugher, West Branch, Iowa
George Kiser, Wilton Junction, Iowa
J. S. Smith, Stanwood, Iowa