

Kossuth County Soil
Conservation District

1979



Annual Report

Algona, Iowa

(515) 295-5156

FOREWARD

The narrative portion of this report covers the 1979 calendar year (January-December). Because the Department of Soil Conservation (DSC) operates on a different fiscal year, the financial report covers the period of July 1, 1978, through June 30, 1979.

The 1979 Annual Report was released to all local news media. Copies available to the public are on file at the District Office.

1979 PERSONNEL DIRECTORY

DISTRICT GOVERNING BODY:

Claude Seely, Algona - chairman
Wendall Christensen, Wealey - vice-chairman
James F. Antoine, Bancroft - commissioner
Kenneth Brones, Swea City - commissioner
Luther Kinne, LuVerne - commissioner
John Reding, Bode - assistant commissioner

John Ley, Extension Director - secretary to commissioners

FIELD OFFICE STAFF:

Lyle R. Riedinger, District Conservationist
Loren B. Bishop, Conservation Technician
Carolyn Marshall, District Clerk
John Metzger, State Aide/WAE (Jan.-July)
Stephen Cink, State Aide/WAE (started in Sept.)

- 1979 ANNUAL REPORT -

An annual review of the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District's program shows significant accomplishment in 1979. April marked the completion of the Standard Soil Survey for Kossuth; the last acre ceremony for the seven-year project was held on Commissioner Luther Kinne's farm in Laverne Township. Advance copies of the field sheets are available for public inspection at the SCS Office in Algona.

Kossuth County's largest animal waste lagoon was constructed on a Lotts Creek Township farm owned by Susan Behr. The disposal lagoon, designed for 1,000 head of cattle and 2,000 hogs, is 670 feet long and 300 feet wide.

Despite adverse weather conditions, 28,000 feet of parallel, tile-outlet terraces were constructed throughout the county. District cooperators building terraces in 1979 were: Thomas Bormann and Sons, Richard Campney, Joseph DeGeeter, Eugene Drager, Duane Habegar, John Hattle, William Hellman, Howard Hoenk, Keith Klinksiek, George Lickteig, Rufus Olthoff, Marvin Origer, Michael Scott, Souffham Brothers, and Marvin Struecker.

Eighty farmstead and field windbreaks were planted. Technical assistance was provided by the SCS staff.

Fred Asa, rural Algona, constructed a pond on his Wesley Township farm. The pond is being established as a recreational and a wildlife area.

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

Mike Brandrapt, District Forester, assisted the District in presenting a windbreak planning session for area residents interested in establishing or renovating a windbreak.

A meeting involving the SCS, ISU, Extension Service, the Assessor, and the Board of Supervisors was conducted in February to discuss the uses of the Standard Soil Survey.

The Algona Voc-Ag class toured the district office. A short program on Kossuth County soil history and soil interpretations was presented. Later in the year, District Conservationist Lyle Riedinger, conducted a field tour on soils for the class.

Riedinger demonstrated tree planting to 100 elementary students in the Algona School System on Arbor Day.

A slide set on conservation was presented to the Algona Rotary Club.

More than 5,600 church bulletins were made available to Kossuth County churches in the annual May observance of Soil Stewardship Week.

Soils data was supplied to the City of Algona and to the Border Pipeline Company.

Overlays were prepared designating critical erosion areas in the county. In addition, maps indicating current land use and a 5-year projected land use for Kossuth County were completed.

The District paid state and national association dues and made a contribution to the agronomy building fund at ISU.

A year-end tally shows that 17 news items were prepared for local newspapers. Twelve programs on conservation were presented to various organizations. District Conservationist Riedinger conducted 45 fifteen-minute programs aired over local radio station KLGA.

STATE COST SHARE

Fifteen state cost share applications to build terraces were approved during the 1979 calendar year. Of these, five were completed; two, construction underway; and, eight, cancelled.

There is an unobligated balance of \$14,182.02 in the state cost share account. Applications are being accepted now for those projects with spring construction planned.

TREES AND INTAKES SOLD

More than 15,000 trees and shrubs were sold for windbreak planting during the spring of '79. Twenty-nine metal terrace intakes were sold. The additional income from these projects supports various local activities.

IZAACK WALTON WINDBREAK AWARD

An Eagle Township farmer, Sylvester Goraczowski, was named Kosuth County winner of the 1979 Izaak Walton League Windbreak Award. Mr. Goraczowski started his windbreak 30 years ago by planting two rows of honeysuckle near some existing Scotch Pine. Years later he added two rows of Black Hills Spruce.

Beside stopping snow, Goraczowski says his windbreaks plays an important role as winter cover for wildlife.

SPEECH CONTESTANT

Keith Schipull, Wesley, represented the Kossuth District at the regional soil conservation speech contest which was held at Ft. Dodge in conjunction with the fall meeting of the Iowa Association of Soil Conservation District Commissioners--Region 2. Keith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Schipull and attends Corwith-Wesley High School.

MEETINGS

The Kossuth District Commissioners conducted eleven regular and three special meetings to handle district business in 1979.

Commissioner Claude Seely, Algona, was elected chairman of the district at their January organizational meeting and Commissioner Wendell Christensen, Wesley, vice-chairman. John Ley, Extension Director, served as secretary and Carolyn Marshall, as treasurer. Other commissioners include Kenneth Brones, Sweeney City; Luther Kinne, IaVerne; and, James F. Antoine, Bancroft. John Reding, Bode, was appointed to serve as an assistant commissioner.

In January the commissioners met with the County Board of Supervisors and the ASCS county committeemen.

Riedinger and Christensen met with the Extension Program Committee in April.

Kossuth was represented at the annual commissioners' short course in Ames, the spring regional meeting at Pocahontas, and the fall regional meeting at Ft. Dodge.

FARMERS ALONG HWY. 18 COOPERATE IN NEW
WIND EROSION CONTROL INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Six farmers in a 2-1/2 mile stretch of road west of Algona on the north side of Highway 18 have agreed to cooperate with the Wind Erosion Control Incentive Program (WECIP) to prevent soil from blowing into the road ditches and the impediment of traffic along the highway. Cooperating farmers are Wayne Hannover, Francis Bjustrom, Joe Besch, Phil Eischen, Charles Lickteig, and Gerald Haas. The agreements cover 679 acres of farmland.

In 1978, legislation passed to allow road use tax funds to install practices which prevent erosion by wind along ditches and roads. In July 1979, this was ruled constitutional by the Iowa Attorney General. Work started with Iowa D.O.T. and city and county engineers to identify roads having bad problems with wind-blown soil. In Kossuth County the state highway engineers designated six miles of Highway 18 between Algona and Whittamore, and the Kossuth County Engineer designated nine miles of roads in Irvington Township. One of the first requirements for eligibility is to be north or west of the designated roads, and then find at least enough farmers to have a mile stretch of road.

The farmers have agreed to do conservation tillage, which means they will chisel plow their corn ground and do nothing to their soybean ground in the fall and very little tillage in the spring. The farmers cannot moldboard plow any of their land that is under agreement.

There needs to be 55% coverage of the land at planting time, this means approximately 2000 pounds of corn residue and 1000 pounds of bean residue. This will be checked by a technician stretching a 50-foot

tape across several rows and then counting the number of stalks under each half-foot mark. This gives 100 points; and, in order to qualify for payment, there must be at least 55 stalks showing under the tape.

Conservation tillage of land that is causing wind erosion near designated roads is a one-time, \$30-per-acre payment of a 5-year contract. Farmers could also use grass strips, field windbreaks, or a combination of the three.

FARMERS USE CORN TO COMBAT EROSION AND BENEFIT WILDLIFE

Kossuth County farmers are using corn to combat erosion, reduce snow blowing, and provide food for wildlife. Four rows of corn left standing over the winter will form a barrier to reduce wind erosion and also will be very valuable in keeping the snow from blowing into the farmstead and blocking farmstead lanes, according to Lyle R. Riedinger, District Conservationist. Riedinger stated that it is of most value to have the rows of corn at least 100 feet from the area to be protected.

Corn stalks that are chisel plowed and left at the surface provide excellent protection of the land against the blowing winds; however, Riedinger points out that there should be at least 55% of the stalks left exposed. Moldboard plowing buries nearly 100% of the corn residue so that it is not available to help stop erosion or as food for wildlife.

The corn left standing around your farmstead not only benefits you and the soil, but also wildlife. Benefiting most from the corn left are two upland game birds--the pheasant and the Hungarian partridge. Corn is their number one diet to help them survive over winter. Pheasants alone eat one-fourth pound of corn per bird per week. Almost every

winter, blizzards accompanied by wind-blown soil from fall-plowed fields kill many pheasants where cover is sparse or lacking. The partridge is not bothered as much by cold weather and winds because it is the hardiest of our game birds.

Cover and food are the two essential things these birds need to survive over the winter months. Farmstead windbreaks have been most useful for winter cover. The spruce, cedar and wild plum are three species preferred by Ringnecks as roosting cover; the honeysuckle and tall grasses such as switch grass or Indian grass is also great winter cover for both birds. Four rows of corn left around the outside of a windbreak will serve very well as a food source for these birds as well as all wildlife. If you have left corn standing and have good cover, such as a windbreak, this is a good guarantee that there will be wildlife of all types around your farmstead.

The SCS has provided technical assistance to 80 farmers this past year who established windbreaks on 54 acres of land.

DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS
January 1, 1979 - December 31, 1979

SCS Codes

100	District Cooperators.....	47
102	Individuals and groups assisted.....	407
104	Total services rendered to individuals & groups.	907
106	Those applying conservation practices.....	199
108	Conservation plans prepared.....	5,473 acres
110	Conservation plans revised.....	1,860 acres
120	Government agencies assisted.....	2
136	Resource studies prepared.....	2
312	Waste Management System.....	2
329	Conservation Tillage.....	12,475 acres
330	Contour Farming.....	351 acres
378	Ponds.....	1
380	Farmstead Windbreaks (new).....	7.5 ac.
392	Field Windbreaks.....	18,017 feet
559	Sediment and Water Control Basin.....	1,000 feet
600	Terraces.....	26,980 feet
645	Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.....	87 acres
650	Windbreak Renovation.....	33 acres
750	Cropland Benefited by Application of Conser- vation Practice.....	13,489 acres
760	Cropland Adequately Protected.....	4,675 acres
770	Cropland Adequately Treated.....	27 acres

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

July 1, 1978 - June 30, 1979

1-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received..... \$ 1,870.00

Disbursements:

Commissioners Expense	\$ 534.25	
Office Supplies	496.87	
Printing	42.30	
Meeting Hall Rental	22.00	
Office Expense	428.11	
Released to DSC	346.47	
Total disbursements.....		\$ 1,870.00

2-M ACCOUNT:

Allocation received..... \$ 18,325.08

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$15,829.63	
Travel	28.90	
State Retirement	963.76	
Social Security	764.81	
Health Insurance	539.94	
Life Insurance	66.00	
Long-term Disability Insurance	62.04	
State-owned Equipment Expense	70.00	
Total disbursements.....		\$ 18,325.08

Financial Statement (con't)

3-M ACCOUNT:

1978-79 allocation received..... \$ 28,000.00

Funds Paid Out

Terraces \$ 24,922.16

Diversion 95.00

Total Paid Out..... - 25,017.16

Funds obligated, practice not completed..... - 2,982.84

Balance of unobligated funds..... \$ 0.00

1979-80 allocation received..... \$ 30,000.00

Funds Paid Out - terraces..... - 13,423.73

Funds obligated, practice not completed..... - 1,455.00

Balance of unobligated funds..... 15,121.27

