

ANNUAL REPORT - 1948 - APPANOOSE COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Commissioners of Appanoose County Soil Conservation District respectfully submit the following report covering operation of the district during the calendar year of 1948.

Agriculture in Appanoose County is in a far better state than in the year previous from a Soil Conservation standpoint. Due to lower prices on corn there will be a large acreage taken out of row crop production and seeded to grasses and legumes. This is needed in the District. The interest shown in the newly developed Dairy program will cause an increase in good pasture renovation. Interest in soil conservation is growing and as a result we are getting farther behind with the farm planning.

The District had a bulldozer operating during the last seven months of the year. Although we had a lot of trouble with it we are convinced that it is a very good thing to have in the District.

There are 10 demonstrations of all kinds in the District with an attendance of 2,568. The major demonstrations were a contour plowing contest and a conservation field day held on the county farm. There has been fine cooperation by other agencies in the District; Extension Service, AAA, FFA, Association of Commerce of Centerville, County Board of Supervisors, County Superintendent of Schools, State Conservation Commissioners, and the Soil Conservation Service helping whenever possible.

Soil Conservation is progressing at a rapid rate but we have need for more educational work being done, and more technicians to do work in the field on farms already planned and on the farm of people who have applied for plans. The greatest problems we have in the District are floods, and soil erosion. We, as commissioners, believe however that as Soil Conservation spreads over the District these will be eliminated.

The regular election was held March 30, 1948. With George Scott being elected for a term of 6 years and Art Streepy elected for a term of 2 years.

The following is a list of Soil Conservation practices reported to the SCD and AAA as applied to land in 1948. There are no "to Date" figures available for AAA.

		1948		To Date Jan. 1, 1949	
		SCS	AAA	SCS	AAA
Cooperative Agreements	No.	24	-	126	
Contoured	Acres	2073	28,385	4101	
Grassed Waterways	L. F.	27140	-	73916	
Limestone Applied	T	-	125,230	-	
Fertilizer Applied	T	-	10,454	-	
Terraces	Mile	2.9	6.7	10.1	
Diversions	"	1.7	2.0	4.2	
Pasture Improvement	Acre	241	-	833	
Drainage (Open Ditch)	"	304	-	314	
Farm Ponds	No.	17	35	31	
Strip Cropping	Acre	45	-	84	
Seeding Pasture	"	0	2500	688	
Drainage	Mile	1.68		1.78	
Drainage	Cu. Yds.	-	60,986	-	

The 1948 figures for AAA include those of the Soil Conservation District also.

Jim Thorp was the SCS farm planner working with the District during the first 6 months of 1948. Bill Stark began as farm planner in October.

The following meetings were held by the Farm Planner:

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Group Planning Meetings	8	134
General Meetings	18	932
Pre-planning	6	77
Movie	1	40

The following goals were set up to be completed in 1949:

Contour	1632 Acres
Terrace	8.6 Miles
Diversions	2.5 "
Constructed Waterways	12,800 L.F.
Improved Pasture	1,760 Acres
Ponds	13 No.
Plans	50 No.

It is planned to hold a Farmer Conservationist School, County Conservation Tour, County Plowing Match and a Conservation Field Day.

Art Streepy
/s/ Art Streepy, Chairman
District Commissioners

R. C. Wilson
/s/ Richard Wilson
District Commissioner

George Scott
/s/ George Scott,
District Commissioner