



Kossuth County Soil Conservation District

34th Annual Report — 1982



OFFICE STAFF

Carolyn Marshall, State Clerk; Meleia Shelman, Conservation Technician; Paul Ohland, District Conservationist; and, Loren Bishop, State Conservation Aide.

FOREWORD

We take this opportunity to express our thanks to all who have contributed to the progress of conservation of natural resources in Kossuth County.

The Kossuth County Soil Conservation District (SCD) is available to help landowners and landusers solve resource management problems. Typical assistance includes erosion control planning, water management planning, soil interpretations for site development planning, and home site evaluations.

The District is governed by five commissioners, each from a different township in the county. They are elected in the general election on a non-partisan ballot. They serve for staggered terms of six years. The commissioners serve without pay in giving direction to the SCD. Assistant commissioners are appointed by the district chairman for one-year terms.

The U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service assists the commissioners with technical assistance at the request of the commissioners.

The SCD provides technical assistance to plan, design, assure adherence to specifications and maintenance of conservation practices. Provides inventory and evaluation of soils data to local units of government that have resources planning responsibilities. Administers state cost share funds. Coordinates soil, water and related resource programs within the District. Helps plan and treat cropland, pastureland, woodland, and wildlife habitat in cooperation with other government agencies. Establishes and administers soil loss limit regulations on land within the District. Investigates soil loss complaints. Landowners receiving sediment damage resulting from excessive soil erosion of another's property may file a complaint in writing with the SCD.

The Kossuth Soil Conservation District Commissioners meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The public is welcome to attend. Check with the office at 1306 N. Main, Algona, as to the meeting time, or call 295-5156.

The Kossuth Soil Conservation District is here to help you.

The Commissioners
Kossuth County Soil
Conservation District



Ten acres of waterways were built or reestablished by Kossuth County farmers. Waterways are a very important part of a conservation tillage system. They provide a method of water runoff without carrying the crop residue into fences, road ditches, drainage ditches, etc.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT	
July 1, 1980 — June 30, 1981	
1-M ACCOUNT:	
Allocation received	\$ 2,270.35
Disbursements	
Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 1,323.12
Commissioners Expense	879.00
Printing Expense	68.23
Total disbursement	\$ 2,270.35
2-M ACCOUNT:	
Allocation received	\$29,322.29
Disbursements	
Salaries	\$25,040.93
Travel	10.50
State Retirement	1,370.98
Social Security	1,668.79
Health Insurance	801.00
Life Insurance	143.00
Long-term Disability	185.09
State Equipment Maintenance	102.00
Total disbursements	\$29,322.29
3-M ACCOUNT:	
1981-82 allocation received	\$19,992.00
Funds paid out - terrace construction	12,557.65
Funds obligated, practice not completed	7,063.69
Released to Dept. of Soil Conservation	370.66
Balanced of unobligated funds	\$ 0.00
1982-83 allocation received	\$23,558.00
Funds obligated, practice not completed	15,287.50
Balanced of unobligated funds	\$ 8,270.50

DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Cost sharing for various soil conservation practices are available from the State of Iowa through the Kossuth County Soil Conservation District office.

Each year the Iowa Legislature provides funds for assisting with the cost of installation of soil conservation practices. Soil conservation practices which are eligible for state cost-sharing are: terraces, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, diversions, grade stabilization structure, critical area planting, field windbreaks, grass strips, and pasture and hayland planting. Cost-sharing for these conservation practices is limited to 50% of the estimated cost or 50% of the actual cost, whichever is less.

Another cost share program administered by the Soil Conservation District is the Wind Erosion Control Incentives Program (WECIP). This program is funded by the Iowa Department of Transportation to protect the roads of the state of Iowa from being filled with silt from wind erosion and to prevent safety problems due to poor visibility. The areas which are eligible for the WECIP program are along roads which have been designated as having a wind erosion problem by the soil conservation district commissioners, the county engineer, and the district Dept. of Transportation engineer. WECIP payment can be received for conservation tillage with 50% residue cover, a five-year contract; field windbreaks, a 20-year contract; or, grass strips, a 20-year contract.



No-till farming was used on 2,000 acres in 1982. Approximately 320,000 acres or 57% of Kossuth County corn and soybeans were planted on land which had not been tilled with a moldboard plow.



DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

(L to R) Robert Deal, commissioner; John Simpson, assistant commissioner; Kent Seely, commissioner; James F. Antoine, commissioner; Kenneth Brones, commissioner; John Ley, assistant commissioner; Wendell Christensen, chairman, commissioner.

CONSERVATION TILLAGE FOR EROSION CONTROL

Conservation tillage is one of the most important erosion control practices available to Kossuth County farmers. Crop residues act as an umbrella protecting the soil from the ravages of wind and water from rainfall. The shorter period in which the soil is bare, the less erosion that takes place.

Erosion Potential*

Type of Tillage	Erosion — Tons/Acre/Year		
	Wind	Water	Total
Fall plow corn residue, fall chisel soybean residue	5	12	17
Fall chisel plow corn and soybean residue	2	9	11
Fall chisel plow corn residue, spring field cultivate soybean residue	0	7	7
Fall chisel plow corn residue, no-till soybean residue	0	5	5
No-till corn and soybean residue	0	3	3

* Corn-soybean rotation; Clarion loam, 5% slope, 200 ft. long

Because of the importance of conservation tillage in the control of erosion, the Kossuth Soil Conservation District commissioners have made no-till planters available to landowners. Through this program, a method of trying no-till planting on corn or soybeans is available. If you are interested in trying no-till, contact the Kossuth S.C.D., 1306 N. Main, Algona, or call 295-5156.

One hundred forty-six farmers in Kossuth County, working with the Kossuth Soil Conservation District, reduced erosion on 13,707 acres of land. Soil losses were reduced to less than 5 tons per acre per year on 6,084 acres.

An additional 152 farmers worked with the staff of the district making plans for conservation work in 1983 and beyond.

Plans for conservation treatment using conservation tillage, terraces, waterways, windbreaks, etc. were made on 8,400 acres of Kossuth County farmland. Alternative methods of erosion control were supplied for 4,600 acres where the landowners was not yet ready to make a decision as to which method of erosion control to use.



25,345 feet of terraces were constructed by Kossuth Co. landowners in 1982. Along with the terraces, 2600 feet of water and sediment control basins were built to control the runoff of water and sediment. 1184 acres of contouring was started with the terraces and by farmers who wanted to improve their erosion control.