

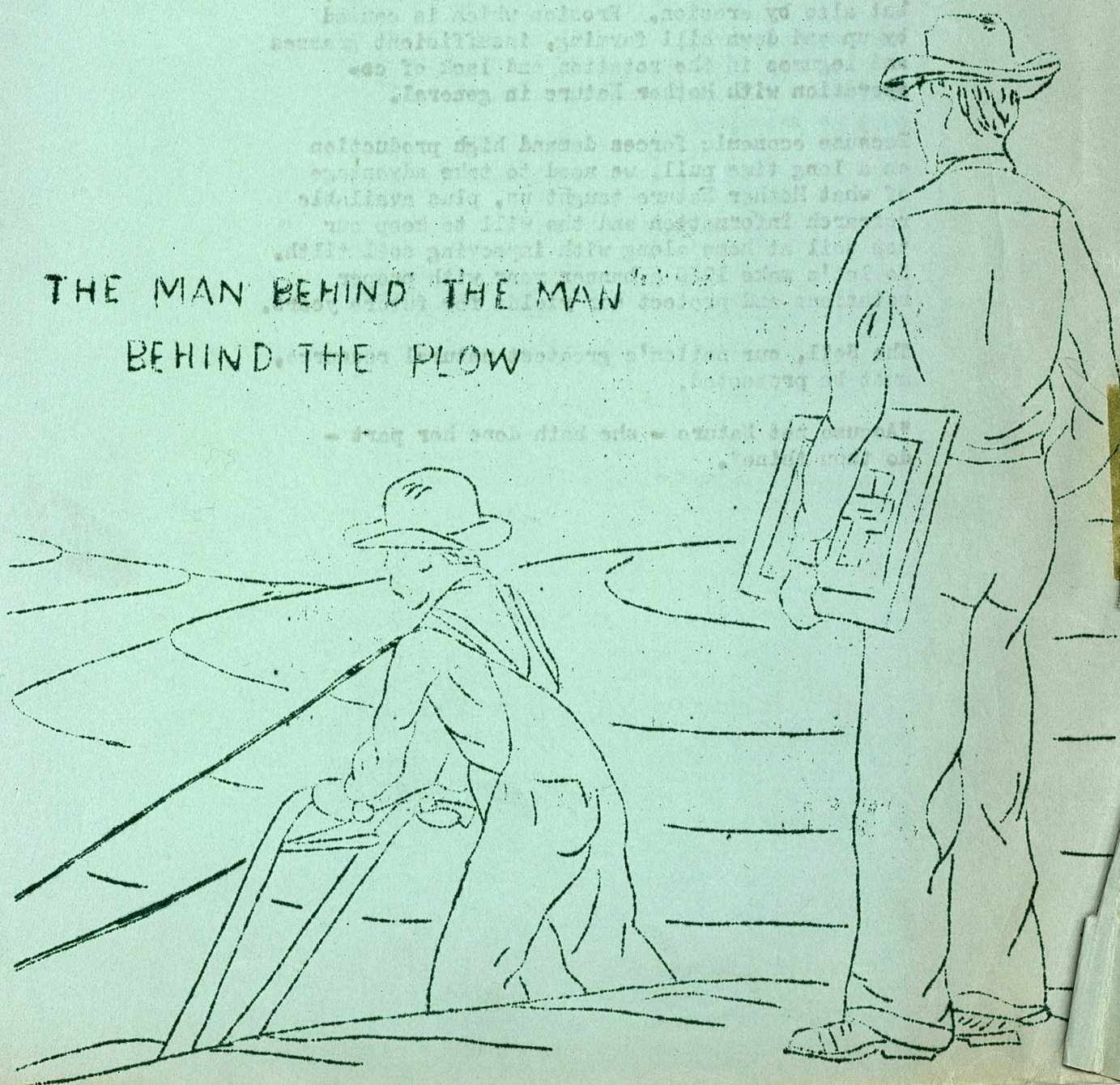
CEDAR COUNTY

Soil Conservation District

ANNUAL REPORT

1954

THE MAN BEHIND THE MAN
BEHIND THE PLOW



Time passes on and with it a depletion of the humus content of our soil. Depletion of not only humus matter by growing of crops and selling plant food through farm products, but also by erosion. Erosion which is caused by up and down hill farming, insufficient grasses and legumes in the rotation and lack of co-operation with Mother Nature in general.

Because economic forces demand high production on a long time pull, we need to take advantage of what Mother Nature taught us, plus available research information and the will to keep our top soil at home along with improving soil tilth. So let's make 1955 a banner year with proper rotations and protect our yields for future years.

The Soil, our nation's greatest natural resource, must be protected.

"Accuse not Nature -- she hath done her part -- do thou thine".

FOREWORD

For the ninth consecutive year, we, the Commissioners of the Cedar County Soil Conservation District, report to the people and assisting agencies on the conservation progress of the past year.

Efforts expended by various agencies in soil conservation work are coordinated by the District for real progress in effective conservation of our soil and water.

We appreciate the cooperation of the P.M.A., Extension Service, all vocational agriculture departments, school teachers, and schools who took part in the scrapbook contest, especially Mr. Gill, County Superintendent of Schools, for his untiring efforts in promoting conservation in all schools in the county, and all other groups or individuals who have worked with the District.

We especially want to thank the feed and seed dealers who provided door prizes for the annual meeting last year and all the implement dealers who took part in the Forage Field Day at the Ralph Gaul farm.

HIGHLIGHTS

The annual meeting which was held in March was well attended. Burns Bryam of the Eastern Iowa Artificial Breeders Association, was the principal speaker. His talk was both educational and interesting. The ladies especially appreciated seeing the slides taken by Mr. Bryam while in Hawaii.

The Cedar County Soil Conservation District again sponsored a scrapbook contest for the Cedar County School pupils in grades 5 to 8 inclusive. There were 30 entrants. The average quality of these books was far superior to that of past years. Mr. Wertzbaugher awarded the prizes at the County Eighth Grade Commencement exercises.

The second county wide air tour was sponsored in August. Twenty-nine took this tour.

Robert Kelly was awarded a certificate for his work in promoting soil conservation in Cedar County.

The commissioners held twelve monthly meetings to carry out the District's business and other activities.

A Forage Field Day was held on the Ralph Gaul farm. Approximately 500 people attended throughout the day.

SOIL CONSERVATION FARM PLANNING

Don Williams, WUC

During the past year 72 farmers signed requests for assistance, and farm plans were worked out with 33 farmers. A total of 301 farmers were given assistance with their conservation problems. The District now has 414 cooperators and 237 complete farm plans.

Those of us who believe that conservation is essential to the well-being of our county understand the lack of interest on the part of some farmers who so badly need to conserve their soil. It hurts to see sheet and gully erosion on so many fields when we have the know how to conserve both our soil and water resources. Then when we look back only six or seven years and take stock of the accomplishments of these few years and when farmers stop into the office almost daily wanting to start a conservation program on their farm and still other farmers come in and tell us of increased yields from conservation practices applied to their land, it instills a deep sense of pride for having had a part in a movement so vital to the well-being of our nation.

Remember "Plan your farm and farm your plan."

CONSERVATION ON THE LAND

Clarence Beyer, Conservation Aid

The Soil Conservation Service has, through years, furnished trained personnel to assist the cooperators of the District in carrying out their planning operations and conservation practices.

The excellent cooperation received from both farmers and contractors during the past year has been appreciated by both the technicians and the District Commissioners. Except for this cooperation the following could not have been accomplished without additional help:

ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 1954

Contouring	3063 acres
Stripcropping	166 "
Pasture Seeding	201 "
Drop Inlet	3 (Number)
Pond Construction	1 "
Tile Drains	313221 L. F.
Drainage	626 acres
Terraces	3.4 miles
Waterway Development	26 acres
Fencing	3185 rods

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE
Geo. R. Kiser, Chairman

It is our goal to have a complete soil and water conservation plan on each farm in Cedar County. The District owns a terracing plow which is rented out at \$1.50 per hour. We have a large amount of land in the county that could profitably use terraces, or as some of us like to call them a permanent contour line that has been layed out very carefully using a slope of one half to one percent toward the natural drainage. Almost half of the terraces in the county are parallel.

EXTENSION SERVICE

Howard A. Hamilton, County Extension Director, has acted as Secretary of the District and has been charged with the responsibility of promoting the educational phases of the soil conservation program. This has been done through soil conservation meetings, Smith-Hughes and G.I. meetings, township meetings, individual contacts, and publicity in the local papers. Some phase of soil conservation was stressed at practically all the educational meetings held in the county during the past year.

Soil conservation demonstrations were presented by a number of the 4-H Clubs. The Harmony Hustlers' soil conservation demonstration from Clarence won a blue ribbon at both the County and State Fair. Definite progress has been made in actually getting more soil conservation on the land. The County Extension Director would like to suggest that the S.C.S. personnel help to develop soil conservation demonstrations for each of our eleven boys' 4-H Clubs for 1955. These demonstrations can be presented at township meetings, local club meetings, and county meetings. I believe that the 4-H demonstrations would be a very effective means of educating the people of the county of the need and value of soil conservation. Through these demonstrations, a large number of people would be reached.

COMMISSIONERS:

Geo. R. Kiser, Chairman, Wilton Junction, Iowa
Wm. W. Wertzbaugher, West Branch, Iowa
James S. Smith, Stanwood, Iowa