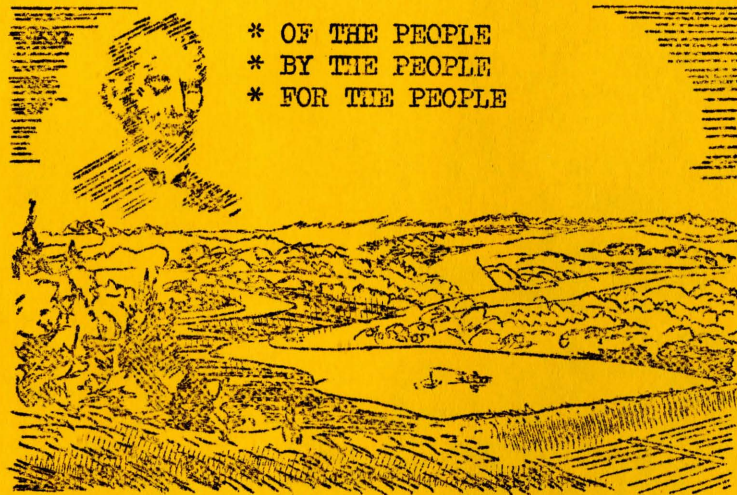


1972

DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION

DISTRICT



* OF THE PEOPLE
* BY THE PEOPLE
* FOR THE PEOPLE

28th ANNUAL REPORT

BLOOMFIELD, IOWA

1972

28th ANNUAL REPORT OF
DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COMMISSIONERS

Sam Botts, Jr.
C. I. Heady
LaVern Weilbrenner
Phillip Melvin
Lionel Herten
Charles Chickering

Chairman (Jan-Dec)
Chairman (Dec. --)
Secretary
Treasurer
Member
Member to Dec. Ass't.
Commissioner Dec. --

SCS OFFICE STAFF

Verle Arnold
Eugene Francis
Roger Fry
Christine Botts

District Conservationist
Conservation Technician
Conservation Aide
Clerk-Typist

AREA SCS PERSONNEL

John Eekes
Margaret Dickey
Tom Brown
Jim Seaholm
Stanley Simmons
Roderic Howarth

Area Conservationist
Area Clerk
Civil Engineer
Soil Scientist
Cons. Engineer Technician
Cons. Engineer Technician

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us, and we have no right to anything we do or neglect, to involve them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath."

--- Ruskin

FOREWARD

As we review the progress of soil conservation in Davis County for the year 1972, we are sure that the commissioners of the Davis Soil Conservation District can look with pride upon what was accomplished. True, we had some disappointments, but from adversity progress and understanding are often born.

We feel that a better understanding of our problems and a closer cooperation between the urban and rural people of our county was established this year. Also with the organization of our conservation education committee, a closer working relationship was established with the Davis County Community School system. Planning for an outdoor classroom will help give needed information to our students of the district.

It is often discouraging to the commissioners to see previously established conservation practices destroyed by new owners or by the enlarging of the farms. Yet we must realize that farming has undergone a vast change in the last ten years and conservation practices must also change. What worked for a tow-plow tractor is no longer practical for a five or six-plow tractor. We are heartened by the increasing number of tile outlet terraces, erosion control structures and diversion terraces being built and the increased numbers of cattle grazing on the improved pasture acres in our district.

The loss of the REAP program will have adverse effects on soil conservation for the coming year, yet let me emphasize that this in no way lessens the need for soil conservation in Davis County. The need is even greater today.

If we review ancient history, we find many affluent societies have become decadent or have disappeared entirely -- simply because water and wind erosion destroyed the fertility of their soil.

We read of the vast sums of money that we spend for national defense ("I would be the last to question the need for a strong army, navy and air force in the world we live in today"). Yet is it not possible that we may wake up tomorrow and find while we are defending our borders so well, we let our most priceless heritage -- OUR TOP SOIL -- go down the creeks and rivers and we were conquered from within by means of our oldest enemy -- WATER EROSION. Surely an affluent society such as ours can afford a small fraction of what is spent on national defense to prevent this from happening. The loss of our topsoil effects the property of the businessman, the worker, the professional man, as well as the farmers who live on the land.

We, the commissioners of the Davis County Soil Conservation District, pledge our sincere efforts to keep Davis County soils in Davis County, BUT we need the help of every concerned citizen. WE NEED YOU!



C. I. Heady, Chairman
Davis Soil Conservation District

1972 COMMISSIONER ACTIVITIES

January

Our state and national SCD dues were paid this month.

The report of low income farmers of Davis County was reviewed by the commissioners and signed by Chairman Botts.

Technical approval of the Carter Creek watershed workplan was received in the Des Moines SCS Office the last week in December. January 31, 1972 was set for the public hearing in the Court House at 8 PM.

The Part 10 contract for Big Wyacondah Watershed construction was awarded to J. G. Whisler and Howard Davis with a stop order given to the contractors on December 25, 1971 for the winter season (except for minor items).

Mr. and Mrs. C. I. Heady and Verle Arnold attended the SCD Short Course in Ames January 18 and 19.

Special meetings were held January 14 and January 31 on the proposed workplan of Carter Creek watershed. All sponsors favored the watershed proposal except the local board of supervisors who unanimously rejected the proposal, thus preventing a million dollar project from becoming a reality in our county. A sad day for those who have spent many years planning for the beneficial project.

February

Mr. and Mrs. Iles Heady and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chickering attended the NACD meeting in Washington, D. C. during this month.

Doubs Stone, Inc. purchased the D. K. Nedrow property where the stone quarry the district leases is located. Our lease continues under the new ownership.

March

100 Autumn Olive plants were furnished to Phillip Melvin and Ronald Shockly and Reed's Canary Grass was furnished to LaVern Weilbrenner to plant a 17-acre plot. These plants and seeds were furnished by the Plant Material Center at Elsberry, Missouri.

LaVern Weilbrenner, Charles Chickering, Lionel Hertean and Verle Arnold attended the Region 9 SCD meeting in Ottumwa.

April

Information concerning the Soil Loss Limits was received by the district. The Soil Loss Law must be ready for implementation by July 1, 1973.

May

The Davis SCD Speech contest was held at the local high school May 3, 1972. Ginger Bradford and Carla Silvers were the contestants with Miss Bradford named winner. Prizes of \$10 and \$7.50 were presented to the girls from Clifford Foster, local insurance agent, and the local district. Miss Bradford represented the district in the Region 9 contest in July. Engraved plaques were given to the girls at the cooperator's banquet in November.

A letter was sent from the district to the Davis County Board of Supervisors requesting the quarter mill levy for watershed operation and maintenance be levied and included in the coming years budget.

Soil Stewardship material was distributed to the ministers of Davis County for use in the local church services May 7 through May 14th.

The I-M Budget and 2-M Budget requests were completed, signed by the chairman and mailed to the state office for consideration.

June

The Southeast Iowa Experimental Association final field day was held June 22 and the district furnished the food and served it with help from 4-H girls. The district has shares of stock in this association. Chairman Botts was authorized to vote for the district on the dispersal method to use. He was to vote that it be set up as conservation scholarship funds, invest the money and use the interest each year for conservation scholarships.

LaVern Weilbrenner was nominated by the district as the outstanding commissioner for the contest to be held in July for Region 9.

Mrs. O. J. (Evelyn) Scott was selected to represent the district in the grade teacher division of the Iowa Conservation Awards program for 1972. Don Chickering was the farmer entered in the Division I class of the Iowa Conservation Awards program.

Part 10 construction in the Big Wyacondah watershed is progressing now with a late start caused by too wet conditions for construction earlier in the spring.

July

The annual inspection of Big Wyacondah watershed completed structures was held July 28th. Several sites are needing some repair work.

The Region 9 SCD meeting was held July 18 at Ottumwa. Mr. and Mrs. Sam Botts, Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Weilbrenner and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chickering attended the Region 9 meeting.

Several Tile Outlet Terrace jobs have been completed this month. Also several ponds and structures have been completed, including a structure on the Schooley farm with more than 12,000 cubic yards in the fill and more than 5 acres of water area.

Six girls (Jodi Hopkins, Joyce Long, Debbie Johnson, Ginger Bradford, Linda Lofton and Marla Rysdam) entered the "Queen of Conservation" contest held July 27, 1972 at the opening night program of the Drakesville Old Soldiers and Settler's Reunion. Ginger Bradford was crowned queen by Janice Eakins, the retiring 1971 queen.

August

The regular meeting night for the district was changed from Tuesday to the first Thursday night, effective with the August meeting.

Charles Chickering and Lionel Herten complete their terms as commissioners this fall and the election for the new terms will be held at the November cooperators banquet. Nominating committee named was Wilbur Ellenberger, Chm., Bob Boatman and Herman Bachman. They will report at the September meeting.

September

County road proposed construction plans for next year, with the possibility of culvert lifts (where feasible) were discussed by the commissioners. The County Engineer has agreed to keep us informed and will cooperate with culvert lifts as farmers involved show desire to have ponding agreements along the road construction routes.

LaVern Weilbrenner was named chairman of the Conservation Education Committee and will meet with the local school administrators (Mr. Hutchcroft and Mr. Wegner) to plan for the formation of the committee with teacher members and other interested persons to make up the committee for planning better usage of the available materials and helps districts have for use in the classrooms.

October

All construction work, the seeding and fencing was completed in Part 10 by October 12, Big Wyacondah watershed. Some discussion of the operation and maintenance of the structures brought out the idea that perhaps a handbook for farm owners (where structures are located) might be helpful to both the farmer and the district. A handbook will be printed and distributed to farm owners where watershed structures are located.

Mr. Hutchcroft met with the commissioners and agreed to help with the conservation education committee by contacting teachers to serve on the committee.

The tentative adoption of the soil loss limits for Davis SCD were discussed at length. Delayed adoption until the November meeting, when it was given approval by Chairman Botts and submitted to the State Soil Conservation Committee for their approval prior to holding a public hearing for adoption by the district.

Mrs. Evelyn Scott, local elementary teacher, attended the Teacher's Fall Conservation Workshop at Luther, Iowa held October 13 and 14. We appreciate the cooperation of the community school system in allowing Mrs. Scott to represent our district at this workshop.

November

Henry Allen, ASCS County Executive Director, was present at this meeting and stated the 1973 REAP allocation for this county has been set at \$73,000 with little chance of an additional allocation being allowed at a later date.

The annual cooperator's banquet and election was held November 16 with Min Anemiya, Extension Agronomist at Iowa State University as the speaker. The election was held with the following nominees voted on: Gerald Forsythe, Iles Heady, and Lionel Herteen. Elected were Iles Heady and Lionel Herteen. Charles Chickering chose not to be a candidate for re-election. Judges for the election were Carl Games, Vern Randolph and Cargile Bollman. The soil judging contest was held in early November and results announced at this meeting. Plaques were presented to the winners - John Dearborn, 1st; Kevin Hershey, 2nd, and Tony Hill, 3rd. A trophy was presented to the school with the names of the winning boys engraved on it.

December

Discussion on revising and updating the district long range workplan led to the decision to meet with local civic organizations and city officials for their ideas to include in the revision and updating of the workplan.

LaVern Weilbrenner announced the members of the Conservation Education Committee. Plans to have the organizational meeting in January 1973. Members named are teachers - Floyd Colbert, Robert Bigsby, Mrs. Evelyn Scott, Mrs. Carol Strah and Robert Williams; District Conservationist Verle Arnold; Extension Director Roger Musselman; IASCD Ladies Auxiliary President Mrs. Iles Heady; Clerk Christine Botts.

Re-organization of the district officials for the next two years was discussed.

The following officers were elected to serve: Chairman - Iles Heady; Secretary LaVern Weilbrenner, Treasurer - Phil Melvin.

A newsletter to the Commissioner's prepared by the office staff, was distributed on a trial basis. The newsletter told the activities and accomplishments of the staff for the past month and gave dates of importance coming up for commissioners during the month. The group agreed this is a good method of letting them know more about the district operations and encouraged continuation during the coming year.

Charles Chickering was appointed to serve as an assistant commissioner during the coming year.

REAF funding for 1973 was cancelled December 22, 1972 by President Nixon.

NEW CONSERVATION COOPERATORS
(Fiscal Year 7/1/71 - 6/30/72)

William McClure
Larry Marshall
Dale White
Dale Taylor
Stewart Melvin
Dale Bogle
Gary Johnson
Mrs. Nelda Kinney
James Johnson
John Stober
Arvin Tarbell
Don Cassill
Merwin Hershberger
John McAllister
Kenneth Gardner
Harry Ramseyer
Howard Musselman
Virgil Cassill
Ronald Shockley
Samuel J. Miller
Dennis McClure

Jerald Glosser
Joseph Stevens
Garry Klicker
Lowell Hoover
Mike Cassill
Darrell E. McFarland
Don Herteen
Denny Cole
John Herr
Edward Skelton
Karl Kirk
Robertta Lint
Jack L. Fleming
Max Roy
Henry Roerman
Richard Wilty
David Burkhalter
Jerry Marshall
John Dale Dabney
Larry England
James Ensminger

I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY
TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY
COUNTRY -- ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS,
WATERS, AND WILDLIFE.

BASIC PLANS PREPARED
(Fiscal Year 7/1/71 to 6/30/72)

Darrell King	Vern & Jackie Henderson
Roger Franklin	Bob Strait
Sam Closser, Jr.	Wendell Jones
Don L. Clark	Gerald Cleland
Mrs. Emanuel Steele	Lowell Hoover
Roy Geary	Larry Marshall
Beverly Babbitt	Russell Dean Horn
Don Reinhart	Arvin D. Tarbell
R. Closser, Sr.	Irvin Westhoff
Gale Bogle	Mervin Hershberger
Marvin Crady	John Herr
Norman Richardson	Don Cassill
Jerry Glosser	Phil Herteen
Martha Ritz	Robert Reber
Lester Smith	John McAllister

REVISED PLANS PREPARED
(Fiscal Year 7/1/71 to 6/30/72)

Dwight White	Marquis Hougland
George Hopkins	Francis Selix
Eunice Tucker	Millard Mulcahey
Paul Hougland	William Bales
Max Hecker	Don Altheide
G. Dean Herbert	Raymond Howard
Henry Burkman	Russell Derby
LaVern McMains	Harley & Jerry Sloan
Chastle Blew	Boy Scout Camp
Charles Tucker	

Proper soil and water conservation practices prevent flooding, erosion, and stream pollution -- provide productive soils, plentiful water and clean recreation areas. Every living - breathing thing depends on fertile soil and clean water. Good soil and water depend on all Rural and Urban citizens. Support your local Soil Conservation District Programs!!

"If you're not part of the solution --- you're part of the pollution".

TREASURER'S REPORTS

Revolving Funds

Balance on hand January 1, 1972

\$1230.76

INCOME

Royalties from rock quarry	\$1627.02
State Comptroller for reimbursement	374.39
Banquet ticket money collected	157.50
U. S. Treasurer - Big Wyacondah Contract	71,165.24

EXPENSE

State and National SCD Dues	250.00
Quarry Royalties to Nedrow Estate	885.09
Office Supplies and expenses	266.07
Commissioners expenses	250.00
85 Banquet meals	212.50
Prizes and Awards	216.42
Pt. 10 Big Wyacondah Watershed Contract	71,165.24
Other Watershed Expenses	223.50

Balance on hand December 31, 1972

\$1086.09

I-M BUDGET

(Fiscal Year 1972 - 7/1/71 - 6/30/72)

The I-M Budget is made available by the Iowa legislature each year for the purpose of paying the expenses of each commissioner, some office expense, printing expense, prizes for district contests and meeting expense.

Total Allocation		\$875.00
Commissioners mileage and expenses	\$478.93	
Office Supplies	174.14	
Prizes for Contests	53.78	
Office Expense	167.76	
Balance on hand June 30, 1972		\$ 0.39

II-M BUDGET

(Fiscal Year 1972 - 7/1/71 to 6/30/72)

The II-M Budget is made available to the district by Iowa legislature to enable employing a full time clerk typist and conservation aide.

Total Allocation		\$13,303.07
Gross Earnings (Clerical and Technical)	\$11,520.00	
Travel and expenses	66.22	
District Share of IPERS	403.23	
District Share of FICA	599.04	
District Share of Life Insurance	10.68	
District Share of Health Insurance	288.00	
Equipment and repair of equipment	415.90	
Balance on hand June 30, 1972		--0--

"Our soil is not just dirt. It is a factory where everything
needed to feed plants, animals and human beings is made."

PLANTING WALNUT
by Bruce Plum, District Forester
Iowa Conservation Commission

Many people have expressed a desire to plant walnut trees, but few have sites well suited to the proper development of walnut. Planting black walnut on the wrong site has been a common mistake. Walnut trees may survive on poor sites such as ridge tops, south facing slopes and eroded fields, but growth will be slow and quality poor.

Fastest growth occurs on stream terraces, in coves and lower north and east slopes. The soil on the planting site should be deep, fertile and well drained. Sandy loam, loam or silt loam textured soils are most desirable. Avoid gravelly soils, clayey-textured soils, hardpan and mottled soils on poorly drained flats.

Walnut tree seedlings should be at least $\frac{1}{4}$ " caliper for best results. Trees of this size are usually too large to be accommodated by a regular tree planting machine because of the large taproot. One of the easiest ways to plant these seedlings is with a tractor mounted post-hole auger. The spacing should be no more than 12' x 12' nor less than 10' x 10'. This would be the rate of 300 to 435 trees per acre.

After planting a considerable amount of care is necessary in order to make the planting a success. Weed control is a must. Overtopping of walnut by weeds will kill the tree. Simazine or atrazine can be used in the row to control weeds. Either of these herbicides should be put on immediately after cultivated for at least two years or until the trees have outgrown the weeds.

Each year after planting, the trees must be inspected to see if corrective pruning from the bottom up may be started. This will make the tree develop knot free logs. Walnut is like other crops in that the rewards are directly proportional to the amount of effort expended.

Thinking about shrubs? You may consider Autumn Olive. It grows as a lilac and has wide spreading branches. In spring, there are small yellow, sweet-scented flowers, and in the fall to late winter, it has a heavy crop of reddish-orange berries. Autumn Olive helps prevent erosion, makes a good windbreak around your home, and is a cold weather cafeteria for wildlife. For more information visit our local Soil Conservation Office.

Conservation is a community affair! Youth and civic groups everywhere are protecting our natural resources and adding beauty to their community by planting trees, improving streambanks and roadsides. The Davis County Soil Conservation District urges you to put litter and trash in proper containers. Help keep our roadsides beautiful for a more attractive place to live.

1972 PROGRESS REPORT
(Fiscal Year)

<u>PRACTICE</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>APPLIED 1972</u>
Terraces, Gradient	L. F.	6300
Terraces, Parallel	L. F.	20,000
Contour Farming (New)	Acres	282
Brush Clearing	Acres	1018
Pasture Planting	Acres	5496
Ponds	Number	41
Structures	Number	23
Tile	L. F.	30,963
Diversions	L. F.	18,925
Drainage Ditches	L. F.	17,200
Critical Area Seeding	Acres	43
Fish Pond Stocking	Number	35
Tree Planting	Acres	20.5
Cropland to Grassland	Acres	1782
Grass Waterways	Acres	122
New Cooperators	Number	41
Conservation Plans	Number	30
Revised Plans	Number	20
Group Plans	Number	13
Resource Inventories	Number	4
Farms Applying One or More Practice	Number	345
Office Visitors		1158
Office Telephone Calls		980

AN ELEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt inherit the Holy Earth as a faithful steward, conserving its resources and productivity from generation to generation. Thou shalt safeguard thy fields from soil erosion; thy living waters from drying up; thy forests from desolation, and protect thy hills from overgrazing by thy herds, that thy descendants may have abundance forever. If any shall fail in this stewardship of the land, thy fruitful fields shall become sterile, stony ground and wasting gullies and thy descendants shall decrease and live in poverty or perish from off the face of the earth.

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us, and we have no right to anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of the benefit which was in our power to bequeath."

--- Ruskin

To: Davis Co. Soil and Water Conservation District
From: Davis County ASCS Office
Subject: Report of REAP Accomplishments for 1972 program year

During the reporting period, about \$103,000 of REAP cost-sharing was used in your district. These funds helped solve particular conservation and environmental problems on 262 farms. These practices were used:

<u>Conservation Practices</u>	<u>Number Farms</u>	<u>Extent</u>
Permanent vegetative cover	157	3620 acres
Vegetative cover-crop	1	10 acres
Limestone	25	611 acres
Planting trees or shrubs	4	17 acres
Controlling competitive shrubs	12	165 acres
Developing facilities for livestock water	11	150 acres served
Water impoundment reservoirs	63	1892 " "
Terrace systems	16	271 " "
Diversion terrace	12	137 " "
Open drainage systems	3	100 " "
Sediment runoff control	44	394 " "

In addition to sharing the cost of conservation practices, the county REAP helped provide necessary technical services by transferring \$5150. to the Soil Conservation Service and \$217.50 to the Forest Service.

Sincerely



Henry E. Allen
County Executive Director

"The day is gone, if it ever existed, when the fact that an individual holds a deed to a piece of land gives him the moral right to destroy it through stupid, shortsighted farming practices." --- Chester C. Davis

It has been said that there are three kinds of people --those who make things happen --those who let things happen --those who wonder what happened.

1973 PLAN OF OPERATIONS
DAVIS COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

1. Review the District Work Plan which was updated in 1966.
2. Attend the Commissioner's Short Course, State and National Conventions. At least one commissioner or assistant commissioner represented at each of these meetings.
3. Continue to promote the watershed approach to the total soil and water conservation program.
4. Follow-up each monthly regular meeting with more publicity. Also publish conservation items weekly or as often as possible.
5. Enter the Goodyear Contest for 1973 and the Iowa Conservation Awards program with outstanding conservation farmers of the district given recognition.
6. Meet with the Board of Supervisors, Assessor and our commissioners to discuss a complete Soil Survey for the county and to consider building some structures in connection with county road construction for erosion control.
7. Sponsor Soil Judging contest for Sophomore Class of Agriculture in the Davis County Community School System.
8. Furnish Soil Stewardship material to the ministers of the district for use during Soil Stewardship Week (May 27-June 3, 1973).
9. Hold a Conservation Tour during Conservation Week in October. Possibly hold an air tour or perhaps a tour for ministers of the county.
10. Hold annual inspection of completed structures in Big Wyacondah watershed in June.
11. Sponsor one teacher (with help from other local organizations) to the Iowa Teachers Conservation Camp at Burlington, Iowa in July.
12. Sponsor the Conservation Speech contest with help from the local speech and agriculture teachers.
13. Meet with Big Wyacondah farmer-Directors and Soap Creek watershed farmer-directors to discuss any changes needed. Some new directors need to be named to these committees.
14. Sponsor the local "Queen of Conservation" contest in July.
15. Hold annual meeting of District Cooperators in November.
16. Cooperate with FFA on their "Beautify Our American Communities" project.
17. Memorandum of Understanding between School and District on Outdoor Classroom development.
18. Explain the Soil Loss Limits law to Farm Bureau environmental committee and to any other interested groups.
19. Prepare Pasture inventory for Davis District.