

ANNUAL REPORT

Mills County Soil Conservation District



FORWARD

In looking back over the activities and accomplishments for the past 12 months, it is gratifying to see the number of people who are staying on top of their conservation problems. In saying people, we do not mean farmers alone. The Soil Conservation Districts are no longer able to restrict their activities to the farms. Each year brings us closer to the problems affecting everyone—such as water supply and pollution, erosion, flood and sediment problems in cities and urban areas and recreational area development.

Each year new problems develop in the field of conservation. In turn, the role of Soil Conservation Districts has expanded to meet the challenge. In the future efforts will be made to include more individuals in present programs. Additional efforts will be directed toward controlling erosion and pollution resulting from new construction on highways in cities and towns, from feedlot and chemical wastes and from industry and urban areas.

Only through the help and support of everyone can we carry out a successful program.

We would like to say "THANK YOU" for the excellent cooperation of the churches and schools of the county. Also to the Mills Co. Extension Service, U. S. Soil Conservation Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Malvern Leader and The Glenwood Opinion-Tribune, the Mills County Board of Supervisors, the Forest Service, the banks, service clubs and many other individuals and organizations who donated much of their time in helping us carry out a successful Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Albert Washburn, Chairman
Myron Jones
Carl Green
Bill Stacy
Harold Tackett



1970 Mills Co. Soil Conservation District

This annual report covers 12 months, June 30, 1969 to June 30, 1970 of Soil and Water Conservation activities for the District.



Left to right: Harold Tackett, William Stacy, Albert Washburn, Myron Jones, Carl Green. Standing: Assistant Commissioners Roger Jackson and Glen Sell.

U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service Personnel

Robert D. Loudon District Conservationist
L. Preston Grissom Soil Conservationist
Leo M. VanFosson Soil Conservation Technician
Gerald I. Bower Soil Conservation Technician

State Personnel

Geraldine Pavkov Clerk
Ruth Stevens Clerk

Area Soil Conservation Service Personnel Assisting

E. O. Aust Area Conservationist
Richard Birchmier Area Engineer
Lewis Clark Area Soil Scientist
Margaret Haley Area Clerk
Blanche Oline Area Clerk

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

- Annual Maintenance Inspection was held on Pony Creek Watershed.
- Conservation Work Books were ordered for all Mills County Schools.
- Mills County changed to a 5 Commissioner Board. Re-elected was Albert Washburn. New Commissioners elected were Harold Tackett and William Stacy. Roger Jackson was appointed Assistant Commissioner.
- Bids were let for Site 21, Part 7, Pony Creek Watershed. Howard Sorensen, Sorensen Construction of Underwood was the low bidder.
- State Aid Edward Sands left for a two year tour with the U. S. Marines.
- Annual report printed in the Malvern Leader and the Glenwood Opinion-Tribune.
- Albert Washburn re-elected Chairman for the District Commissioners.
- Robert Loudon, Myron Jones and Gerrie Pavkov attended the 23rd Annual Conference for Soil Conservation District Commissioners in Des Moines.
- Clerk attended News Writing clinic in Creston.
- Robert Loudon took part in "Career Day" at the Nishna Valley School.
- Oil painting contest winners were awarded prizes as follows: 1st prize, \$75.00 to Roland Franke; 2nd prize, \$25.00 to Alvie Gipe; 3rd prize, \$15.00 to Betty Wilson and 4th prize \$10.00 to Beta Rowe.
- Project Agreements for Part I and Part II, Pony Creek were signed.
- District paid \$110 NACD dues.
- E. O. Aust entered on duty as Area Conservationist in Shenandoah.
- Trees planted at Nishna Valley School to form an outdoor classroom.
- Conservation Work Books were ordered for the 70-71 School year.
- Geraldine Pavkov, Clerk resigned.
- Two young people sent to 4-H Conservation Camp at Madrid.
- Tuition approved for Corinne Boldra to attend Springbrook Teachers Camp.
- Ruth Stevens assumed duties as Clerk II for the District.

Mills County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service

The Mills County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee is responsible for the administration of the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) in Mills County.

The cost sharing money made available to our county for the past year, was used to help farmers perform conservation practices on their farms. Some of the practices carried out were level, bench cut and fill, diversions and basin terraces, sod waterways and structures. The cost sharing paid to farmers amounted to approximately 90% of the cost of the work done. This was a change from the previous year when we were able to pay a higher percent of the cost of the work. Also, in 1969, the contractors were required to submit bids on the work to be done.

We in ASCS are proud to be part of a team, with SCS, in completing these long lasting conservation practices which are a benefit to our county as a whole, as well as the individual farmer.

The members of the Mills County ASCS Committee are: Vern Sell, Chairman; Rex Burgoon, Vice-Chairman; Guy G. Grindle, Jr., Member; the Office Manager is Margaret M. Bower and the Clerk in charge of the ACP Program is Edith Powley.

Farmers Home Administration

The Farmers Home Administration, an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture, assists rural people with financial assistance which regular credit sources cannot supply. The main objective of the Farmers Home Administration is to strengthen family farms and rural communities and to reduce rural poverty.

Some of the different loans which we have at present are Farm Operating, Farm Ownership, Soil and Water Conservation, Emergency Operating, Water and Waste Disposal loans and grants, and Rural Housing loans. The loans are available to anyone living in a rural area or living in a community of less than 5000 population. The Farmers Home Administration's main office for Mills, Fremont, and Page Counties is located at 301 Maple in Shenandoah, Iowa. Gary A. Cox, the County Supervisor is in the office every Tuesday morning to discuss your problems and needs.

County Extension Service

Resources for the future depend on the conservation plan you have today. Whether it be soil or water. To conserve soil, Mills County has always been a leader in terracing, grassed waterways, and erosion control practices. Water pollution is a problem for many people today. This is a project for urban and rural people to work on together. A proper soil conservation plan can help maintain high quality of water as well as quantity. The water that erodes soil and runs off cannot be used.

The Extension 4-H Committee wishes to thank the Soil Commissioners for their support of conservation workshop delegates. The encouragement given the youth is appreciated.

The Extension Service is ready to work and cooperate with the Soil Conservation Service and District Soil Conservation Commissioners on projects that mutually benefit residents of Mills County. If we don't plan and prepare for the future today our soil and water will be of poor quality in the future.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Mills County District is most appreciative of the financial assistance furnished by the State Soil Conservation Committee to further Soil Conservation in the County.

1M BUDGET

Allocation 7-1-69	\$ 500.00
Expenditures:	
Mileage	\$ 8.75
Office Supplies	88.85
Printing	96.00
Contest Prizes	50.00
Office Expense	245.12
Meeting Expenses	8.14
Balance on hand 7-1-70	\$ 1.14

2-M BUDGET

Allocation	\$4,414.00
Clerk Salary	\$4,350.01
Balance on hand 7-1-70	\$ 63.99

SUMMARY OF WORK

New Co-operators	No. 15
Co-operator Contacts	No. 259
Basic Plans	No. 43
Plans Revised	No. 12
Diversions	Ft. 1,850
Drainage Ditch	Ft. 19,530
Waterways	Ac. 15.4
Basin Terraces	Ft. 7,060
Level Terraces	Ft. 47,510
Parallel Terraces	Ft. 153,425
Tile	Ft. 28,501
Land adequately treated	Ac. 6,376
Consultive Services	No. 26
ACP referrals serviced	No. 111
News Stories	No. 16
Meetings Attended	No. 63

Tree Planting

At Nishna Valley School



Students at Nishna Valley School at Hastings, Iowa, are pictured here setting out one of the more than 100 different trees planted for the school's new arboretum. Science and agriculture students under the guidance of Mills County Soil Conservation District Conservationist Robert D. Loudon and science teacher Richard Morgan have planted 37 varieties this spring. Plans call for completion in the Spring of 1971.

WAUBONSIE CREEK WATERSHED

The work plan for Waubonsie Creek Watershed was prepared in August 1967. The watershed is located in Southwestern Mills County and Northwest Fremont County. Total acreage within the watershed is 29,510 acres. The work plan calls for the installation of 32 grade stabilization structures of which 28 will be located in Mills County and 4 will be in Fremont County. Sixty-five per cent of the landowners within the watershed have signed a petition to form Waubonsie Creek Watershed Sub-District. The Mills County District Commissioners are presently having a title search made and the sub-district will be formed in the very near future.

A major portion of the upland treatment has been accomplished within the watershed boundaries. The upland treatment practices installed by the local landowners are terraces, both broad base and seeded back slope, basin terraces, grassed waterways and structures.

There has been a general shift in land use during the past few years. The major shift being cropland seeded for use as pasture and hayland. Beef cow numbers have increased in this general area due to the cropland shift.

The Mills County Board of Supervisors are co-sponsors of the watershed project in Mills County. Four County road structures are planned and will replace existing bridges. The building of road structures will be a joint effort between Mills County and the Soil Conservation Service.

There are 144 farms in the Mills County portion of the watershed. It is planned to let a contract for construction of two Grade Stabilization Structures during the fall of 1970. However, actual construction may not begin until 1971.

Crisis In The Countryside

By D. A. Williams while he was Administrator of the Soil Conservation Service

Today, there is indeed a "crisis in the countryside" — or rather, two crises. One is the continued wastage of the land through erosion and improper use. The other is the result of man's partial success. This is the crisis of complacency about conservation.

Why this complacency? Perhaps it is because the need for increased conservation measures does not immediately strike the eye. The super-markets are full—today. The dust may not be blowing—today. And so we concern ourselves with the big headlines—wars, space, missiles, murders!

These are serious matters indeed. But, we lose more of our land every year to silent erosion than we have ever lost, or shall ever lose, to a foreign foe. Where is the battle cry for this?

What happens to the eroding lands in Missouri and Montana affects us more directly than our landing on the moon. Where are the pleaders for this? And—no matter what weapons of the future we develop—the most modern army in the world still travels on its stomach, still depends on the bountiful earth we take for granted.

Do not misunderstand me. Our activities around the world, and out of it, are very necessary. But I will firmly believe to the end of my life that there is NO work more important, now or for the future, than conserving and enriching our own land, the basis for our life, our living, our national wealth.

Yet, we lose each year, through erosion and other forms of preventable damage, about 500,000 acres of formerly productive land. The bulldozer and the builder take another one and one-third million acres of the best land every 365 days for highways, factories, housing and so on. Our rivers continue to flood and destroy homes and hopes. Our water supply runs short, becomes polluted, erodes the land. And, as much of our land disappears, our population and that of the world increases.

Yes, our supermarkets are still full. Our time has not run out. But, quite literally, the sins of our forefathers are being visited upon us. We cannot afford to be as wasteful in the future, if we desire our children's children to inherit an affluent America. We must plan more intensively, farm more wisely, care more urgently. And we must make sure the city man understands that what happens in rural America affects him immediately and profoundly.

We call our land "God's country" and it is. Let us clearly acknowledge it is our job to keep it that way. Farmers and ranchers, as the chief soil stewards, have the heaviest responsibility. They of all people, know the conservation job is far from done. Thirty percent of our land is being properly treated. What about the 70 percent?