

Annual Report Issued On Activities Of Davis Soils District During Year 1951

(The following report covers the activities of the Davis County Soils District during the year 1951 and was compiled by the district commissioners, P. W. Spilman, chairman, Dale Blackwell and Harold Baughman. Virginia Pinnell is secretary for the board.)

The Davis County Soil Conservation District Commissioners submit the following report of activities and accomplishments for the year of 1951:

Before submitting the following report, the commissioners want to bring out that one of the things that has promoted soil conservation in Davis County is the excellent publicity provided by the Davis County newspapers. Through the articles in these papers the story of soil conservation is being told.

One of the most outstanding accomplishments was the Soil Conservation School held at the Community Hall—January 31, February 7, and February 14th. The theme of discussion throughout the meeting was "Saving the Soil and at the same time Raising Production."

On the first day of the school, Val Silkett, Assistant State Conservationist of the Iowa Soil Conservation Service spoke on the topic "What is a head in Soil Conservation". Lethair Grant of Fairfield, head of the Soil Survey in Southeastern Iowa, discussed "Soils in Davis County". In addition to this program a forty minute film—"My Country" was shown.

At the February meetings the following men spoke on the topics as listed:

Dr. Heady — Economics.

Chuck Greenley — Farm Records and Farm Management.

Rex Bearsford — Beef Cattle.

Lester Clapp — Soil Conservation in General.

Dr. Browning — Soil Conservation in General.

In March it was decided to purchase some books to be put in the public library. Mr. Runkel was to assist the librarian in choosing them. The following books were placed in the library:

Conservation and Citizenship

Teaching Conservation.

Water Appears and Disappears

Birds In the Big Woods

Soil

Road to Survival

Elements of Soil Conservation

Nature's Bank-the-Soil

Plans and Animals Live Together

Raindrops and Muddy Rivers

Would You Like to Have Lived When

The district furnished 100 lbs. of Reeds Canary Grass seed to the 4-H boys clubs. This seed was used to start Reeds Canary Grass beds and seeding grassed waterways under the supervision of the County Extension Director and the local 4-H leaders. These are demonstration plots to show the value of Reeds Canary Grass in waterways and as a source of plants to be used in waterways.

Mr. P. W. Spilman and Mr. Fred Melvin were elected to attend the short course for the District Soil Conservation Commissioners to be held at Ames, Iowa, but due to weather conditions and icy roads they were unable to attend.

At the regular monthly commissioners meeting on April 11th, the commissioners hired Burdette Stamps as State Aid to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Harvey Clover. Mr. Stamps started to work on the 16th of April.

Mayor Smith of Bloomfield was at the meeting of the commissioners on May 9th to ask help from the district in controlling the erosion in the water shed area above Lake Fisher. Lake Fisher is the city water supply for the city of Bloomfield. He reported that he had called a meeting of all the land owners to be held Tuesday, May 15, 1951. The commissioners and Earl Hem of the PMA informed Mayor Smith that they would assist the Mayor in controlling the erosion on the land above the lake. Mr. Sylvan T. Runkel, District Conservationist and Mr. George G. Gutmann, Agricultural Engineer of the Soil Conservation Service, stated that they would give all the help that they possibly could to the farmers in the watershed area and would be at the meeting of the farmers May the 15th. In the later part of September, George W. Fonken, Engineering Specialist and Marion F. Ebert, Engineering Aid, together with George G. Gutmann and Jack Chamberlain, Conservation Aid, made a survey of Lake Fisher for siltation.