

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT #55

Second Annual Report

204
1946

INTRODUCTION

The calendar year of 1946 has added twelve months of life to the District and eight months of technical assistance to farmers within the District.

Work Unit Conservationist Ralph H. Bush reported for duty on May 1 and Aide Howard K. Watkins on July 1. The arrival of S.C.S. personnel, of course, added one and two more man-power capacity to any conservation program that the S.C.S. District Conservationist and the Extension Service staff had been able to execute previously.

Work groups that had been organized for several months waited very patiently for planning service. When that service became available group members responded splendidly to requests for them to do some personal planning and to suggestions for further improvement in their farm operation programs.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT

Work group No. 7 in Lenox and No. 8 in Honey Creek townships have been formed during the year. No. 7 contains 19 farms with 3094 acres, No 8 contains 10 farms with 1580 acres.

Only two new groups in one year may seem very small expansion. However, the six groups with which this District year began are more than either the soil surveyor or the unit conservationist could cover. It was considered inadvisable to have very many more work groups unserved and idly waiting.

The end of the year found the District with 8 work groups, well distributed in the county, containing 115 farms totaling 20987 acres. As the planning program developed farm owners near established districts asked to have their farms included. It has been possible to do that for most of the requests.

In Group 1 Von Jones was forced to withdraw because his landlord wouldn't cooperate. In Group 4 Lowell Churchill chose to discontinue his association with the District program.

Soil survey has been completed, or very nearly so, on 70 farms in Groups 1, 2, 3, 4 and 8. That leaves 45 farms in Groups 5, 6 and 7 yet untouched.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Between January 1 and May 6, when Unit Conservationist Bush began work, District Conservationist W.J.B. Boatman assisted the county extension director with a demonstration program supplemented with service visits to other farms.

Contour lining demonstrations were held on the farms of Paul Kelley in Dayton, Paul Miller and Fred Gingerich in Greene, White Sisters in Hilton, L. J. Michalek in Honey Creek, Clark C. Hinrichs in Lincoln, Harry Haack and C. D. Rumble in Pilot, Mervin Bigbee in Sumner and George Schindler and Orlen Imhoff in Troy.

Service visits were made to the farms of Hugh Kirkpatrick in Fillmore; Ed L. Swartzendruber, Chas. Hannon and Raymond Johnston in Greene; Earl White in Hilton; Morse Bros. in Pilot; Franklyn Jacobi in Sumner and S.D. Blythe in Troy.

In March District Conservationist Boatman met with Work Groups 1, 3 and 6 on preliminaries for group activation. Maps for only Group 1 were available but they were used in all the meetings to illustrate what each cooperator would eventually have for his own farm.

In tabulated form the work done may be summarized after this fashion:

Number of Work Groups	8
Number of farms in groups	115
Total acres in those farms	20987
Meetings held	31
Commissioners	11
Group interest	12
Group planning	6
Other	2
Number of widespread contacts (non-cooperator)	48
News articles written	1
(County Extension Director has had 25 additional soil conservation stories in papers)	
Months planner present	8
Number of plans completed (In Groups 1, 3,4)	30
Number of acres in those farms	5892

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The County Superintendent of Schools, Miss Cleone Miller, is very much interested in soil conservation and she has projected that interest into a course of study on conservation in the rural schools.

Begun in 1945, it has been enlarged in 1946. The course of 18 lessons was originally planned by a group of the most conservation minded teachers in conference with the superintendent. It was designed for a six weeks period, but the better teachers supplemented the outline with material to extend the time spent on conservation, even to as much as twelve weeks in some schools.

Each school, in addition to lesson outlines, has in its library several reference books on soil conservation. Simple demonstrations on such conservation factors as the growth of plants in different kinds of soils and the action of water poured or sprinkled on little mounds of dirt were performed. Field trips were made for observation, sometimes to a contour lining demonstration in the community. Into school programs attended by parents were frequently injected soil conservation numbers.

Though not much has been done yet in cooperation with the wild life conservation commission, that is in prospect. The Fish and Game Club in Marengo is anxious to have a part in the rural conservation program.

FARM PLANNING AND GROUP APPLICATION

In order to get the maximum amount of soil conservation on Iowa County farms the District Commissioners decided that more can be accomplished by working with groups than individually.

The County Extension Director has been quite active in educational work pertaining to soil conservation and has taken the responsibility for setting up groups of from 6 to 20 farmers in districts where there is sufficient interest.

A series of four meetings was held with each group. The first meeting is termed the interest meeting where the program is explained to landowners and operators. Those who wish aid from the Soil Conservation Service sign a petition requesting the Iowa County Commissioners for help in developing soil and moisture conservation plans on their farms. The first meeting may be held by the Extension Director or by a Soil Conservation Technician. After the group is formed, the Soil Conservation Technician takes charge of the education meeting and planning of the farms.

At the first meeting following the organization meeting the group develops a land use chart and capabilities map with the aid of the technician. The soil map on their farm is given to each of the group and they are instructed as to how to read the maps by the chart they helped develop.

At the second meeting cropping practices, erosion prevention practices and soil treatments are discussed and explained.

At the final meeting they are taught a method of planning their own farms as to land use capabilities as shown by their soils map. A plan is worked out with them and they are shown how to balance crop production from year to year and farm with the least loss of soil possible. At this meeting they are each given a soils map and a planning map and instructed to plan their own farm. A few days later the S.C.S. technician makes individual calls on each to make the final development and complete the plan. This method has proved very successful. It shows that the cooperators are very much interested in controlling erosion. They seem to take more interest in the practices used and are more apt to carry them out where they do the major part of the planning themselves. Seventy five percent of the cooperators have done a creditable job of planning their work to be done to control erosion, and a much higher percentage of the cooperators will complete all of their practices if they themselves have done all the field operations.

Group application will follow group planning in due season, enabling the soils technician to accomplish more actual soil conservation than can ever be done by individual contacts.

OUTLOOK

The program for 1947, when S.C.S. personnel will be available through the entire time, is considerably larger than in 1946.

It includes continued cooperation with the county superintendent and the rural schools, a working relationship with the Fish and Game Club. A mutual interest exists between the objectives of S.C.S. and A.A.A. and efforts of both will be enlisted to develop jointly those interests. Another field in which conservation assistance can well be used is that served by the Farm Home Administration, such assistance will be offered them. With the Extension Service will be maintained a working relationship in the field of education and information.

In tabular form the objectives include these items:

Farm planning:

New groups to be organized	9
Requests for farm plans	107
Farms to be soil mapped	75
Groups to be planned	5
Farm plans to be written	50

Information:

General Meetings	8
News releases	30

Conservation Education:

Interest meetings	8
Training Schools	4
Demonstrations	15

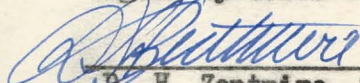
Relationship Meetings:

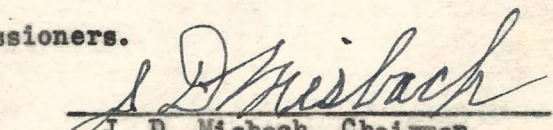
District Commissioners - 12 regular, 5 special
County Superintendent of schools - 1 teachers
Several tours and demonstrations
Fish and Game Club - 1 meeting
Agricultural Adjustment Committee - 2 meetings

The estimate of nine groups to be formed is determined by the anticipated limit of assistance that can be given to group members within a reasonable period of time. Additional groups could be set up but discouragement is apt to result if nothing can be done with them or for them soon after they are organized.

In addition to the anticipated nine new groups, there are three of the present groups that haven't been surveyed. It is very easy to see that lack of soil maps may be a bottleneck in the 1947 planning service. We urge that those who are responsible for this first essential of a planning program take the necessary steps to prevent such an occurrence.

Signed by order of District No. 55 Commissioners.


D. H. Zentmire, Secretary


J. D. Misbach, Chairman

Date: January 13, 1947

IOWA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT # 55

Third Annual Report
1947

Though another calendar year has been added to the life of the district, accomplishments have been curtailed by reason of the loss of Aid Howard K. Watkins on July 1, 1947, through Congressional retrenchment. Therefore, the District has had twelve months of farm planner's time but only six months of aid's time. Of necessity the amount of service rendered is less than the District Commissioners desired.

Acknowledgement is made of and appreciation extended for assistance given the soil conservation program by agencies, corporations and individuals within and near the county. No attempt is made to name a complete list but among those who have cooperated are the PMA, FHA, Extension Service, bankers, farm machinery dealers and others.

The district has expanded through the addition of work group No. 9 in Sumner and Hilton, 10 in York, 11 in Greene, 12 containing the Amana Society, and 13 in English and Pilot. These groups total 46 farms plus the 24868 acres in the Amana Society tract.

Through newspaper articles, meetings with civic groups and the Veterans' training classes and through a large contour plowing contest and field day, the existence of a soil conservation district in the county has been emphasized to the public.

Election of commissioners was held at a public meeting at which Dr. G. M. Browning, SCS, was the speaker. Commissioner candidates for the six year term to succeed R.G. Owen were Owen and R. M. Hedges; for

the four year term to replace Earl W. Morse, resigned, were Edward Kinsey and Owen Tompkins. R. G. Owen and Ed Kinsey were elected for the six and four year terms respectively.

In the re-organization of commissioners, Misbach was re-elected chairman, Zentmire, secretary, and at a later date, Kinsey was chosen to serve as treasurer.

Farm plans were completed on 45 more farms this year, bringing the total in the district to 75. As the soil survey was completed and the maps became available for new groups, Farm Planner Bush held a series of meetings, usually three, with members of the group. Explained were the maps, the soil types and their capabilities and each cooperator was asked to draft a soil management program suitable for his farm. As the individual planning process developed, the operators' proposals were studied and desirable changes recommended. Under a system of this kind the cooperator feels that he has had a great deal to do with determining his program, usually not realizing how much he has been led to right conclusions.

Technical help has worked largely with groups. An exception is the farm of Carl Lester in Lincoln township. Lester needed and wanted a conservation program established on his farm and an effort was made to form a work group in that community. The effort didn't "take" so the commissioners instructed the farm planner to continue with the Lester farm as a demonstration farm in that community.

Beginning on the last day of March and continuing through April 18 a series of 12 contour lining demonstrations were held in all townships except Honey Creek, Iowa, Lincoln and Troy. Handling these demonstrations were the district commissioners, SCS technicians, AAA personnel, the FHA

supervisor and the county extension director. Later on when AAA offered service to those cooperators who wanted help with contour lining, the requests were handled by AAA committeemen, SCS technicians, district commissioners and the county extension director. Served in this way were 146 farmers for whom contour lines were laid on 3673 acres. Additional service of unknown volume was given by experienced farmers answering neighbors requests for help.

Preparation for this series of demonstrations and service visits was a one day training school in the county at which District Conservationist H. Howard Oak served as instructor.

District commissioners in Keokuk, Johnson, Washington, and Iowa counties met quarterly for a program in the field of soil conservation. Out of these meetings grew the 4-county contour plowing contest and field day on the River Ranch farm of A. C. Gingerich just south of North English.

Plowing contestants were limited to two per county. Their names, the days program, lists of contributors are contained in the attached descriptive copy of the event. Place won by each contestant is recorded with his name. A financial statement for the event is also attached.

The day was splendid for the occasion but the unusually light rainfall made plowing very difficult.

To acknowledge their assistance and to further acquaint them with the conservation needs and practices, the commissioners have given each contributor to the plowing contest premium fund a subscription to a conservation magazine.

A unique contact has developed from a ditch healing demonstration given in the fall. Commissioner Kinsey also instructs a class in the institutional-on-the-farm training course for military veterans. He and farm planner Bush arranged the demonstration on the farm of one of the veterans enrolled. As a result of the interest displayed in this demonstration, Kinsey has planned for veteran students a contest in which each one entering heals a ditch. Pictures before and after it will provide contrasting information to the judges.

A prize list is being arranged so that each entrant will receive something. Top award is a purebred gilt. Others are supplemental commercial feeds and cash.

More than 45 veterans have filed their entries in the contest.

The invitation to receive a quantity of Fischer bromegrass seed for variety increase was accepted, but no field free from contamination and otherwise suitable could be found.

Cooperation of contractors with dirt moving machinery is being sought. Favorable responses have been received but no agreements are yet signed. There are two tile ditchers and several bulldozers and big blades for whose use agreements may be arranged.

This district was represented at the state meeting of district commissioners, at the Mississippi Valley conference for commissioners and on the aeronautics society's conservation air tour. At each event Commissioner Kinsey was the representative.

District. No. 55 has filed its entry in the Goodyear soil conservation contest.

In the 3 tables presented next are statistical summary statements of 1947 goals and accomplishments and of 1948 goals.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

	Goal 1947	Actual 1947	Attendance	Goal 1948
<u>Conservation Education</u>				
1. General interest meeting	8	1	13	15
2. News items		26		30
3. Training schools	4	2	19	1
4. Demonstrations	15	16	835	20
5. Contour plowing contest	1	1	5000	1
6. Tours				5
7. Starting practice meetings New groups				3

	Goal 1947	Actual 1947	Goal 1948
<u>Farm Planning</u>			
1. Groups to be organized for farm planning	9	5	5
2. Number of applications for farm plans	107	60	60
3. Number of farm plans to be written	50	45	45
4. Number of acres to be mapped	12000	28196	10000
5. Individual applications for farm plans		1	12
6. Farm planning meetings with neighborhood groups		8	12

COMMISSIONERS' ACTIVITIES

	Actual 1947	Attendance 1947	Goal 1948
1. Hold monthly meetings	12	75	12
2. Hold 4 joint meetings with district commissioners in four districts	4	108	4
3. Sign agreements with local contractors.	0		3
4. Hold annual meeting with cooperators	1	37	1
5. Conservation movies	7	490	6
6. Meet with civic organizations	11	228	4
7. New seed distributions	1		2

CONSERVATIONS PRACTICES

	1947 farm plans	To date farm plans	1947 Widespread
1. Contouring (acres)	2114	2114	4305 ✓
2. Grassed Waterways (l.ft.)	57,529	57529	5500 ✓
3. New pasture established (acres)	28	28	205 ✓
4. Terracing (feet)	2112	2112	0 ✓
5. Tiling (ft.)	7411	7411	11,775 ✓
6. Diversions (ft.)	75	75	1850 ✓
7. Strip cropping (acres)	25	25	60 ✓
8. Fertilizer (acres)	570	570	420 ✓

In addition to the 1948 goals contained in the preceding tables, these statements present goals for the coming year.

A meeting with bankers of the county is partially arranged, completion to be accomplished in February. Because their business brings them into advisory contact with many farmers, it seems highly advisable to acquaint them with the soil conservation program planned by cooperating agencies in the county.

Working agreements with heavy machinery operators will be completed as quickly as possible. Requests from several farmers are now on file for such service.

District No. 55 is in a 24 mile square county in which towns occupy only a small proportion of the land area. Approximately 366,000 acres are available for soil conservation treatment of some character.

Currently there were about 6500 acres contoured, 1090 acres under strip cropping practice, 12622 acres tilled in the district program and 25 miles of terrace constructed.

New work groups will be set up as the time seems right to do it. Forming groups a long time ahead of when soil mapping can be done tends to discourage further participation. Additional soil surveying service is needed.

In fact additional technical help for planning is sorely needed. At the present rate of progress it will take 48 years to bring all farms in the district under complete conservation plans. Before the year 1996 unchecked erosion and other malmanagement will have destroyed many farms that we can ill afford to lose.

Addition of more trained personnel will help meet the need but that can't be provided over night. A beneficial change that can

quickly be made is to lengthen the work week of S. C. S. personnel. Of course the additional time would call for additional pay. Another work day each week would increase by approximately twenty percent the amount of urgently needed service that could be given. We earnestly recommend this change.

Signed by order of District No. 55 Commissioners.

/S/ D. H. Zentmire, Secretary
D. H. Zentmire

/S/ J. D. Misbach, Chairman
J. D. Misbach

Date: February 13 - 1948

IONA COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT # 55

Fourth Annual Report

1948

With twelve months of the Farm Planner's service, seven and one half months of the Planner's Aid service, the addition of five new work groups, and 100 percent Commissioner attendance at twelve meetings, the fourth year of work in this District has been completed.

I. Administration

In the beginning the commissioners provided for a day time meeting on the third Monday of each month and rigid observance of that rule by each commissioner has resulted in perfect attendance with affairs of the District discussed freely in the meetings.

Working agreements with six contractors were signed providing for tilling, bulldozer, terracer, grader and drag-line equipment service. Four of these contractors have used the agreement and have paid the District \$96.18.

Commissioners and technicians from Iowa, Johnson, Keokuk and Washington districts held their quarterly joint programs for information and administration.

The District was represented at the annual Mississippi Valley Association's conference for commissioners, Ed Kinsey being the representative and District Secretary Bentaire leading a panel discussion on contests and field days. Later in the year Ed Kinsey

led a panel discussion in a state meeting of district commissioners, the subject being the comparative values of legislation and education as a means of spreading soil conservation practices in Iowa.

Entered in the Goodyear conservation contest, this District's reward was the knowledge that because of the competition more emphasis had been placed upon the spread of practices.

II. Education

General interest meetings held	19
Attendance	672
New items submitted	42
Training schools conducted	2
Attendance	53
Demonstrations conducted	11
Attendance	602
Contests (1.-county)	1
Attendance	1000
Starting practice meetings	1
Attendance	34

In addition to meetings of groups enrolled in the formal district conservation program, two other groups have been reached and used effectively. In the farm class of the Harwege Adult Education school with an enrollment of 75, two sessions were given over to soil conservation subjects. At the first one Dr. Paul Secco from St. Ambrose College in Davenport discussed soil conservation in its relationship to standards of living, extent of education, character

of people composing a community, development of roads and other community assets. The better the land, the higher the level reached by these various attributes of good people and good communities.

In the other night school session Ralph Krenzin from Iowa State College discussed ways of making grass land yield greater returns than it has usually done.

The other group that was prominent in soil conservation was the Veterans Institutional-on-the-Farm Training program conducted in the Harango Public School. With Commissioner Ed Kinsey and ex-aid Howard Watkins as instructors, the 50 veterans enrolled in the two classes were well indoctrinated with soil conservation principles.

A gully healing contest started in the fall of 1947 was climaxed with a field day July 24, 1948. Thirty-two boys officially finished the contest, a larger number starting and getting valuable experience from their own practices.

The field day was held on the Kinsey farm where the approximately 500 people attending were conducted on tours to these demonstrations: mulched grass seedings; seed canopy plot, emergency spillway, Fischer broom-alfalfa seeding, grass variety plots, pasture renovation, pasture terraces, established waterways, fertilizer tests, wildlife area and contour strip cropping. Dr. George Brunning was chief speaker during the afternoon program.

The C. I. class members accomplished these things during the year:

1. Number of waterways established or left in grass this season, 196.
2. Number of rods of waterways in length for above, 15,705.
3. Above waterways drain 2596 acres.
4. Average size of waterways -- width 3 feet; depth $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet; length 511.
5. Forty-six out of 50 members of class used improved seed mixture in new seedings this season.
6. Thirty-six established In-Seed canary grass plots, using total of 105 pounds of seed.
7. Thirty-five of class practiced controlled grazing or rotation of pastures.
8. Number of acres of intertilled crops contoured this season is 1061.
9. For the improved seeding the majority used southern broom and alfalfa mixture.
10. Fourteen of our group used roadside erosion control by seeding and mulching.
11. All men have a farm plan which calls for definite crop rotation and livestock program.

In the 4-county field day on the Carl Anderson farm were demonstrations of tiling, waterway development, pond construction, terracing; exhibits of different kinds of implements used in conservation practices; and a contour plowing contest. Iowa County's entrants, Ben Dillon and Cloyd Fuller ranked respectively fourth with 76 points and tied for sixth with 73 points. The score card is included in this report. Each judge was assigned to observe definite portions of the score card, the sum of all portions constituting the contest score. That plan is

much more satisfactory than having all judges score on all points. A financial statement for the contest is included. Receipts were cash contributions from individuals and companies.

To acquaint them with the need for soil conservation and the soil saving program under way in the county, bankers of the county were entertained at a dinner meeting at Anna. Local persons described past work done, present program, future plans and cooperating agency contributions. Discussion disclosed interest among bankers and they were asked to use their good influence for conservation practices among their patrons.

Working together to answer calls, the C. I. instructors, SCS technicians and Extension staff conducted nine contour lining demonstrations on as many farms.

In the C. I. class a pasture improvement program was started off with an October demonstration of gully closing and seeding. The work will be continued in the spring when seeding and fertilizing are in order.

During the year 12 news stories have been sent to papers. They tell of some phase of the soil conservation program and are written by who ever had the information available.

III. Farm Planning

During the year five new groups have been added, bringing the total to 18. No. 14 is in north east Washington township, No. 15 is a group of Veterans Training Class members living in six different

townships, No. 16 is the drainage project group in Marengo and Washington townships; No. 17 is in Fillmore; No. 18 is in south Washington and north Hilton.

The eighteen groups contain farms in every township in the county and the groups themselves are reasonably well scattered throughout the county. Lincoln, Iowa, Marengo and Sumner should have additional groups set up but it is rather damaging to the interest of a group of farm operators to set them up in an organization and then not be able to proceed with them. We need more soil mapping and additional technical assistance if we are to move faster with soil salvation.

A total of 110 farm plans have been approved. However this figure is misleading. In it are the seven Amasa Society farms totaling 24,865 acres or an average of 3552 acres each. The average size of farm in Iowa County is about 141 acres. Therefore these seven Amasa farms are the equivalent of about 150 ordinary farms. Approximately 65 applications are on hand now waiting for service.

IV. Application

The story of application of soil conserving practices on work group farms is told in this tabulation:

Contour farming established on	3503 acres
Contour strip cropping established on	122 acres
Pasture improvement established on	157 acres

Seeding of pastures	3 acres
Wild life areas	20 1/2 acres
Woodland management	54 1/2 acres
Tree planting	3 acres
Farm ponds	3
Terraces	3.8 mile
Diversion terraces	.5 mile
Farm drainage	235 acres
Tile lines installed	65,428 lineal feet
Drainage ditches	1.23 mile
Waterways	396,342 lineal feet

V. Cooperation From Other Agencies

Relationships with other agencies are splendid. AAA is cooperative in its attitudes toward encouragement of those practices for which its program makes payments. Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration and the Veterans Administration have been active in promoting conservation. Extension, V.A. and F.H.A. helped conduct the contour lining demonstrations in the spring. The V.A., through its local agricultural training classes, has done a splendid job of teaching and demonstrating conservation practices and in connection with it the Hering Public School board and the superintendent.

Business interests, particularly implement dealers, banks and seed dealers have been very helpful.

VI. Looking ahead

The need for expanded soil conservation education and application is larger than it has ever been. Man power to meet the need is the same as it has been during the past year, but has some prospect for improvement.

F.M.A. is instituting its soil testing service in cooperation with the Extension Service and Iowa State College. Also the Extension Service has selected Iowa County to be one of those that will receive the service from a District Agronomist when one can be found.

We hope to be able to interest rural teachers in a ten-week night school course in soil conservation. If possible, we will arrange for those who pursue the course satisfactorily to receive academic credit for the study.

Considering these circumstances, the goals for 1949 are:

Contour farming	2370 acres
Strip cropping	104 acres
Pasture improvement	168 acres
Woodland management	20 acres
Terraces	3.7 miles
Diversions	1.0 miles
Closed drains	19,100 feet
Open drains	.4 mile
Farm ponds	2

Structures

2

Constructing waterways

19,100 lineal feet

Farm Plans

38 -

6000 acres

New work groups

4

L-COUNTY SOIL FIELD DAY

Financial Statement

October 1, 1948

Iowa County
Johnson County
Keokuk County
Washington County

Receipts	
\$ 217.50	(Also an unknown amount of gasoline donated by Iowa County Farm Bureau Service Company.)
172.50	
168.50	
275.50	
Total	\$ 834.00

Disbursements			
Date	To Whom	For What	Amount
Sept. 11	R. G. Owen	Queen's cash	20.00
	Washington School Band	music	30.00
	Joe Hether	contestant	60.00
	Chas. R. Bond	contestant	40.00
	Wm. R. Spratt	contestant	30.00
	Don J. Dillon	contestant	20.00
	Bruce Taylor	contestant	20.00
	Clayd C. Fuller	contestant	20.00
	Earl Navy	contestant	20.00
	James P. Lutz	contestant	20.00
Sept. 15	Johnson County Democrat	program	87.95
	Pioneer Republicans	badges, stickers, ribbons	15.56
	Paul Boettcher	material	14.60
	Henry Vincent	material	10.72
	H. Howard Oak	material	1.84
	Howard Anderson	material	.61
	Frank Andrews	PA system	25.00
Total			436.13
Balance			397.87

Distribution of Balance

	Total Contribution	Share of Expense	Balance for County
Iowa County	217.50	109.12	108.38
Johnson County	172.50	109.12	63.38
Keokuk County	168.50	109.12	59.38
Washington County	275.50	109.12	166.38
	\$ 834.00	\$ 436.13	\$ 397.87

Report submitted by Ed Hinesy, L-county Field Day Treasurer

1-COUNTY CENTER PLANNING CONTEST

Isom-Johnson-Keehnak-Washington

September 11, 1913

Carl T. Anderson Farm

Points	Perfect Score	Land Numbers							
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1. Opening furrows	15	11	12	12	11	11	9	12	10
2. Closing furrows	5	5	5	5	4	5	4	3	4
3. Adherence to Contour	10	7	8	8	9	9	7	8	9
4. Width of Waterways	5	3	0	5	3	1	3	1	1
5. Edge of Flooding at Waterways	15	13	7	14	13	10	13	10	12
6. Land ends	5	2	3	4	4	2	4	2	2
7. Furrow conformation and uniformity	20	14	13	20	13	13	13	13	16
8. Tillage quality	15	12	12	14	12	11	11	10	11
9. Trash coverage	10	7	8	9	9	8	7	9	8
Total	100	77	73	91	83	75	76	73	73
Banking		3	6	1	2	5	4	6	6

Signed by order of District No. 55 Commissioners.

H. H. Kentzire, Secretary

District No. 55

J. D. Misbach, Chairman

District No. 55

Date February 1919

IOWA COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT #55
Fifth Annual Report
1949

With 43 new farm plans covering 6655 acres approved, 58575 feet of grassed waterways built, 25839 feet of tile drainage surveyed to serve 156 acres, 1747 acres of intertilled crops contoured, 134 acres strip cropped, 3.2 miles of standard terraces and .74 mile of diversion terrace constructed, .8 mile of open ditch drainage built, 340 acres of pasture renovated, 8 acres of wild life area improved, and 5 farm ponds built, the 1949 conservation program more than reached its goals except in contoured crops, woodland management and terraces. Excesses ranged as high as 306 percent of goal. In addition to this work done in person by SCS staff, commissioners and Extension staff, the Work Unit cooperators did an indefinite amount more.

The SCS staff has been Farm Planner R. H. Bush and Planners Aid H. W. Widmer, each for twelve months.

I. Administration

District commissioners have held twelve regular meetings and attended the four sessions of the 4-county commissioners. District meeting attendance has been 100 percent except for two absences. Almost all the meetings have been half-day sessions.

Working agreements have been signed with three new contractors providing bulldozers, drag-line, scoop, grader and tiling service.

Again commissioners and technicians from the 4-county area (Johnson, Keokuk, Washington and Iowa) held their quarterly meetings to compare notes and plan further conservation work.

The District entered the Goodyear conservation contest and scored 789.5 points out of a possible 1250 to rank 19th. among 47 entrants.

At the biennial election on June 6th. two candidates were voted upon by 25 farm owners. Henry G. Morse was elected with 16 votes, E. J. Sinn was second with 9 votes, J. D. Misbach, whose term expired, was not a candidate for re-election. In the reorganization of the Commissioners Edward Kinsey was elected chairman and R. G. Owen treasurer. County Extension Director D. H. Zentmire was reelected secretary.

For the first time the District had opportunity to prepare a two-fund budget for use of state-appropriated conservation support. The operations 12 months budget (1A) limited to \$500.00, was approved for this distribution:

Commissioners mileage and subsistence	\$150.00
Conservation Field Day expenses	129.00
Teachers conservation course supplies	35.00
Postage	28.00
Office supplies	29.00
Public school contest prizes	25.00
4-H conservation demonstration	10.00

Conservation exhibit expense	\$ 5.00
Conservation magazine subscriptions	7.00
Hall rent for meetings	15.00
Kodak films	46.00
Motion film rentals	9.00
Telephone tolls	<u>12.00</u>
Total	\$500.00

The technical assistance and equipment budget (2A) for the year totaled \$1327.00 and was approved as follows:

Contour lay-out help	\$ 320.00
Mileage on above	192.00
Stenographic help	140.00
Terracing machine	600.00
Camera and case	50.00
Light meter	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$1327.00

II. Education

A summary of educational work done reads like this: Information meetings 32, other educational meetings 12, training schools 1, news articles 55, radio broadcasts 4, demonstrations 2, contour plowing contest and field day 1, teacher training course (cooperating) 1.

The biennial election meeting speaker was James J. Wallace, manager of the Iowa State College Foundation farms. His story of poor farms and poor farmers in process of revival through good soil and family management, illustrated with slides from these farms, was certainly a forceful conservation story.

Arranged jointly by County Superintendent of Schools Cleone Miller, Farm Planner R. H. Bush and Professor G. W. Mouser from Iowa State Teachers College with District Commissioner Edward Kinsey and County Extension Director D. H. Zentmire serving in advisory capacity, the first public school teachers conservation course in Iowa enrolled a group of teachers, 24 of whom completed the course and received two hours college credit. The course consisted of ten evening lectures and seven half day field trips, all on land use subjects.

A second group of people that contributed largely to conservation progress in the county is the Veterans Agricultural training classes under the instructorship of Commissioner Kinsey and Ivan Johannes.

Again the Marengo Adult Schools farm class of about 70 persons under the leadership of County Extension Director D. H. Zentmire devoted four class periods to conservation and land use subjects. Extension Service held other meetings also where some phase of conservation was featured.

The opening of the Iowa State College Extension Service soil testing laboratory in Cedar Rapids has increased interest in laboratory tests for fertilizer needs. Having laboratory manager D. A. Russell so conveniently located is going to be helpful too.

Iowa County Soil Conservation District

"Sawmill Area" on Amara colonies farms. Trial of New Legumes and Grasses in Mixture. Plot sizes: 40' x 40'

Ranger Alfalfa 6 lbs/A	Birdsfoot Trefoil 6 lbs/A	Midland Red Clover 8 lbs/A	Ladino & Alsike Cl. 6 lbs/A	Crown Vetch 10 lbs/A	Bird Vetch 10 lbs/A	Chinese Lespedeza 10 lbs/A
Tualatin tall oatgrass 10 lbs/A						
Recomb. orchard grass 8 lbs/A						
Fischer smooth brome 12 lbs/A						
Alta tall fescue 10 lbs/A						
Blackwell switch grass 12 lbs/A						
Marietta timothy 8 lbs/A						
Fall wheat grass 12 lbs/A						

Date Planted: April 11, 1949
Seedbed: Lime, fall plowed bluegrass

Method of Planting: Cultipacker
Soil Type: Chariton Silt Loam

Preparatory to doing contour lay-out service work in the spring a contouring training school was arranged by Extension Service and attended by representatives from SCS, District, AAA, Extension, FHA and Veterans classes. D. C. Wm. G. Davis was instructor.

A new forage test plot was planted at Amana April 11. Forty nine plots, each 40 x 40 feet, with check areas are included. The planting plan is drawn on another page. It was too young to be used for demonstration purposes this year.

But the older planting on the Kinsey farm has been used for G.I. class, teacher training class, rural school group and other adult visits.

The 4-county field day was held on the Amana Society farm north of Amana with splendid cooperation from the Society. Terracing with ordinary farm implements was demonstrated, also grassed waterway shaping and seeding, pasture renovation, tile outlet repair and gully control.

Iowa County's contour plowing entrants Owen Jones and Roland Holden ranked first and third with scores of 84.4 and 82.75 respectively, in a field of seven contestants. Jones went to the state contest but didn't rate very high there.

III. Farm Planning

Group 19, the Pleasant Valley group in Marengo township and Group 20 in Dayton-English are the two work groups formed during the year. But numerous individual farms have been added to already organized work groups. At no time have technicians been caught up with their work but the formation of more work groups is a must during 1950.

Forty three farm plans covering 6655 acres have been written and approved, 113 percent of the goal set for the year. The farm plan list has been reviewed and purged of these cooperators: 8 who have sold farms or moved away, 2 deceased, 21 whose interest cooled to the point of complete inactivity.

At the close of the year there are a net of 122 approved farm plans in the District. It must be recognized that all of the Amana Society land is in one farm plan which is the equivalent of about 150 ordinary farms.

It is the policy of this District to give extra help to members of the Veterans Farm Training classes who are interested in conservation. They are formed into one or more veterans work groups.

IV. Cooperation From Other Agencies

Relationships with other agencies are splendid. AAA is cooperative locally in its encouragement of those practices for which its program makes payments. We feel that those at higher levels who draft farm program rules for acreage allotments should allow more credit to farms where soil conservation practices have been used consistently.

Extension Service, Farmers Home Administration, Veterans Administration and the County Superintendent of Schools have actively promoted conservation. Extension FHA and V.A. helped provide contour lining service and all have promoted soil laboratory tests for fertilizer needs. Through its local G.I. classes, V.A. and the Marengo Public School have done a splendid job of promoting conservation. The public school teachers conservation course came about through cooperation from the county superintendent of schools and Iowa State Teachers College.

Business interests, particularly implement dealers, bankers and seed dealers have been helpful too.

V. Looking Ahead

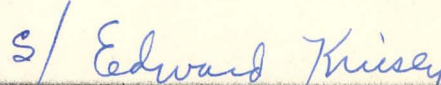
Considerable progress has been made in soil conservation, notably among the G.I. farm class members. Of course there is a vast amount yet to be achieved but the outlook is not discouraging.

More work groups will be set up, none as large as some of the earlier ones that proved to be too big. The present 20 groups are scattered all over the county but there are plenty of small areas into which small groups can be fitted.

We would like to see a national land policy developed in the United States as a foundation for the conservation and development of agricultural land and water resources of our country. We would like to suggest as a goal for American agriculture a scientifically developed soil conservation plan applied on every farm and ranch at minimum public cost. This can be done most rapidly through the organization of all agricultural land in soil conservation districts and the strengthening of soil conservation district responsibility and work.

Signed by order of District No. 55 Commissioners.


D. H. Lenthire, Secretary


Edward Kinsey, Chairman

Date - April 17, 1950