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SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE**INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES**Name of paper *Hard Co Index*Where published *Eldora*Date of issue *Aug 2 1948*Sent by *Chuck Mcarty*S. C. D. *Hardin*Stationed at *Eldora***CLASSIFICATION:**

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Primus Takes Region Commissioner Award

Paul Primus of Steamboat Rock has been named outstanding Soil Conservation District Commissioner in Region III, it was announced this week.

As winner in the 13-county regional contest, Primus now qualifies for the state award, to be announced at a later date.

Primus was elected a Hardin Soil Conservation District commissioner in 1963 after serving two previous years as an assistant commissioner.

The Primus family, consisting of Paul, 40, his wife Jane and two boys, Kenneth 11 and Donald 8, have had a long history in the conservation field. In 1963 a conservation reserve and wildlife habitat area was established on their farm. This reserve exists today.

In addition to operating a 340-acre farm, Primus has been a member of the Iowa



PAUL PRIMUS
(Qualifies for State Award)

Farm Bureau Federation for 20 years, a member of the Steamboat Rock Hunt Club for

20 years, a member of the Farm Bureau Federation for 20 years, a member of the Steamboat Rock Hunt Club for 20 years, the Pine Lake Wildlife Club for 15 years, is a 6-year member of the Iowa River Improvement and Conservation Club and a naval veteran.

Since the war, Primus has been active in community affairs, serving as an ASC township committeeman, Farm Bureau membership chairman, four years on the Farm Bureau board of directors, seven years on the Farm Service board of directors and as chairman of the board. He has served on the Central Committee for the Democratic party, the Wallace's Farmer and WHO Farm Progress Committee when the Farm Progress shows were held in Hardin county in 1950, and has been a long-time member of the Congregational Church.

Mrs. Primus has been active in community affairs. She worked as a Home Economist for the Extension Service for several years, for the HHA Service, served as a 4-H leader, a summer school teacher under the OEO program, a den mother for Cub Scouts, a summer school superintendent under the OEO program, is a Bible school teacher, president of the Church Fellowship, a member of the Iowa Poetry Association and the Federal Women's Club.

On the 340-acre farm, Primus has 40 head of stock beef cows. He raises 240 pigs from 25 sows, 100 acres of hybrid seed corn and 80 acres of beans.

Primus was the first landowner in the Hardin Soil Conservation District and the Pine Lake Watershed to build grass backslope terraces on his farm. In 1967, he built 9,700 feet of terraces and in 1968 he again built another 6,450 feet of terraces on his land. Primus plans to continue terrace construction, as finances permit, until his entire land needing erosion is stabilized.

The Primus family has always been interested in wildlife habitat. They have established 16 acres of wildlife habitat on the farm and have a two and a half acre farm pond with a wildlife development around it. In 1961, three acres of pine trees were planted for a Christmas tree venture and farm beautification. Since 1961, five additional acres have been established to add to the family tree plantation. A of 3,700 linear feet of multi-

fence row hedges to provide wildlife cover. In 1965, a one-acre crownvetch certified seed

production plot was established.

ACTIVE AS CHAIRMAN

For the last three years, Primus had led an extremely active Soil Conservation District as chairman. During his term as chairman, the Hardin Soil Conservation District has had the first ACP group terrace project in the state of Iowa, developed the Pine Lake Watershed concept in which mass land treatment has been applied above Pine Lake and hosted the Soil Conservation Society of America tour in August of 1967.

The District was the topic of a paper presented at the Society meeting on how they have accomplished land treatment in the Pine Lake Watershed. Innumerable tours of national and international character for people from as far away as Australia and as near as Canada have been listed here and the District went from a total of Plant Materials accomplishments of 12 to 56 in a period of three years (individual plots). Primus has been instrumental in getting the commissioners of the Hardin Soil Conservation District to state and regional meetings and he gave a report at the Annual Conference of progress and activities of the Hardin Soil Conservation in 1966.

Primus has attended river pollution meetings, zoning meetings, legislative meetings and urban meetings while representing the Hardin Soil Conservation District at both local and state level. He was instrumental in developing a District program in which the urban segment of the community is given consideration through both planning and consultative assistance from the district.

The Steamboat man has worked with Soil Conservation Service personnel in development of an inventory of all public County Conservation Board areas in relation to planning. Towns and cities within the Hardin Soil Conservation District boundaries have been provided with consultative service and technology in planning recreation and city park systems. Only recently, Primus called two special meetings and one regular meeting for the District commissioners for the development of an Annual Work Plan for the fiscal year 1968-1969, looking ahead to a bigger District role in the community's future development.