

Ida County Soil Conservation District 1959 ANNUAL REPORT HIGH LIGHTS OF 1959

SCS PERSONNEL

Directly Assisting The District



Seated left to right are: Kenneth Burnett, Conservationist; Mrs. Gladys Thornhill, Clerk. Standing: George Witters and Dale Mills, Aids.

Commissioners Funds

GENERAL FUND

(From various sources)

Balance — December 31, 1958	\$ 11.01
Receipts — 1959	2,092.55
Expenditures — 1959	1,916.21
Balance — December, 1959	187.35

Most of the receipts and expenditures in this Fund were the result of publishing a special issue of the Iowa Soil and Water magazine.

MAINTENANCE FUND

(Held in trust by the District for the maintenance of watershed structures)

Cash on Hand, December 31, 1958	\$ 814.41
Receipts — 1959	1,139.74
Expenditures — 1959	1,593.60
Cash on Hand, December 31, 1959	360.55
U. S. Government Bonds on hand (Purchase Price) December 31, 1959	8,929.00
U. S. Government Bonds on hand (Surrender Value) December 31, 1959	10,231.00

1-A BUDGET

(Received from the State of Iowa for Commissioners Expenses)

Office Supplies	\$ 59.81
Commissioners Expenses	267.14
Office Expenses	97.00
Printing	100.00
Rentals	19.00
Materials for Demonstrations	3.19
TOTAL Expended	\$ 546.14

2-A BUDGET

(Received from the State of Iowa for Clerk Salary and Equipment)

Equipment	\$ 0
Clerk Salary	2,389.78
TOTAL Expended	\$ 2,389.78

During 1959 the District enjoyed a fair degree of success in accomplishing its goal. This goal is the application of adequate soil and water conservation practices on every acre of agricultural land in the District. Complete farm conservation plans were prepared with the assistance of District personnel for 27 farms, 43 miles of level crop land terraces were built and 50 acres of gullies were converted to grass waterways. Five major erosion control earth dams were built. These dams trap gully erosion and provide water storage for farm livestock and for recreation.

Some of the principal problems encountered in accomplishing this work were:

1. Lack of interest on the part of many landowners and operators with regard to erosion problems. There are still some farmers in the District who will not admit that erosion is a problem on their farms.

2. The continual change in ownership of farm land presents a problem in that farms with complete conservation problems established are sold, and the new owners fail to carry out the needed soil and water conservation measures. To a lesser degree, changes of tenants on a farm have produced similar results.

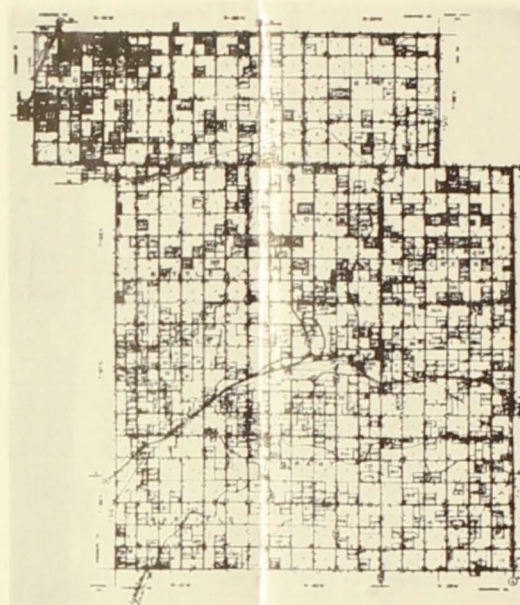
3. With the increased value of farm land many small areas, that were formerly left in bushy cover, are now being cleared and farmed. This has markedly reduced the amount of wildlife cover available for escape and nesting. If the practice is continued, wildlife may be driven from large areas in the District because of lack of adequate escape and nesting cover.

4. For the past several years the District has needed more and more 1-A Funds to cover Commissioners' and office expenses. In 1959 these expenses exceeded \$500.00 for the first time. If the present trend continues additional 1-A Funds will be needed by the District.

The team of three District cooperators representing this District in the Permanent Agriculture Program were: (1) Floyd Hughes, owner, Ben Riden, operator; (2) Ray Petersen, owner and operator; (3) Albert and Walter Johnson, owner-operators. Through their efforts the District was declared an Area winner and the District received a Polaroid camera and a plaque as a prize. This program is sponsored by the Sioux City Journal Tribune and the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. In this contest the farm owned and operated by John and Norman McIlroy was declared the progress winner.

Farms operated by Floyd Hughes, Ben Riden, operator, Fred and Jim Grell, and Al Maser, owner and operator, Kappeth Borchers, were given District recognition in the Iowa Soil Conservation Award contest sponsored by the Des Moines Register and Tribune.

DISTRICT MAP



The outlined and shaded farms are cooperating with the District.

There are 507 of them who are conserving their soil to the best of their ability.

Almost four-tenths of all farmers are now District cooperators.

The Agricultural Conservation Program cost shares extended by the Ida County ASC Committee, continues to provide the added incentive that is getting conservation practices on the ground. At least three-fourths of the conservation practices installed in this District received some cost shares for the prosecution of the work. The District hopes that this cost sharing program can be continued well into the future.

The Ida County Extension Service has provided much assistance to the District by consulting with District officials, by informing people of the District's program and by referring groups and individuals to the District for assistance with conservation problems.

The three papers printed in the county have published many District news releases. On several occasions, they have gone to considerable effort to obtain news stories on their own.

In June of 1959, Charles P. Bodhardt left the District to accept other employment. His services will be missed since he was an asset to the District. Dale M. Mills has recently been appointed to fill this position.

For the past two years Myrtle Brant, teacher at Battle Creek has been awarded a scholarship to attend the Teachers Conservation Camp at Springbrook State Park. She is now imparting this knowledge gained to children in the Battle Creek school system.

Soil Stewardship Week was observed in many churches in the District. The pastors were taken on a tour of conservation projects to give them first hand knowledge of soil conservation. This knowledge was used as a basis for their various sermons.

The District now has five groups of farmers interested in forming watersheds under the Little Sioux Flood Prevention Program or Public Law 566. It is felt that this watershed approach is the best overall answer to meeting the District's conservation goal. These watersheds when they are installed should do much to overcome the difficulties encountered by instability of ownership and tenancy.

During the past year a conservation needs study was completed on all land in the District. The results of this study can be used by many groups and agencies as a basis for future plans.

Watersheds upon which construction has been completed are now being inspected annually for incipient failure. Needed minor repairs costing \$458.95 were accomplished in the Perian and Kirkholm Watershed during 1959. The East Aldrich Creek Watershed did not need any maintenance operations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

	Accomplishments Goals		
	In 1959	Since 1945	For 1960
New District Cooperators	(Number) 32	507	50
	(Acres) 5,257	92,471	10,000
Basic Conservation Plan	(Number) 27	414	32
	(Acres) 5,502	75,143	6,400
Revised Conservation Plan	(Number) 5		10
	(Acres) 1,359		2,000
Follow Up Calls	(Number) 182		160
Contour Layout	(Acres) 3,893	41,016	6,200
Contour Strip Cropping	(Acres) 32	1,505	100
Level Terraces	(Mile) 43	354	52
Diversion Terraces	(Mile) 1	5	1
Tile Drains	(Feet) 2,685	276,508	6,000
Grossed Waterway Shaping	(Acres) 50	504	50
Gully Control Structures	(Number) 5	27	7
Contour Field Boundaries	(Rods) 2,184	56,569	5,000

Acknowledgment

The assistance of the different organizations, groups and individuals has made our work better, easier and more pleasurable. This assistance received is gratefully acknowledged.

We sincerely hope we can be of more assistance to you in the coming year.

Chester C. Challman, Chairman
W. F. Buraw, Commissioner
Wm. Rossow, Vice Chairman
Ray Bresnahan, Treasurer
Arnold Putensen, Secretary