

Holt Soil District Report Lists 15 Dams

Holt Soil District Annual Report

This is the report of the Holt soil and water conservation district's activities and accomplishments during the year 1958. The following table gives an outline of the accomplishments for the past year on some of the major conservation practices carried out by district cooperators. Also included is the total amount applied by 794 cooperators in the past 15 years of district operation.

Practice	Unit	1958	To Date
Contour Farming	Ac.	120	3,304
Strip Cropping	Ac.	186	108,609
Range Seeding	Ac.	1,872	22,969
Pasture Planting	Ac.	321	5,150
Tree Planting	Ac.	158	11,558
Pond Construction	No.	15	215
Terraces	Mi.	4.9	52.0
Diversions	Mi.	1.4	12.4
Land Leveling	Ac.	27	70
District Cooperators	No.	794	587,479
Basic Conservation Plans	No.	475	303,050

Most of the 15 dams constructed this year were for the purpose of providing livestock water. Three of these were outstanding in that they were on intermittent spring flows and provide fairly large impounding areas. They were constructed for Simon Timmerman, M. G. McKathnie and George Syfie. E. C. Weller constructed a large irrigation dam.

The McKathnie dam will provide ample water for livestock. In cooperation with the game commission, the dam, spillway and most of the expending area will be fenced. It will make an excellent wildlife area.

Fred Horn set a record for this district for terrace construction on one field in one year. He constructed 4.5 miles of terraces and 1.4 miles of diversions. In addition many uncrossable ditches were filled and waterways constructed.

An alfalfa field with numerous uncrossable ditches was given complete conservation treatment on Horn's ranch north of Atkinson. He plans to grow irrigated corn on this field for a few years before returning it to alfalfa.

Contour bench leveling was used in Holt county for the first time in 1958. By doing this type of land leveling it is possible to surface irrigate sloping land. Gordon Harvey and Thilo Poessecker were the cooperators to try this comparatively new practice. They both intend to do more bench leveling in 1959. In fact surveys have been made on six or more bench leveling jobs for 1959.

Bench leveling was done on the Thilo Poessecker farm north of Atkinson. Corn yields of over 100 bushels per acre were attained.

Cooperation with Other Agencies
The district appreciates the efforts put forth by the technical staff of the soil conservation service. It is through their efforts and cooperation and the splendid work of our cooperators that conservation work continues to expand in the Holt district.

The need for technical assistance continues to increase. We hope to maintain and expand our organization so that the people of Holt can be served promptly and efficiently. We know that it is difficult to reduce government expenditures during these years of rising costs, and increased demands by many groups. We have heard many discuss ways to broaden the tax base. One of the first things we need to remember to do is to protect the tax base we already have which is what the local district is trying to do with our various conservation programs. Surety tax money spent on sound conservation is a sound investment. Our conception of conservation today is much different than it was when districts were first organized. So many of the practices have proven themselves in conserving our precious soil and water that applications for assistance in carrying them out exceed our ability to comply with the requests. Conserving our natural resources is a never ending job.

The technical staff includes: Orville Indra, soil scientist for several districts; Bob Hill, unit conservationist; Weston Whitver, conservationist; H. T. Young was transferred to the Broken Bow unit in September and Willis Sanders, conservation aid, has joined the staff. Philip Fischer was assigned the first of December to the staff.

ANNUAL MEETING

1:00 P.M. Legion Hall, O'Neill
Friday, January 9

Holt County Extension Service
Holt Soil & Water Conservation District

FEATURING
Ray Switzer of Sioux City Market
He will interest you with "The Challenge That Is Ahead"

PROGRAM
Film Free Horizons
Extension Annual Meeting — Ora Yarges, chairman
Lecture of Three Board Members.
Organ Music — Kenneth Waring
Minutes of Meeting.
S.W.C.D. Annual Meeting.
Presentation of Awards.
Harvey Krugman and Roy Shelhamer.
Vocal Solo — George Hartman, Assist. Agent.
Guest Speaker — Ray Switzer.
Refreshments.
ALL ARE WELCOME.



Pictured above is the board elected by the people of the county and the agents and office assistant who are elected by the extension board. They are: (Seated) Mrs. Floyd Butterfield, secretary; Mrs. A. T. Crumly, vice, home extension council chairman; Mrs. Indra, home agent, and Mrs. Helen Johnson, office assistant. (Standing) George Hartman, assistant extension agent; Ora Yarges, Stuart, chairman of board; Harold Coburn, Annear route, board member; Walt Fleck, Inman, board member; Neil Dawes, county agent; Glen White, Amelia, board member; Frank Beelaert, Page, vice-chairman, and Charles Mulford, Stuart, treasurer.



The Chambers center used the farm and home safety theme. Mrs. Lloyd Gleed (left foreground) met with a tractor "accident" by improper use; Mrs. Vern Wilkinson lost her "arm" in a compicker; Mrs. E. M. Jarman, Mrs. Richard Sunderman and Mrs. Fry "tripped" on such things as farm tools and "tumbled" from stepladders.

Safety Is Theme of Chambers Center

While safety is hard to enforce, we have had some very graphic examples in our county as to what accidents mean to both farm and town people—broken bones, missing fingers, hands or legs, are living proof of the need of safety.

What can you do to promote safety?
Proper nutrition and plenty of rest will aid clear thinking, clear thinking will help cut down chances taken. Don't wear ragged clothing around machinery. Take tractor out of gear before adjusting or fixing the machine. Keep articles picked up around the home to lessen chances of falls.

What's New—
A group of young married couples formed a new organization in the county. John Orr, assistant state leader of young men and women help the group with the organization. He explained that the purpose of the group was primarily educational.

Officers selected were: Mr. and Mrs. George Mellor of Spencer, chairman; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Coburn of O'Neill, secretary; Mr. and Mrs. Bob Summerer of Ewing, publicity.
One additional meeting was held before the close of the year. County Attorney W. D. Griffin spoke to the group on legal matters that might pertain to them.

Scholarship Offered By Fed. Land Bank

Two \$300 Federal Land Bank scholarships will be provided again this year for high school seniors who enroll in the College of Agriculture at the University of Nebraska this fall.

The scholarship program is sponsored by the 41 national farm loan associations in Nebraska and the Federal Land Bank of Omaha, according to Lyle P. Dierks, secretary-treasurer of the farm loan association at O'Neill. Mr. Dierks says the scholarship program has been in effect for the past seven years, and is planned to be continued in future. He encourages high school students other than seniors to work toward the possibility of a Land Bank scholarship in their senior year.

The intent of the scholarship program is to encourage boys of outstanding ability to continue education in agriculture, Dierks says.

Application blanks are available from vocational agriculture teachers, county extension directors, high school superintendents, and at local national farm loan offices. Applications should be submitted to the College of Agriculture, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, before February 1, 1959.

MORE CORN—MORE PROFIT

Harlow Schwisor of O'Neill hits 123 bushel corn for the second year under irrigation.

When asked how he did it, Harlow says, "I just followed the University recommendations the county agent gave me. I thought I would see if they knew what they were talking about so I left an unfertilized strip, I found out they know alright."

Fred Lindberg of O'Neill also set a record for dry land corn in 1957 he had 87 bushels per acre and in 1958 he had 93 bushels per acre. When asked how he did it he said, "In the top corn yield program I sent in my soil samples to the extension office and the University of Nebraska made recommendations as to fertilization requirements, and planting suggestions." Then in typical Fred Lindberg style he said, "You know I think they know what they are doing."

These are samples of what can be accomplished through the corn yield and profit program that your county extension service has as a part of their 1959 program. Fifteen of the cooperators had official corn yield and profit program that year 12 irrigated fields averaged 99.5 and three dryland yields averaged 81.

If you are interested in more yields and profit get in touch with the office. We hope to have a district program and finish up meeting of cooperators in 1959. More emphasis will be placed on the efficiency of producing high yields.



Turning in their score cards after lamb judging competition are a dozen 4-H'ers at Holt county fair.

County Interest in Sheep on Increase

Cattle aren't the only livestock showing an increase in Holt county. Many people are realizing that sheep ranching is a profitable business and are setting out to prove it. The sheep raising in this area is limited to a ewe and lamb set up. As yet no feeding operations have been tried.

With the incentive payments from the government, many small ranchers and farmers have found raising sheep requires less capital to get in the business and often times give greater returns per dollar invested.

Last January, the Holt county extension service held a sheep management meeting with the assistance of the University specialists, and in cooperation with Midwest wool co-operative association. At this meeting management practices and problems in nutrition were discussed, as well as wool marketing and price outlook.

There were 51 men present from Holt and surrounding counties, representing over 1850 head of sheep.

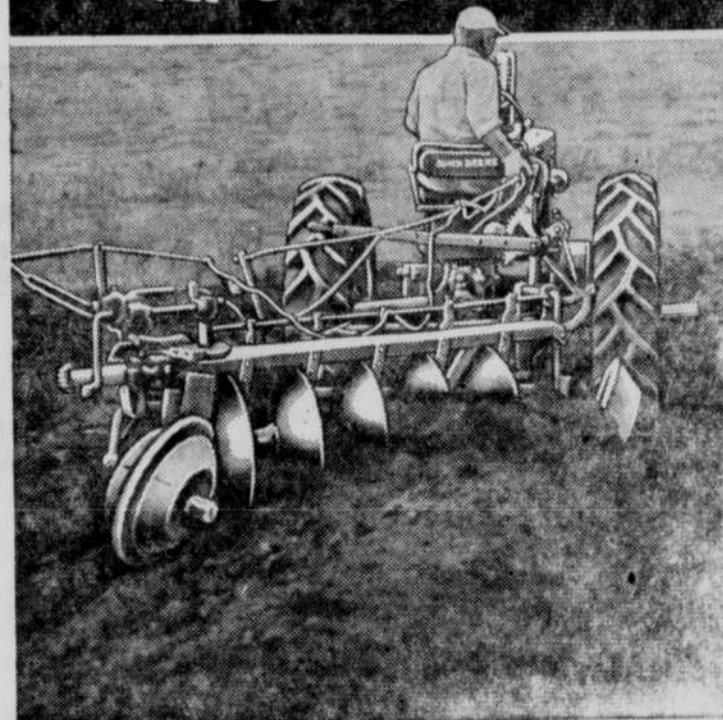
Sheep have become a possible way for many small ranchers and farmers with limited capital to utilize some of the roughage that has been so abundant the past two years.

and daughters, Tom Bruce of Bonesteel, S. D., and Miss Sharon Miller were new year day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Roach and Larry. Larry left Friday for San Diego where he will be stationed.



New Holt county home extension officers installed for 1959: Seated—Mrs. Clay Johnson, jr., of O'Neill, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. A. T. Crumly of Page, chairman; Mrs. Byron Blotz of Stuart, vice-chairman; standing—Mrs. Harold Milnar of Atkinson, Mrs. G. H. Grimes of Chambers, Mrs. Lawrence Kaup of Stuart; Mrs. Fred Roberts of Atkinson; Mrs. George Mellor of O'Neill; Mrs. J. L. Pruden of Ewing; Mrs. Linden Mulford of Stuart; and Mrs. Lloyd Gleed of Chambers, all are committee chairmen. Mrs. George Kiedel of Stuart is not pictured.

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