

# SCS Helps Change Soil Philosophy

By H. G. BOBST,  
State Conservationist

Great progress has been made in establishing conservation practices on the farms and ranches in Nebraska during the 11 years since the Holt Soil Conservation district was organized. The total amount of accomplishments in the state on a few of the more important soil conservation practices are as follows: Range management practices have been established on 3,338,000 acres; 67,000 acres of range and pasture have been seeded; 1,628,164 acres are contour farmed; stubble mulch is practiced on 2,226,983 acres; tree planting has been accomplished on 38,004 acres; farm drainage on 230,806 acres; 50,358 miles of terraces constructed, and 7,238 farm ponds built. Land leveling for irrigation has been accomplished on 206,832 acres.

These are but a few of the reportable practices that will give you some idea of the volume of work that has been done. The work remaining to be done, of course, greatly exceeds that which we have accomplished to date. We in the Soil Conservation Service share with district supervisors and cooperators pride in the amount of work that has been accomplished in the past few years. Perhaps more indicative of the real progress is the understanding and acceptance of the idea of conservation farming and ranching which has developed in a few short years. The soil conservation districts have had a major role in revising the philosophy of agriculture. Within the life of the soil conservation districts in Nebraska the philosophy of exploitation of soil and vegetative resources has been changed to one of conservation and wise use.

The following figures show the size of the conservation job on farms and ranches in soil conservation districts in Nebraska. Of this amount 47,673,938 acres are in farms and ranches. This area of land is divided into 107,426 operating units. In other words, there are 107,426 farms or ranches in soil conservation districts that are cooperators or are potential cooperators with soil conservation districts.

As of June 30, 1954, there were 46,126 district cooperators. This represents about 43 percent of the total operators in the state. Basic soil conservation plans have been developed on their land by 32,997. The remainder of the cooperators operate 15,890,850 acres. This represents about 33 percent of the total land in farms in soil conservation districts.

It will refresh our memories to review briefly the history of district organization in the state of Nebraska. In 1937 legislative bill No. 535 entitled the Nebraska Soil Conservation districts law was passed by the legislature. This made it possible for interested groups of land owners to organize soil conservation districts. The first district was organized in Washington county under the name of Papio Soil Conservation district. It included some 47,954 acres. The referendum was held on February 19, 1938, and the certificate of organization was issued the 24th of March that year. Since that time nine inclusions or additions to the district have been added until it reached a total of 241,817 acres. The last of these inclusions was made on June 8, 1943.

In the early days of district organization in Nebraska, this pattern of organization of a part of a county or a relatively small area into a district was generally followed. It was not until the 15th district was organized—that being the Deuel County Conservation district organized in 1940—that an entire county was organized at one time. From that time on, inclusions became fewer and more of the districts included whole counties in their original organization. After 1944, no districts were organized in segments with the exception of the Keith-Arthur Soil Conservation district No. 69 which added Arthur county to the Keith County Soil Conservation district and thus formed the Keith-Arthur district. The last district to be organized in the state—the 87th one—was given its certificate of organization on March 2, 1950.

The Holt Soil Conservation district was organized in 1944 and the original organization included the entire county. The Holt district was the 44th to be organized and represented the half-way mark in organizing the 87 districts in Nebraska. The method of organization and the rapid extension of the idea of soil conservation districts as a means of conducting the program of soil and water conservation had a normal, healthy growth in Nebraska. At the time of the introduction of an eventual passage of the Soil Conservation Enabling Act, there were questions in the minds of many people as to the advisability of establishing legislation which enabled districts to organize with the broad authorities of this law. Real concern was felt that this might lead to some loss of initiative and authority by farmers and land-owners. The pattern of organization clearly points out that the people of the state felt their way along by organizing small segments of counties until they had gained enough experience to determine for themselves that all of the fears felt by a large number of people at the time of the enactment of the legislation were not founded on fact. This was a healthy, normal, American way of entering into a new idea. When the people of Nebraska became convinced that this was the right way—and a practical way—to get at the soil and water conservation job, they went rapidly ahead with the district organization and Nebraska was one of the first states to be completely organized into soil conservation districts.

Progress in the development of the district programs and acceptance of responsibility by boards of supervisors has likewise been a gradual and healthy development. The original program was developed by the first boards of super-

visors with a great deal of assistance from county agricultural agents, soil conservation service personnel, and other technically trained people. As district supervisors have become more thoroughly familiar with their jobs and their responsibilities, they have in some cases reconsidered and revised the program for their district. Where they have done this the program has been strengthened materially because the thinking of farm people—the owners and operators of the land—has been incorporated into the program and it is more realistic and better adapted to the soil conservation district.

The Soil Conservation Service is proud to have been a partner in the growth and development of soil conservation districts. Fundamentally there has been no change in the role of the Soil Conservation Service from the date of the original district organization to this time. Under the memorandum of understanding and the supplemental memorandum of understanding which provides Soil Conservation Service assistance to districts, the Soil Conservation Service has endeavored to give technical assistance in the development and carrying out of soil and water conservation plans for cooperators of the districts. It has not been—and is not now—the policy of the Soil Conservation Service to determine policies or operating procedures for soil conservation districts.

The Holt Soil Conservation district can indeed be proud of the part it has played in this great movement. It was in the vanguard of the districts to be organized in the sandhills area of Nebraska. In many respects it pioneered the development and application of range conservation and still retains its place among the leaders in the districts of the state.

Speaking for the Soil Conservation Service in Nebraska, we extend to the Holt Soil Conservation district our heartiest congratulations on the fine progress being made in the conservation program.

## Watershed

The Pilot watershed protection program was organized in 1954 and the original organization included the entire county. The Pilot district was the 44th to be organized and represented the half-way mark in organizing the 87 districts in Nebraska.

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## Inman Residents Give \$244.42 to Polio Solicitation Accounts for \$91

INMAN—The Inman residents and organizations contributed \$244.42 to the 1955 march of dimes drive, Mrs. John H. Mattson and Mrs. James H. McMahan, city campaign directors, have announced.

A breakdown of contributions follows:

Project club bake sale, \$46.80; band concert by Inman school band, \$41.10; Inman public school, \$31.70; clubs, lodges and other societies, \$24; solicitations, \$91; coin collectors, \$9.64.

## Other Inman News

James Sholes and Ernest Brunchhorst went to Amesworth on Monday, February 14, where they called on Mr. and Mrs. Max Mossman and family and also tried their luck at fishing.

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Clark of Burwell spent Sunday, February 13, visiting Mr. Clark's mother, Mrs. Anna Clark, also Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Moore, a brother-in-law and sister.

Tom Clark, who is employed at Lexington with the telephone company spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Clark.

Mrs. Lorin Keyes and daughter, Mary, who have spent the past couple of weeks at the home of Mr. Keyes' parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Keyes, left Monday morning for New York City from where they will sail for France to join W/O Lorin Keyes, who is stationed there with the army.

Mrs. Ray Siders, Mrs. L. R. Tompkins and Mrs. Harvey Tompkins attended a tea at the Legion club rooms last Thursday afternoon given by Mrs. Larry Schaffer of Emmet for the Cowbells and prospective members.

Mrs. Kathryn Abbenhaus of Salem, Ore., who has been visiting

her sister, Mrs. Anna Young, and son, Charles, left Thursday for Spencer to visit her son.

Mrs. H. H. Rousseau returned to her home at Griswold, Ia., on Wednesday, February 16, after spending the past two months in the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Harkins. Mrs. Harkins and daughters, Hyldred and Mrs. H. E. Smith, took her as far as Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siders, Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Tompkins and Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Tompkins attended the fifth annual grasslands day at Stuart on Monday, February 14. Inman friends have received word of the death of Archie Stearns on Friday at Lincoln. Mr. Stearns made his home here for several years.

Mrs. Lois Juracek and two daughters spent Tuesday, February 15, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siders, and Marilyn.

## Helpless Couple Watches Home Burn

ATKINSON—Blizzard conditions and snow-blocked roads contributed to the destruction of the D. W. Baab farm home here by fire Sunday afternoon.

The blaze is of uncertain origin. Atkinson firemen were summoned to the place two miles from town, but they couldn't get through until a county snowplow had opened the road.

By the time the firemen could get to the place, which took nearly an hour, the two-story house had burned to the ground.

It is believed that a stove explosion may have caused the blaze. Mr. and Mrs. Baab were in the barn at the time it started, however, and they cannot be sure. They had been doing chores for about an hour.

Mr. Baab is best-known as Jack Baab. His wife is bookkeeper for the Atkinson Graphic. The loss was partially covered by insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. George Bohn entertained at a dinner at their home Sunday.

## Club Meets with Mrs. Forbes

The Young Homemakers club was called to order at the home of Mrs. Ray Forbes on Wednesday, February 9. Eleven members answered roll call by telling what age they would like to stay at.

Mrs. Albert Henning and Mrs. Leland Anderson gave a lesson on using the broiler. Mrs. Albert Henning will be hostess for the March 9 meeting.

## REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

SD—Leo S Tomjack— Sheriff to Ernest Howard 2-7-55 \$80— Lots 7-8-9 & 10 Blk 8— Page

WD— Fmil Lieswald— et al to March E Warner & wf— no da— \$2750— Part of NW 1/4 29-26-12

WD— Henry Krier to Wm D Kiple & wf 10-17-53 \$333.75— Part of SE 1/4 SW 1/4 19— Twp 29— Range 11

WD— Arthur Seger to Kasper W Harley & wf 2-14-55 \$2800— South 180 ft Lot 9 Subdivision of Outlot L— Hallock's Add— Stuart

WD— Robert J Batenhorst to Joseph C Batenhorst 2-18-55 \$1- 1/4 14— Twp 31— Range 16 NW 1/4 25-31-16

WD— Joseph C Batenhorst to

## 50 HEAD Special Dairy Cattle SALE

At Sale Barn BLOOMFIELD, NEBR. Friday, March 4 — 1:00 P.M. —

This will be a good offering of dairy cattle. One entire herd of good, large Holsteins, some fresh and others close springers. Balance will be good Swiss cows and heifers, and some good Guernseys. All cattle will have necessary health papers. For any other information call or write

FRED J. LAUTERBACH Martell, Nebr. Cliff Van Houten, Auct.

Robert J Batenhorst 2-18-55 \$1- NE 1/4 11-30-16 NE 1/4 25-31-16

WD— Cordia B Smith to Vernon Harley or wf 2-8-55 \$500— Part of SE 1/4 SE 1/4 19-26-12

WD— George D Hansen to Gerald D Hansen & wf 1-21-55 \$1- SE 1/4 2-31-11

WD— Effie Kubart to Wayne H Fox— Gilbert E Fox & Charles R Fox 2-14-55 \$2100— Lots 11-12-13 & 14 Blk 2— Collins Add— Atkinson

WD— Charles Fox to Wayne H Gilbert E & Charles R Fox 2-15-55 \$10,000— SW 1/4 24-29-13

QCD — Anna Brown to Henry

Vequist 1-31-55 \$1— Lots 4-5-10-11-12 & 13 Blk 1— Ballons Add— Atkinson

QCD — D G Vequist to Henry Vequist 1-31-55 \$1— Lots 4-5-10-11-12 & 13 Blk 1— Ballons Add— Atk

Guests Here— Mr. and Mrs. Vern Beckwith of Columbus and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Harley were Wednesday, February 16, supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beckwith.

## AT PUBLIC AUCTION

Buildings and Personal Property

On Arthur McCandless Wilson Ranch, one mile south of our headquarters ranch, or 5 miles south of Emmet and 3 miles west or 8 miles south of Atkinson and 4 miles east, on—

Starting at 12:30 P.M. — Lunch on Grounds

## MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28th

BUILDINGS (to be removed from premises) include dwelling 28x32, could be remodeled into family size home; dwelling 18x26 ft.; horse barn 32x34 ft.; cow barn 16x28 ft. Bldgs. to be removed in sixty days.

CATTLE: 10 head 3-yr.-old Hereford hfrs.; 10 head mature Hereford cows; 4 head Hereford steers, wt. 450 lbs.; 2 reg. Hereford bulls.

HAY AND GRAIN, MACHINERY AND EQUIP., including WD A-C 151, fully equipped; IHC 1946 Model A; rakes; IHC hammermill; harrows; pump; set of underling axles; many miscellaneous items, including some household goods. TEDMS: Strictly cash.

## ALFRED W. & LOIS ANN MARTENS

Owners and Custodians THORIN & BOWKER AUCTION SERVICE, Sale Mgrs. COL. ED THORIN, O'Neill, Auct. BILL BOWKER, O'Neill, Clerk

## MILLER THEATER

Atkinson

Fri.-Sat. Feb. 25-26

**DAWN at SOCORRO**  
RORY CALHOUN PIPER LAURIE  
BOB HOPE MARIAN MOORE ALYCE

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Feb. 27-28, Mar. 1

**MEN OF THE FIGHTING LADY**  
VAN JOHNSON WALTER PIGEON LOUIS CALHOUN  
DEWEY MARTIN KEENAN WYNN FRANK LOVENY

Wed.-Thurs. Mar. 2-3

**Marion BRANDO**  
The WILD ONE

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The McCormick No. 8 Plow has long been the yardstick for measuring good plow performance. McCormick Plows can be depended upon to turn good furrows in all kinds of going. Their rugged construction and proven design withstands the strains of plowing behind modern, fast-moving tractors. Ample clearance under beams and between bottoms assures a thorough job of turning and covering heavy growths of stalks, weeds and green cover crops. McCormick Plows are easy to handle in any field and easy to adjust. They do the kind of work that particular plowmen like.

Come in and see the line of McCormick Plows in our store. We have them in sizes to fit all farms and power.

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## Now! WILLYS Brings You a Completely

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YOU CAN SEE THE EXTRA STAMINA reflected in every detail of this newest automatic masterpiece—the ALL NEW 4-Wheel-Drive Universal 'Jeep'.

## 1955 MODEL OF THE ONE-AND-ONLY 'Jeep' GREATER-THAN-EVER STAMINA...plus NEW Features Throughout!

- New, Sinewy Strength for the 'Jeep' Frame:** A new, fully-boxed, front cross-member adds to the carrying strength, rigidity and rugged endurance of the new 'Jeep' frame.
- New, Larger Windshield:** Has approximately 100 square inches more of glass area and folds on stronger hinges. New streamlined hood offers increased visibility.
- New, Softer Front Seating:** Form fitting, bucket design with coil springing gives an unbelievably comfortable ride. Driver's seat is adjustable to 3 positions fore and aft.
- New, Easier Riding Springs:** Front and rear—4 inches longer—provide excellent stability and long life.



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