

4th Annual Soil Issue

Dear Editor: We are happy indeed to again contribute material to The Frontier for the special Soil Conservation Section. This is the fourth annual effort of this type and we sincerely appreciate your efforts in cooperating with the Holt Soil Conservation District in making these possible.

This year the theme of our joint annual meeting with the Extension Service was "Let's Know," which included informative material about conservation in schools, new developments in the field of nutrition and word about our foreign neighbors.

In keeping with the theme of the meeting we have digressed somewhat from our usual material for publication. Instead of giving result stories about successful conservation farmers and ranchers, we have chosen to use somewhat technical material and present material we hope will be of interest to your readers. They follow the theme of the meeting and add to the subjects discussed there.

"Let's Know About Irrigation," for example, should not only be of interest to the prospective irrigator farmer but to his city cousin as well. "Let's Know About Fishing" certainly should have eager readers among all sportsmen, farmer, rancher or townsman. "Let's Know About Grass," while primarily written for ranchers, should be of interest to many and promote a better understanding of some of the ranchers' problems. Even our own annual report is presented with the idea of letting the public know just what the Holt Conservation District has been doing the past year.

We submit this material hoping we have not digressed too far and that you and your readers will enjoy it. Thanks again for your splendid cooperation.

Sincerely,
HOLT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Narrative Report

(A narrative report in behalf of the Holt County Soil Conservation District board of directors appears in this issue in two parts.)

PART ONE

One can note a predominance of grass and legume seed cleaning jobs which testifies to a sound "back to grass" trend throughout the district.

During the spring months a truck was rented from one of the district supervisors, R. L. Heiss. Fay Brittle, who was running the drill, used the truck in conjunction with seeding equipment.

Extensive tree planting operations were again on last spring's calendar. Four men, two with

trucks and one with a Ford tractor, were hired for the tree planting. Two crews of two men each operated the tree planters.

The combine saw a wide season of use on vetch, sweet clover, alfalfa, Ladino clover, red clover, sand louse grass and switchgrass. It is the district's purpose to cater to grass and legume harvesting work as a means of encouraging more production of seed for distribution in the area.

It should be borne in mind that all this equipment is owned and was paid for by the Holt Soil Conservation District, a local countywide organization. No government finance was or it ever used in procuring and maintaining this equipment, with the exception of an F 20 Farmall tractor, the pull-type tree planter, western land roller, small stripper and a scale which were granted to the district by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service in 1949. Federal funds are used only for the local staff, their equipment and survey instruments. The local district and its equipment are not a part of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, but merely the means by which the Holt Soil Conservation Service can extend technical help to ranchers and farmers.

Publicity

The district is grateful again this year to many who helped promote conservation agriculture. All the county papers have been very cooperative in printing periodic articles prepared by the local staff of the district's activities. The Frontier is again carrying this report in a special issue, the fourth year in a row.

Several method demonstrations were among 1952's activities. Two were on drainage and two on terraces and waterways. Tours again played a prominent role in 1952. One large tour in conjunction with the Holt Crop Improvement Association covered much of the flat hay country south of Atkinson. Special attention was given to the improvement wrought by seeding legumes in the native hay and by fertilization. Another tour featured range management, the part of some stockmen to exploit grazing lands to the break-



Artist's Sketch Shows Ideal Shelterbelt

Appropriate in this soil conservation issue is the composition of the foliage in this cross-section an artist's concept of an ideal shelterbelt. Note view and the distance from farmstead buildings.

point while beef prices are high. Much emphasis has been made by the local staff on treating our pasture and range land as a permanent resource of forage to be improved and available for future generations.

Still another tour was for the purpose of observing native grass seedlings, some with and some without hairy vetch. Vetch is rapidly establishing itself in the Holt district as both a forage producer and a soil improver, especially on lighter soils.

All of the supervisors, Harry Smith, John Deere dealer; Harry Ressel, PMA chairman; and Pat Gallup, veterans' instructor at O'Neill, made a tour of a number of farms and ranches of the county to determine county winners in the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture program. Much interest has been built up for this tour and many business men and professional men of the county look forward to the opportunity of seeing some fine examples of soil conservation.

Operating Program

Records were shattered on many counts when the accomplishment figures were totaled for the Holt Soil Conservation District. 1952 was a successful year and many farmers have started down the road to conservation farming.

For example, 125 farmers and ranchers signed initial agreements with the Holt district for technical assistance. Comparing it with other years this is a sizeable increase. In 1946 only 23 made such application and the record shows a steady increase from that date on. In 1950, 77 made application and in 1951, 98. This means that since 1944 when the district was organized 680 farmers and ranchers have received technical assistance from the Holt district.

As for other records, new contour farming was only five acres short of setting an all time record. The 208 acres of tree planting was just 14 acres short of the all time record set in 1950. Nearly twice as much farm drainage was completed this year as last, the previous record year. Sixty-three acres of waterways on 20 farms were prepared, seeded and established. This is nearly three times the previous record year of 1946 and more than the total seeded on cooperator farms since the district started in 1944. Considerably more alfalfa and brome grass and more native grass was seeded this year than in any previous year. Seeding of vetch in the county was greatly expanded and holds promise of increasing for many years to come.

Cooperative Relations

Five wild life areas were planted in the district this past year. These operations were carried out by the State Game Commission in cooperation with the Soil Conservation District. The purpose of these plantings is to increase the food supply and cover for game birds such as the pheasant.

Friendly interest is being shown in conservation work by more and more equipment dealers. This past year the John Deere and Allis Chalmers dealers in O'Neill each gave \$25.00 for associate membership in the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Another friendly gesture toward the district was the gift of \$25.00 from an O'Neill firm as a scholarship fund. With this fund the district sponsored the attendance of a country school teacher, Mrs. Wila Schollmeyer, at a conservation short course given at Doane college. While attending the short course Mrs. Schollmeyer wrote a note of thanks to the district. She later gave a report of her short course to the country school teachers of Holt county. She will also make a report at the annual district meeting this spring.

Veterans' classes and vocational agriculture groups again in 1952 enlisted the service of the district. Mrs. Wila Schollmeyer, a conservation short course given at Doane college. While attending the short course Mrs. Schollmeyer wrote a note of thanks to the district. She later gave a report of her short course to the country school teachers of Holt county. She will also make a report at the annual district meeting this spring.

The district also provided each high school in the area with the U.S.D.A. soil conservation bulletin, "Teaching Conservation." The bulletin integrates the various phases of conservation with taught in high schools. As examples of the subjects commonly taught in the integration—in mathematics acreage, slope, cubic yard calculations, etc., are outlined in economics teachers are given for calculating increased land values resulting from de-

grees of soil conservation practices in the health section improved condition of production and of products are stressed. Increased interest by the school teaching profession was exemplified in the tenure of Harold Wilhoit with district work this past summer. Mr. Wilhoit is the superintendent of schools in Inman and was one of the men furnished by PMA for work in the district.

"What's Ahead for My Soil Conservation District?" was the topic for a speaking contest promoted by the district. The district winning speech was sent to the state conference to compete there. The state winner in turn will go to the national conference to enter the speaking contest there. Sponsoring the whole nationwide contest and providing a \$1,000.00 prize for the national winner is the Spencer Chemical Co. Six entrants from vocational agriculture classes and 4-H clubs in the county were judged by the local committee. Edward Price, vocational agriculture student of O'Neill, was the district winner; and Robert Tams, 4-H member of Ewing, was runner-up. Five local merchants contributed cash awards to the two highest in the county competition.

Recognition Program

Three entrants were made in the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture program. This recognition program is sponsored by the Sioux City Journal-Tribune and the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce. The district's entrants were Lawrence and Donald Thiele of Stuart, Louis Bartos of O'Neill and Vincent Thiele from south of Ewing. Selections were made on the effectiveness of and the extent of operations of the conservation programs on the various ranches and farms.

Richard Trowbridge of Page was named progress winner for the year. Among his accomplishments were—seeding over 20 acres of waterways, contouring 150 acres of farm ground, and building 5.4 miles of terraces. Thiele, Trowbridge and Bartos attended the Sioux City banquet.

Raymond Heiss and Clarence Ernst represented the board at the state conference in Lincoln during December. One result of their attendance at the conference was an invitation to Sen. Frank Nelson of the Nebraska unicameral to attend our next supervisors' meeting. Mr. Nelson did attend the December meeting in order to become better acquainted with the problems and functions of the district.

The annual meeting held last March in conjunction with the extension service was well attended. The district staff spent a brief period showing slides of the district's progress and activities for the past year. The extension service presented a lengthy array of stunts and acts by various 4-H clubs. Don Cunningham of the Sioux City stockyards both relaxed and inspired the crowd with his humor and sage philosophy as well as a message on the importance of the two services to American agriculture.

Technical Services

The local staff definitely needs more help. Office administration, field work, joint PMA work, educational functions, etc., keep

them from reaching their goals of accomplishments. Some means for providing at least permanent office help should be diligently sought.

PART TWO
(on page 11, section 2)

16 Friends Gather for Duck Dinner

CHAMBERS—A group of 16 friends gathered at the Hallie Tibbets home Tuesday evening, March 9, for a duck dinner. The duck was furnished by George Porter. The others brought covered dishes. Present besides the hostess, Mrs. Tibbets, were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spann, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wyant, Mr. and Mrs. L. V. Cooper, Genevieve Bell, Myrtle Bell, George Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beed, Duane Miller, Mr. and Mrs. George Thomson and Walt Richard. After the dinner Duane Miller showed slides of his vacation in Colorado and other pictures in color which were greatly enjoyed by the group.

Other Chambers News

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Luikens and son of Norfolk spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Rasmussen, and family.

Barbara Jean Wilcox resumed her duties at St. Anthony's hospital Monday following her recent operation. She is staying with her mother, Mrs. Pauline Masterson, and driving to O'Neill with Mrs. Lela Corcoran who is employed there.

Mrs. Hintz of near Albion visited a few days last week in the home of her nephew and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Cook.

Stanton Elsberry and son, Harold Elsberry, of Brunswick spent Sunday, March 15, with the former's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Rasmussen, and family.

Mrs. L. R. Hansberry and father, Mr. Conger, drove to Kearney one day last week to visit the former's uncle, who is ill.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beed came from Lincoln March 6 for an indefinite stay at the Raymond Beed home. They made a trip to Grand Island and Lincoln Monday, March 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Chet Fees, jr., and children of Greybull, Wyo., came Sunday and will visit his mother, Mrs. Myrtle Fees, and brother, Dick, at Chambers and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. McNichols, in O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. Parker were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. John Wintermute.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Werner and children were Sunday visitors at his parents' home in Emmet.

Jean Beed, who is teaching near Stuart, spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Beed, and family.

Danny Gilstrap, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gilstrap, celebrated his sixth birthday anniversary on St. Patrick's day, March 17. Six of his classmates went to his home after school where they played games and were served lunch by Mrs. Gilstrap.

Frontier for printing!

Soil Conservation Will Increase Income—

Soil conservation does affect the homes of Holt county, according to Mrs. Helen Kreymborg, Holt home extension agent. Truly life depends on the soil and just as truly homes depend on the soil. Soil conservation if properly carried on will over the years increase the income of the family. Increased incomes mean more labor saving devices and comforts for the home. Too often we see unsightly farmsteads because precautions have not been taken to prevent wind and water erosion.

It certainly is more work, but it pays dividends. The emphasis on good soil conservation practices deserves the support of everyone, Mrs. Kreymborg added.

STAR NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Johnson and Wyn spent last Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nels Linquist.

Roddy spent last Thursday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Derickson and family.

Miss Lavonne Kopetjka spent last Thursday night with Miss Barbara Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller and family were supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Johnson and family Friday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Johnson and son came later and spent the evening. The folks played cards and were served ice cream and cake for lunch.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Linquist and family were supper guests Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Derickson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Arden Laursen and family were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Derickson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waring and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Johnson and family were Sunday visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller and family.

Ben Vonasek and Nels Linquist were in the Walnut community Tuesday, March 10, on business.

Mrs. Bill Hibbs and Kay called at the Ewalt Miller home Sunday.

Beverly Linquist, Norma Jean Timmerman and Kay Hibbs, students at O'Neill high school, spent the weekend with home folks.

Mrs. Guy Young returned Saturday from Kansas City, Mo., where she had been visiting her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Huston, and her new granddaughter. Mrs. Young went as far as Omaha from where her son, A/2c Stanley Young, brought her the rest of the way. Airman Young returned to Offutt AFB at Omaha Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kelly, Mr. and Mrs. George Bohn and Chucky and Larry Fox were guests in the Francis Belzer home Sunday.

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Announcement

WE WISH to announce to the public that we have established an office on the first floor of the Hagensick Building (former Nebraska State Bank building), corner of Fourth and Douglas Streets (two doors north of O'Neill National Bank).

WE WILL continue to expand our services—all types of insurance, real estate, farm and ranch sales a specialty.

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REGISTERED HEREFORDS

Saturday, March 21

25 Registered Hereford Bulls
These Bulls are yearlings to 4-years-olds and a good rugged type of bulls.

12 Registered Hereford Heifers
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150 to 200 Stock Cattle
Regular run of stock cattle will be sold following registered stock.

Offering will include 100 to 150 steer and heifer calves, some yearling steers and heifers and mixed cattle.

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