

# Narrative Report

Herein is our report of the 1953 activities in the Holt District.

In the table (at right) and in the further account of the activities and relations we wish not only to appraise our accomplishments, but also to clarify the job ahead.

## Summary and Evaluations

The first column of figures represents the actual accomplishments of cooperators in 1953. The second column shows the total work done in cooperation with the Holt Soil Conservation District since its beginning 10 years ago. The figures under "current needs" though only estimates are indicators of the job ahead for the Holt County Soil Conservation District. The determination of this third set of figures was made in this way. First, the total conservation needs of the Holt District in a given practice was calculated from state reconnaissance surveys and Soil Conservation District surveys and maps along with field observations of the local service technicians. From this total was taken the combined total of the work accomplished by District cooperators and represents in each practice a close estimate of the current needs in the District. One can further compare the "on land to date" figure with the "current needs" figure on any given practice to determine the degree of speed of accomplishment over the past 10 years of Soil Conservation Service activity in the Holt District.

## Cooperation

In 1953, the state fish and game commission planted five wild life areas in the district. In a new and slightly different project for 1954 the commission can plant up to six belts of cedar trees, four rows per belt, for game cover in the district. All that the farmer is required to do the first year is prepare the

ground and fence the area from livestock.

The district carried on several successful activities and events in conjunction with the local extension service. There were joint tours and gatherings throughout the year as well as a joint annual meeting last March. Help by the technical staff of each service further testified to a high level of cooperation between the Soil Conservation District and the extension service.

## Equipment and Labor

Greater efficiency and output per dollar machinery investment and per hour worked marked 1953's operations. Chief credit must go to our part-time employee, Virgil Laursen, who concerned himself with the performance of the equipment as though it were his own. Every hour's use of the various pieces of machinery seemed to account for some tangible form of output. A hired labor total of 2,238 1/2 man hours cost the district \$2,354.06. Sizeable operations are further indicated by a total of \$3,777.18 worth of seed purchased for resale. Most of the seed was purchased locally. Also \$1,682.32 worth of trees were bought by the district and nearly all of them planted.

The seeding equipment was used extensively with the exception of the Van Brunt grain drill which was sold.

Nearly all of the equipment was involved in a new operation on a demonstrational plot south of Page. The district is very proud of the first year's results of this five-year project. Much credit is due one of the Holt District's board of supervisors, Raymond Heiss, in whose family estate the tract of land belongs. (See story of vetch test plots elsewhere.)

## Business Decreases

In summarizing the Holt District operations for 1953, our to-

tal volume of business shows a decrease from 1952. Our financial position, however, shows improvement in that receipts well exceeded expenditures and our net worth statement was \$7,926.08 as of December 31, 1953, compared to \$5,509.07 as of December 31, 1952.

It should again be mentioned that all the equipment herein referred to is owned and was paid for by the Holt Soil Conservation District, a local county-wide organization. No state or federal finance was ever used in procuring or maintaining this equipment with the exception of an F-20 Farmall tractor, a pull type tree planter, a western land roller, a small stripper and a scales. Federal expenditures are used only for the local staff's salaries, their equipment and instruments. The local district and its equipment is not a part of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, but merely the means by which the service can extend technical help to farmers and ranchers.

It might be well to mention that the activities of the district are carried out by a five member board. The members are: Stanley Lambert of Ewing, chairman; Raymond Heiss of Page, vice-chairman; Elmer Juracek of Star, secretary; Clarence Ernst of O'Neill and Elmer Allyn of Stuart. The board meets at least one day per month in session, plus additional time in special events involving district activities. These positions are filled by a special election in which all land owners are entitled to vote. The elected representatives serve for a period of four years without pay.

In addition to the work performed by the district equipment in the form of dam building, terraces, waterways and drainage ditches, etc., has been done by private contractors.

**Educational Activities**

Many groups and publications again helped to promote conservation agriculture in 1953. All the county newspapers have generously printed periodic articles of the district's activities. The Frontier will again carry this annual report in a special edition—the fifth year in a row.

In line with our "program for greater service" there were nine educational, informational meetings with total attendance of 1,460. One meeting was held with 118 rural teachers present.

A highly successful event was an "all conservation day" program for the seventh and eighth graders of Holt county and their teachers.

Assisting the district in planning this entire program was an education committee consisting of D. E. Nelson, superintendent of the O'Neill public schools, Miss Alice French, county superintendent, A. Neil Dawes, a rural teacher, and Clarence Ernst, supervisor committee chairman.

Six interesting demonstrations were held in 1953—two on grass waterways, two on terracing, one on grass seeding, and one on tree planting. The district organized or helped with four tours.

Farms and ranches with outstanding conservation programs were visited and three district winners were selected. Making the tour and judging the units were these people: Judge D. R. Mounts, Clerk of District Court; Iar Moss, Soil Conservation Technician; C. R. Hill and Weston Whitmer and SCD Supervisors Raymond Heiss and Stanley Lambert. The three winning units were the Joe Wagman farm north of Emmet, Hamilton ranch south of Stuart, and the Lee ranch north of Amelia.

## Essay Contest

The newspapers gave full coverage to the 1953 grade school essay contest which was sponsored by the Holt Soil Conservation District. First place award went to Brenda Margritz of district 8, O'Neill, on her essay, "My Idea of How Conservation Can Help Farmers and Ranchers in Holt County."

The essay contest judges had a very tough time selecting the

1953	On Land to date	Current Needs
Accomplishments	212	1,429
Tree planting	AC	384
Range seeding	AC	130
Stock water dams	No.	775
Farm drains	AC	15,197
Proper range stocking	AC	576
Strip cropping	AC	1,118
Seeding permanent hay	AC	4.5
Terraces	AC	4
Outlets and waterways	AC	5
Drop spillways	No.	3,546
Deferred grazing	AC	20
Fish pond improvement	No.	2,402
Conserv'n crop rotating	AC	No. in 1953
Initial agreements	93	113
Advanced agreements	53	96
Basic agreements	20	343
Total plans on file	166	552

three winners from a total of 44 entries from 14 schools.

**Highlights**

The annual meeting was held last March in conjunction with the extension service. The event featured a very interesting talk on nutrition by Dr. Doretta Schlappoff, chairman of the university home economics department. Another feature was a report by Chris Mack of WMAX on his tour of service in the midwest with the point four program. Mr. Mack's slides and accompanying talk were very descriptive and informative.

**Methods of Accomplishments**

Accomplishments of projects and practices is brought about by various means. There is an indispensable means of the unit, farm or ranch—that is by personally contacting the cooperator or his unit. The local staff does a commendable job of making these contacts, but to accomplish the desired ends by personal contacts only is impossible from the standpoint of time available. Other means such as tours, demonstrations, special meetings, etc., have been adequately mentioned. They indeed help, but these gatherings too often do not reach enough people, or at least those who most need the information. What is needed is a burning desire in every cooperator to protect the God-given resources of soil and its rightful cover.

The local staff was kept very busy in 1953. Much work was done in carrying out duties with the agriculture conservation program. The local staff was charged with determining need, laying out plans, and checking performance in all construction projects for payment. It must be emphasized that definite and final approval on plans for various constructions must be made by the technicians before work can be started on a project. Otherwise the completed project might not meet PMA specifications for payment. To help the staff in this work a five percent fund (in Holt county in 1954 will be five percent of \$81,000) is provided from the total PMA budget with which the SCS can hire help to work on ACP practices.

**Enthusiasm Wanted**

The list of accomplishments in the district attests to sound work of the local staff and their devotion to the ideals of soil conservation. We hope both old and new cooperators pick up some of this enthusiasm for conserving their soil resources.

During 1953 the changes in U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the possibility of shakeups in personnel were for a time disconcerting to the local board of supervisors as well as to the technical staff. Few changes have thus far occurred to alter the good relationship between the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the local district. We sincerely hope that the policy makers do not contemplate reducing the district staff which is already overburdened. We must further voice disapproval of the arbitrary manner in which regional offices of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service were abolished without any so-

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called "consultation with the grass roots" of the established conservation program.

The Holt Soil Conservation District looks forward to ever greater progress in the task of conserving soil and water resources in our county.

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**Holt SCD Reviews Its 10-Year Record**

Many of you may remember signing a petition for the formation of the local soil conservation district during the fall of 1943. This followed a period of advertising the petition and the vote of all land owners and the formation of the district. The formal approval was given at the statehouse when it was signed by Frank Marsh, then secretary of state, on January 27, 1944. Came the election of the first board of supervisors. The four elected by the land owners of the county were: E. J. Revell of Star, Walter G. Sire of O'Neill, F. E. Keyes of Inman and Louis Bernholtz of Page. D. E. Bowen of Page was appointed by the state committee. The first meeting of this board was held March 12, 1944. A list of all supervisors and term of office follows:

Dave Bowen, Page, March, 1944-April, 1952.  
F. E. Keyes, Inman, March, 1944-March, 1952.  
E. J. Revell, Star, March, 1944-March, 1952.  
L. G. Bernholtz, Page, March, 1944-June, 1950.  
Walter G. Sire, O'Neill, March, 1944-April, 1946.  
Carl Lambert, Ewing, April, 1946-June, 1950.  
Elmer Allyn, Stuart, April, 1950-present.  
Clarence Ernst, O'Neill, June, 1950-present.  
Raymond Heiss, Page, June, 1950-present.  
Elmer Juracek, Star, March, 1952-present.  
Stanley Lambert, Ewing, March, 1952-present.

Loren Bredemeier assumed the duties of work unit conservationist in April, 1944. As a matter of interest for those who knew Loren, he moved from O'Neill to Valentine in 1948 when the Cherry County Soil Conservation district began operations. Since then he has served as district conservationist for Cherry, Brown, Rock, Keya Paha, Boyd and Holt counties, and now is serving as state range conservationist with headquarters at North Platte.

Others of the technical staff of the Soil Conservation Service serving the Holt district during the past 10 years are as follows: Murry Cox, C. B. Crook, Earl Spendlove, William H. Shorer, W. D. Whitner, Orville Indra, C. R. Hill, A. I. McMaster, Mervyn Shaw, Charles Sorenson, Harold Young. Part time employees included: Dorothy Karo, John Sorenson, Harold Wilhoit, John Jardee, Gillmore Estenson and Virgil Laursen. Two college students have worked with the technical staff for six weeks during the summer for college credit. They are Louis Reimer, jr., and Harold Leiger.

The activities of the district's operations have grown steadily since the beginning 10 years ago. The service placed on loan a Farmall tractor, tree planter and grain drill in 1945. A few years later in 1949 these were granted

to the district. The district purchased a Dunham seeder treader in 1946, mounted tree planter, John Deere Van Brunt drill and A-C combine in 1950, a skew treader and clipper cleaner in 1951.

In 1946, it rented a small tract of ground from the Burlington railroad and erected a frame building for grass seed storage. In 1950, they rented additional storage and warehouse space from the late R. H. Shrine.

The district has provided an outlet for much of the native grass seed produced in the county and has carried a considerable volume of business in seed and trees. The all time high for volume of business was reached in 1952 when receipts totaled \$17,576.88 and expenditures were \$17,705.71.

F. S. Britzell served as district manager from September, 1951, to October, 1952. Since that time Virgil Laursen has served in that capacity on a part time basis.

In the spring of 1953, the board organized under what is known as the program for greater service. Elmer Allyn, chairman of the finance committee, appointed the following on that committee: F. N. Cronin, O'Neill National bank; J. G. Brewster, Tri-County Bank, Stuart; John Newman, Newman Oil Co., Stuart; Robert Keating, International dealer, Atkinson; and Harry R. Smith, John Deere dealer, O'Neill.

This committee approved a resolution to sell affiliate memberships of Holt Soil Conservation District at \$10 each or greater and that all such money should be used to promote public interest in the activities of the Holt Soil Conservation District.

The following purchased memberships in 1953: O'Neill National bank, O'Neill Livestock Market, Elkhorn Valley National Farm Loan association, O'Neill Production Credit association, Outlaw Implement Co., Harry R. Smith Implement Co., Stearner Equipment Co., O'Neill Grain Co., Marcellus Implement Co., Wm. Krotter Co. and First National bank, all of O'Neill; Newman Oil Co., Tri-County bank, C. R. Myers Implement, Weichman Implement Co., Wm. Krotter Co., all of Stuart; Page Oil Co., of Page, and Farmers State bank and Rocky Implement Co., both of Ewing.

A total of \$220 was collected in this way and has been used as follows:

national association dues	7th and 8th grade cons.	50.00
day expenses	Miss Miller's scholarship to Doane college con. short course	48.50
1000 "How, What & Why of Soil Cons. Districts" pamphlets	Essay contest prizes, 7th and 8th grades	25.00
		8.50
		10.00
		\$142.00

Yesterday still another feature was inaugurated with a 10-minute tape recording over WJAG, immediately following the "Voice of The Frontier." It is hoped that this may become a regular monthly feature of the district but will depend upon reactions of the listening public and the funds available through additional affiliate memberships.

**Emmet News**

Mr. and Mrs. James Foreman and sons of Battle Creek spent Sunday morning visiting Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foreman and family.

Dewayne Perry gave a party Friday afternoon at Emmet school district 20 in honor of his seventh birthday anniversary.

Curtis Peacock gave a party Monday afternoon at Emmet school district 20 in honor of his seventh birthday anniversary.

Gary Buckmaster of Fremont spent the weekend visiting Norma Lou Foreman.

Donna Perry called on Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Dailey at O'Neill on Wednesday afternoon, February 24.

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Fox and Barbara and Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Belzer and Jimmie were Saturday night supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kelly of O'Neill.

Joe Rotherham of Burlington, Ia., was a recent caller on old friends in Emmet.

Mrs. Harold Givens of Stuart and her mother, Mrs. George Pongratz, visited Mrs. Georgiana McGinnis Wednesday afternoon, February 24.

G. Owen ("Bud") Cole and Robert ("Bob") Cole and Larry Schaffer went to Lexington on Saturday to attend a fraternal meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. John Conard and Mr. and Mrs. Guy Cole drove to Omaha last Thursday, returning the same day.


Rev. Francis Price returned home from Omaha Friday eve-

ning after spending several days there.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Owen ("Bud") Cole and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schaffer returned Wednesday night, February 23, from Arapahua, Pa.

Mrs. Alvin Kloppenborg and Patricia were Saturday afternoon visitors of Mrs. Frank Foreman.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bates and family were Sunday dinner guests at the Claude Bates home in O'Neill.



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1950 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe 4-door. Radio, heater, sun visor, and new maroon paint. Reliable	290.00 42.11
1949 Chevrolet Fleetline Deluxe 2-door. Heater, one owner, and beautiful raven black	265.00 34.90
1948 Chevrolet 2-door. Radio, heater, sun visor, and comfort for everybody from Grandma to Junior	215.00 31.84
1947 Chevrolet Club Cpe. Heater and radio. You'll want to get right in and drive right out	165.00 34.37
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1950 Ford 1/2-ton Express. Exceptionally clean and used as a passenger car	235.00 32.37
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Thirsty 22x44 towels in wanted solid colors. You can never have too many of these. Buy now and save!

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**SPECIAL 3 Pr. \$1.77**

### SHEETS

Double bed size fitted sheets. Carefully made, 128 thread count bleached muslin. Long wearing. Get them for every bed.

Each **\$1.77**

## VERDIGRE LIVESTOCK MARKET

### Report of Mar. 1 Sale

Receipts—1100 hogs; 25 sheep; a few cattle, 180 to 240 lb. butchers \$25.50 to \$26.60; 26.60 top. Bulk \$26.10 to \$26.35. Over 400 head selling for over \$26.00. Only 65 head in this weight range under \$26.00. 240 to 270 lb. butchers \$24.50 to \$25.60. 270 to 350 lb. \$23.75 to \$25.30. 350 lb. and up \$21.50 to \$23.60. Sows, \$21.00 to \$23.60. Feeder pigs, \$26.50 to \$33.00. Loading NINE cars by rail Tuesday morning. Well bred, well mated, meat type brood sows selling good; a lot over \$100.00 per head. Will have more well bred Hampshire sows next week.

## SPECIAL

### Dairy Calf Sale — Friday Night, March 5

— 7 P.M. —

### CALF GIVEN AWAY FREE

We will have 60 to 70 head of fresh calves, direct from Barron county, Wisconsin, the heart of the dairy country, 60 miles northeast of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Holsteins, Guernseys, Brown Swiss and Milking Shorthorns; all TB tested. These calves come straight through, loaded in Wisconsin and unloaded in Verdigre. An ideal time, with spring and summer coming up to get dairy calves from a state with a reputation for heavy producing herds. Consigned by Rex Anderson and he has a reputation of handling quality stock.

Thanking you for your business and will appreciate your future business.

## W. LLOYD BRADY

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## DAIRY QUEEN

Tastes Better!

In Cones  
Sundaes  
Malts & Shakes  
Quarts & Pints

## OPEN SUNDAYS

10 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
(Unless the weather is bad)

## Hornby's Dairy Queen

## DAIRY CALF AUCTION

### 75 HEAD

Holsteins — Guernseys — Brown Swiss

## O'NEILL LIVESTOCK MARKET

O'Neill, Nebr.

## Friday, March 12

— 8 P.M. —

These will be calves weighing 200 to 300 pounds, all TB and Bangs tested. These calves are from top dairy herds and purchased direct from the country. Why not purchase quality when you buy your dairy calves?

## FREE — One Calf Given — FREE

## ALBERT G. FRIESS

— OWNER —  
Rice Lake, Wisconsin

## Auctioneer: ED EVANS