

Results of Local Program Find Many In Area Participating

The Holt Soil and Water Conservation District is not a Federal agency. The District is a local organization, a sub division of our State Government, governed by a board of supervisors elected by the land owners within the District. This Board, within the framework of our State laws is subject only to the local people, a prime example of democratic local self government. Our State law gives to these supervisors the authority and responsibility of the conservation and orderly development of our natural resources, namely Soil and Water.

WHAT IS CONSERVATION

Conservation is not the hoarding of the Soil and Water resources. Conservation is use without abuse. Use of the Capital (land) without depreciation.

The land can be compared to money in the bank. If you take out only what either one will normally produce you can maintain your income and capital forever. If you take more from your capital or land than it will normally produce, you are living on capital. Your capital value gets smaller, finally you have used up your capital (land) or if you live on what is left, you are living in poverty. The difference being that money in the bank is replaceable from other sources while our natural resources take a lifetime or more to replace, some times they cannot be replaced.

EDUCATION

In conservation, as in any other project, education is the important key to getting the job done. In the absence of a good conservation education program the District board has taken the lead in sponsoring a very active program in cooperation with others in this field. We have called on the help of our County School Superintendent, our County School Teachers, Extension Service, Soil Conservation Service, Department of Education, Game Commission, Forest Service, State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Nebraska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Press, etc. All of these individuals and agencies are helping us to create an awareness in the general public of the need to conserve our basic resources, Soil and Water.

This past year the District Board carried on a conservation education program that brought attention to the need for more conservation of the earth for school teacher and every child in the county. This was an intense program whereby the teachers were given some idea of how to teach conservation in their schools. Our State law provides that Soil and Water conservation shall be taught in our schools but no method or material had been provided for the teachers. In other phases of conservation education carried on by the District are Range judging, grass identification and good range management in Holt County we have in this field some of the top boys and girls and also adults. They have won first and third in 4-H Range judging in Nebraska. Also we have some of the top adults in this field. Land Judging is another valuable project.

SOIL STEWARDSHIP

Our Soil Stewardship program is designed to bring to more people the need for conserving our natural resources. In this way it is brought to people who may never have any other opportunity of learning this need. We have had the help of National Church leaders of all denominations in sponsoring this program.

Farmers are most disposed to become good stewards of the soil when attitudes of the community and the Nation toward conservation are approving.

The way man manages his land affects his fellow men. Soil poorly used and ill tended results in wasted fields and in impoverished communities. It is our hope that through our Soil Stewardship program we can stimulate the thought and to remind all people of their responsibility to God for the wise use and protection of His land. The soil is a living thing, yet it can be destroyed. This soil is a fruitful thing, yet it can become sterile. This soil is God's gift to mankind, given into our stewardship, yet it can be despoiled and wasted. God has willed that we can live with it, we cannot live without it. Consider this Soil, consider it well.

DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

The District has purchased a 15 minute film entitled "The Earth is the Lord's" which will be available for showing to public groups, church groups, schools, Chambers of Commerce, etc. You will have an opportunity to see this film at our Conservation Awards Night, March 11, 1960. The local District also owns many pieces of equipment that it provides for its cooperators use. They have tree planters, native grass drills, treaders, range inter-seeder, and such equipment which a farmer or rancher would not ordinarily use enough to justify owning it himself. Through District co-operation this equipment is used cooperatively by the local farmers and ranchers without financial hardship on anyone.

The District native grass drills are certainly the answer to the problem of seeding bulky native grass seeds. The drills are so designed so that the seed is put into the ground at the exact proper depth. The excellent stands that we have seen as a result of these machines will certainly speed up reseeding of much crop land that is not considered good enough for crop production.

These drills are available to all of our co-operators regardless of where they buy their grass seed. There are now several good sources of seed within the area, seed houses, hardware stores, etc. However, the District does try to maintain a good supply of native grass seed. If you need more native grass seed or if good native grass seed is unavailable at a fair price, your local Soil and Water Conservation District will be happy to assist you in securing your requirements.

The Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors serves without pay. They receive not a penny for their time. In fact, they seldom receive their out of pocket expenses. Promoting conservation is a satisfying experience that cannot be bought. Let's take care of our basic resource. Our financial school problems will be lessened, most other problems will be easier to take care of or will disappear altogether.

SCS Program Allows Fish Control Funds

The Fisheries Division of the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission is presently carrying on several programs designed to improve the sport of fishery of the state. These programs can be described as either (1) management and development or (2) research. Both types of programs are currently underway in Holt County.

Within the scope of fisheries management the greatest returns to date have been by using chemicals to remove undesirable rough or trash fish, by curbing excessive growths of vegetation and by suitably stocking and properly managing new ponds.

Controlling undesirable fish through chemical treatment is a rather new management tool in Nebraska. The reasons for chemical treatment of ponds and lakes are quite simple. A few fish in a pond generally grow fast and large, and most of them stay small. Moreover, if many of the fish are rough fish, the game fish grow slower and there may be fewer of them. Under such conditions, increasing the basic food supply (by fertilizing, for example) merely allows more small fish to exist—on starvation rations. The cure is often a drastic reduction of unwanted fish by chemical treatment with selective toxicants.



One of the tools of good fish pond management is use of Rotenone to reduce over populated ponds and get rid of rough fish. Pictured above are Bruce McCarragher and Fred Salak using rotenone on a local fish pond.

Controlling excessive pond or lake vegetation appears to be a prime problem throughout Holt County. There are two main ways of attacking weeds and algae in ponds. The first of these is mechanical control. This includes such techniques as raking or dragging out filamentous algae, pulling out weeds by the roots, or cutting them off as close to the bottom as possible. These methods are seldom practical and require time and labor. In the majority of ponds chemical vegetation control is probably the quickest, easiest, most effective and cheapest method known. This method consists simply of distributing small amounts of a chemical in the water or, in the case of emergent weeds, spraying directly on the plants themselves. Many things influence the amount of chemical needed to control algae and weeds. For this reason, a trained fisheries biologist should be consulted before any treatment is started.

Fish stocking, perhaps the oldest and most abused of the fish management tools, still retains an important place under the modern day fisheries program. The hatchery product is today used only for stocking warm-water fish into new or renovated waters, for restocking winter kill lakes and for introducing exotic species into Nebraska waters. The policy of the Game Commission is to give primary obligation to the stocking of state owned or leased waters and to private waters where the owners allow an adequate harvest of fish. Owners of private waters must agree that no fee, trespass or otherwise will be charged for fishing before fish can be allotted to them. All federal applications must be approved by the Game Commission.

Pond owners who wish to receive fish from either the state or federal government should not permit any fish of any species to be stocked with a fishery biologist.

Fish available for pond stocking are largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. In ponds where the specific requirements of other fish such as trout, northern pike and rock bass are met, these fish may be stocked. Bullheads, crappies, green sunfish, yellow perch and carp have not proven to be satisfactory for small ponds in Holt County. Although these species may do well in a pond for several years after stocking, they invariably cause population problems.

Generally most Holt County ponds are suitable for the bass-bluegill-catfish association. Stocking rates should be kept at 200 fingerlings per acre, unless the pond is unusually fertile. Fat northern pike, bluegill combination has been experimentally tried in several large north central Nebraska ponds with good success.

There are two state fishery biologists available to assist pond and lake owners with their special management problems. The region east of O'Neill is covered by the biologist from Norfolk while the biologist stationed at Bassett covers western Holt County.

Date 2-18-60
By D. B. McCarragher
Dist. Fisheries Supv.
Box 34
Bassett, Nebr.

Fairchild Tells Purpose of Holt SCS District

What is an SCS district? What is the federal? What is its tax levy? These are just a few of the many questions asked every day concerning the operation of the local soil and water conservation district.

Probably less is known, and more confusion exists, concerning the organization and operation of these districts than any other local public agency. This is true, even though in Nebraska there are 8 soil and water conservation districts that embrace every acre of agricultural land within the state.

Early conservation enthusiasts were of the opinion that in a democratic society the soil and water conservation program should be governed by the local people. Soil and water conservation districts were "tailored" to give this grass roots government.

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ranchers in the county since it started.

During the past year there were twelve landowners who received a total of 15,000 pieces of planting stock, and over 3 miles of fencing material for wildlife cover area developments.

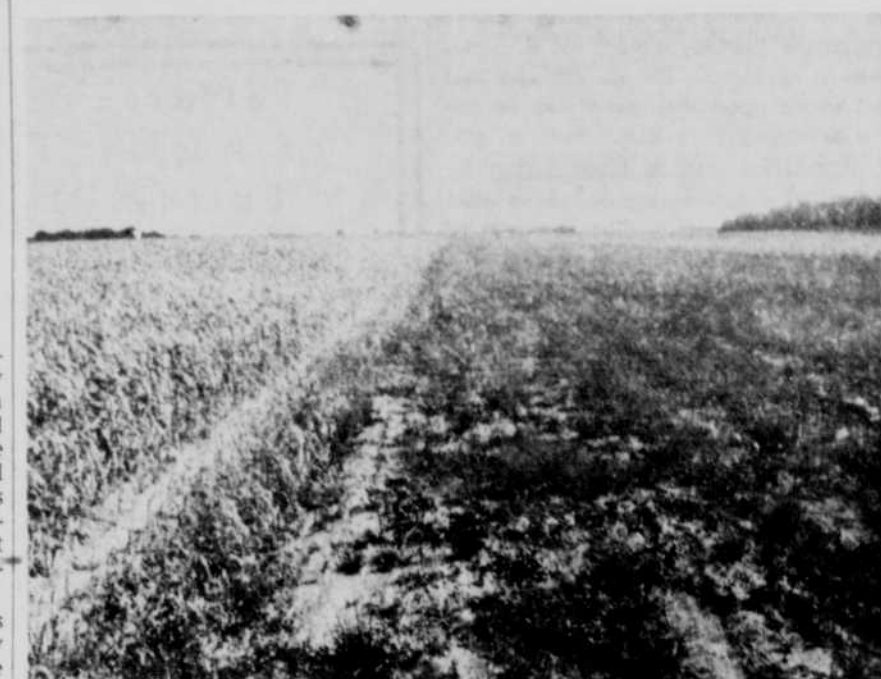
The supply of planting stock is depleted for the 1960 season however; the Nebraska Game, Forestation and Parks Commission will furnish landowners and operators with trees, shrubs and fencing material for the establishment of wildlife cover plantings for 1961 and later years. Fencing materials are also available for the protection of many types of existing cover.

Tree and shrub stock furnished by the Commission may be used in any of the following ways: field borders, field divisions, odd area

plantings, livestock shelters, control of wind and snow drift, improvement of farm ponds, and the block type plantings designed for winter time protection of game birds and animals.

The Game Commission will furnish the planting stock and fencing materials to landowners without charge; however, land owners must agree to be responsible for soil preparation, the planting of trees and shrubs, cultivation and the erection of any fence.

Individuals who are interested in a wildlife cover development project should contact the Game Commission District Supervisor of Land Management, Bassett, The Soil Conservation Service or Agriculture Agent. A representative of the Game, Forestation and Parks Commission will then contact the interested individual.



Left—Sudan grass as a cover crop in preparation for seeding native grass. Right—Previous years grass seeding. Photo on Ivan Minshall place are seedlings made under the Great Plains program. Good seed bed preparation, use of cover crop and planting with Nesbit grass drill has increased the amount of successful native grass seedlings.

Many times soil and water conservation districts have been referred to as SCS districts. This is a common mistake. It can be attributed to the close and successful relationship between these districts and the Soil Conservation Service, which is a federal agency. This close association between the districts and SCS is natural, because these two organizations have similar responsibilities and their activities complement each other.

Even though districts and the SCS cooperate on many projects, district supervisors highly resent having their districts referred to as SCS districts, the inference being that these districts have only one purpose and that is to support and lobby for the Soil Conservation Service (this they do very willingly and ably, but it is just one of their jobs). Soil and water conservation districts are assigned the responsibility of coordinating and cooperating with any and all organizations that have an interest in conservation. When called SCS districts, there is also the further inference that SWCD supervisors are federally paid employees.

Soil and water conservation districts in Nebraska do not have the power of taxation. They raise money to support their activities by the operation of conservation equipment; sale of grass seed and trees; and by receiving contributions in cash, materials and services from generous cooperators and patrons.

The motto for soil and water conservation districts of America is "Conservation, Development and Self-Government." The success of this democratic approach to conservation can be attested to by the general public acceptance of the importance of conservation in a short period of 20 years. In Nebraska, this success is "borne out" by the fact that this state builds 25% of the nation's terraces, and is a leader in range conservation, soil waterway construction and land preparation for irrigation. The people of this state and nation owe a debt of gratitude for the dedicated service of our district supervisors. These men and women have been elected to the most important public office in your county—that of conserving your livelihood—your soil and water resources.

Game Commission In Tenth Year Cover Development

The 1960 planting season will be the Game Commission's tenth year in cover development work in Holt County. This program which is designed to increase and stabilize the population of upland game has provided over 130,000 trees and shrubs to 72 different farmers and

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O'Neill, Nebraska

THURS., MAR. 10

Ray Delanty, Owner

Onawa, Iowa

Amelia News

By Miss Florence Lindsey

The Womens Society of Christian Service met at the home of Mrs. Edith Anderson on Wednesday, Mar. 2. There were 10 members present. The lesson on "Stewardship" was led by Mrs. Ernie Johnston. Mrs. Dick Doolittle and Mrs. Anderson served the lunch.

Edgar Peterson was an O'Neill caller March 1.

The Glenn White family are enjoying a TV set.

Mrs. Vern Sageser, Mrs. Link Sageser, Mrs. Clyde Widman, Mrs. Lew Backhaus, Mrs. Lloyd Waldo, and Mrs. George Fullerton were among the Amelia ladies attending World Day of Prayer at Chambers Methodist church at Chambers Friday.

Mrs. Stella Sparks of Chambers called on Mrs. Blake Ott Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Vern Sageser and Mrs. Link Sageser attended the Garden club meeting at the home of Mrs. Stevens near Martha Tuesday evening, Mar. 1.

Mrs. Art Doolittle has a new clothes dryer and Mrs. Dary Carr is enjoying a new deep freeze.

Correction: Mr. and Mrs. Lew Backhaus will not get their new car for about a month.

Mrs. Delia Ernst and Leo Carney were dinner guests at Mrs. Effie Withers Saturday.

Cathy Doolittle spent Saturday night with Beth Fullerton.

Ray Forbes visited his mother, Mrs. Maude Forbes, Tuesday, Mar. 1. Mrs. Forbes accompanied him to his home near Clearwater and has been visiting there the past week.

Mr. and Mrs. Vern Sageser were O'Neill callers Wednesday morning and again on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lewis of Atkinson have recently moved to Wayne where Mr. Lewis plans to take training for an insurance

position. He had been serving on the Atkinson police force. Mrs. Lewis is the former Charlotte Berry, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Berry of the Amelia vicinity.

Debra Waldo along with other members of a tap dancing team competed in the talent contest at the Farmers Co-op meeting held in O'Neill Monday evening, Feb. 29. The group tied with another group for first place.

Mrs. Dick Doolittle and Mrs. Lee Gilman were Norfolk callers Tuesday, Mar. 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Widman attended the PTA meeting at Stuart Wednesday evening. Freeman Decker of Lincoln was the speaker. They also attended the school meeting in O'Neill Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Mary Price is staying with her son, Rev. Francis Price, at the Catholic manse in Emmet.

The temperature fell to 21 below here Friday morning. We have not received much snow, but the cold weather has certainly made news scarce.

Charlie Sigman entertained several of his friends Saturday night in honor of his birthday anniversary. He served a midnight dinner of roast goose and dressing, roast pork sandwiches, coffee and doughnuts.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Adair entertained Saturday evening in honor of the birthday anniversaries of her mother, Mrs. Art Doolittle, her son, Jerry Adair and Mrs. Adair also has a birthday soon.

Other guests were Mr. Doolittle and Dale, Delbert Rossman, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Robertson, and Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Peterson.

Mr. and Mrs. S.C. Barnett spent Sunday with their daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Glen White and Venita.

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(POSTPONED FROM MARCH 8)

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SHOW 9:00 A.M. SALE 1:00 P.M.

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CHARLES CORKLE, Auctioneer

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For Catalog Write

A. M. ENGLEHAUPT, Butte, Nebr., Sale Mgr.

O'Neill Locals

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bartos and family were Sunday supper guests in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fora Knight.

Mrs. C. W. Porter had for dinner guest Sunday, Mrs. A. B. Hubbard of Chambers.

Lois Nelson, Elaine Miller, Sherri Ann Knepper and Marilyn Strong were weekend visitors in O'Neill. The girls attend Beauty school at Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Mahony and family were Sunday guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Arnold at Stuart.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Cunningham and the family of the Neligh were Sunday guests in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Le Roy Cunningham.

Mrs. H. J. Harte returned Monday from California where she was a three month visitor in the home of her sister, Mrs. H. W. Morgan at Arlington.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Janzing visited their son, Gene, Sunday at Fullerton, where he is employed.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller and Mrs. Delbert Boelter went to Stanton Wednesday where they attended funeral services for Mrs. Paul Deek, a cousin of Mrs. Johnson.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Connors of Greeley were Sunday visitors in the home of her mother, Mrs. M. J. Wallace.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Crawford of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Walter and family of Chambers were Saturday dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Jones.

John and Carl Kamphaus of Bartlett were Saturday evening and lunch guests in the home of their mother, Mrs. Juliana Kamphaus.

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