

## Second Installment of Holt Soil An dWater Conservation Report

### Supervisors From Area at National Confab

Two bus loads of supervisors and their wives made up the Nebraska delegation which left Omaha on Jan. 30 for the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Seventy farmers and ranchers from Holt and water conservation districts of Nebraska represented our State at the national convention, February 1 to 4.

Supervisors from the Holt Soil and Water Conservation District who were on the trip: Mr. and Mrs. Elmer, Juracek, Mr. and Mrs. Mervyn Omaha, Sr. and Walter Fick.

The trip from Omaha to Louisville is nearly 750 miles, so there was an overnight stop at Springfield, Illinois. This is located right in the heart of the "Land of Lincoln". Time was taken on Sunday morning, Jan. 31 to visit the Lincoln museum, his home and the Lincoln tomb. Those who had missed attending their church that Sunday morning mentioned that they couldn't help feeling that visiting the Lincoln tomb was as good as going to church. As you soon know that the feeling of deep reverence and a knowledge that though all great men must die, the principles by which they lived, live forever.

It was night and neon signs played their continual flash and sparkle every where as the buses pulled to a stop at their destination, the Kentucky Hotel. Soon the already filled lobby was overflowing as the folks from the Beef State, all wearing their Western hats and Nebraska ribbons mingled through the crowd. Folks from the friendly people of Nebraska, one of the most soil conservation minded states, had arrived.

There was not room for all of the crowd to see the premiere showing of the film, "The Earth is the Lord's," that evening at the Soil Stewardship inspirational meeting.

This film was shown again later and every one should try to see this film when they have the opportunity to see it this year.

The main part of the convention opened on Monday, Feb. 1 in the Flag room of the Kentucky hotel. From the very start Nebraskans figured strongly in the picture at the convention. Mr. Bill Richards of Orleans, Nebraska is the national president of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts. He was later re-elected to a two year term. Nebraskans also took a very active part in the discussions in the Area meetings and committee meetings which followed. The most discussion seemed to center around the Great Plains Program and increasing concern over the use of water in the future. Even the speaker at the Wednesday evening banquet, another Nebraskan, Secretary of the Interior Fred Seaton, talked on this increasingly important subject, water. His speech was an excellent one, not only in subject matter and presentation but the ending left his audience in complete agreement.

Other Nebraskans figuring in the convention were Warren Fairchild, Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Committee, Dempsey McNeil, president of the Nebraska Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Everett Barr of Liberty Nebraska was given recognition. He was presented a bronze plaque for being one of the men of the first group who gathered in Chicago in 1946 and helped found the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts.

Aside from the more serious business at the convention, some other events were "Kentucky Night" and the Nebraska breakfast. The Kentuckians won many awards for their entertainment and their well received by the 2000 guests. Two radio shows were recorded plus other musical numbers and audience participation stunts. Nebraskans again shared in the winning several door prizes and taking part in the program.

Dale Williamson, Assistant Executive Secretary of the Nebraska Soil and Water Conservation Committee was our tour manager. As the convention came to a close on Feb. 4, we had the opportunity to take several side trips and we made stops at the Calvert Distillery, Speed museum and Churchill Downs, site of the Kentucky Derby. While the ladies visited a pottery factory, the men went to the International Harvester factory and saw them make Farmall tractors. Here they saw every step in their manufacture, from the hot, molten metal as it was poured into the molds, to where the operator climbed up on the seat, pushed the starter button and drove it off the assembly line. To most of these farmers and ranchers this was one of the most interesting parts of all the tours. Other side trips included Fort Knox, Patton

Museum and a trip into the world famous Mammoth Cave.

On Feb. 5th, we drove toward the Blue Grass section around Lexington. This day we encountered more of Kentucky's "unusual weather". The area was a beautiful sight with gentle rolling hills covered with a thick carpet of blue grass sod. Each small farm boasted a set of attractive buildings and well trimmed shade trees. All corrals and line fences were uniform white board fences. One could drive for miles and the neat, white board fences were every where. The barns and stables on the places where stops were made were better built than many houses we had seen.

When they started talking houses you heard figures which would make you dizzy. A colt just a few weeks old was valued at \$2,500. At Spendthrift farm which is a boarding farm for many of the famous horses, we saw Nashua, the immortal racer. Other world famous horses here included Royal Charger, Gallant Man and Jet Pilot, all valued from a half to a million dollars each. Real estate values are high here, too. One 74 acre place had sold last spring for \$132,000. When one thinks of the money involved in this kind of society, you get to thinking maybe the Lord loves the rich, too.

We hadn't noticed in the rain that the buses had headed north and by afternoon we crossed the Ohio river into Cincinnati and evening found us stopping in Peoria Illinois. One comment heard often was "where is all of the corn stored which was harvested off this deep, rich farmland?" We saw few crabs of bins anywhere. And where were the cattle? We saw hardly any feed lots along the highways we traveled.

As we drove westward across Iowa, we saw more and more snow. Conflicting weather reports outside began to worry many about the folks they had left in charge at home. As the group of farm and ranch folk disbanded every one expressed gladness that they had taken the time to visit with old friends and make new ones at the convention, but it was good to be home again.

Any one would have enjoyed meeting these people who are involved in the work of conserving our most valuable possessions, soil and water. They are a dedicated people and you couldn't buy what they are doing. Nearly every one is busy back in his home territory in many different kinds of civic work. They could discuss not only conservation, but one could start a friendly, fact finding conversation on such subjects as education or delinquency. Upon meeting that there is no more necessary work to be done than investing a little of our time in building a better tomorrow.

### Excerpts from National Talk

Excerpts from a talk made by D.A. Williams, Administrator, Soil Conservation Service, before the annual meeting of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, Louisville, Kentucky, February 1, 1950.

"It is a great pleasure to meet with you once again, and to share with you some views and observations on the soil and water conservation job we work at together. We all agree that the soil conservation job doesn't move ahead as fast as we'd like. Many problems and frustrations arise in this work that worry and hinder us.

One of our big problems is that too many people in the country still do not know what a soil conservation district is, or even what soil conservation really means. This is true, despite the fact that your 2,867 soil conservation districts now include within their boundaries about 95 percent of all the farms and ranches in the country.

This is true despite the fact that today nearly two million farmers and ranchers and other land owners have become cooperators with their districts.

It is true despite the fact that 20 States in the country are completely covered by districts, and only four States have less than 70 percent of their land within districts.

Yes, we have reason to be impatient when we see that so many people in the country are still uninformed on the urgency of soil and water conservation. Certainly districts cannot make their maximum contribution to the well-being of our Nation until people generally know and face the facts about the future. In fifty years, for example, we shall have to feed and clothe twice as many people from about the same acreage of cropland that we use today. The improved technology of soil and water conservation, brought to the land through soil conservation districts will be one of our principal means of meeting that doubled demand.

But not many people really understand this problem. We still have some distance to go before the soil conservation program achieves that degree of understanding throughout the Nation.

It is true, nevertheless, and a matter of great satisfaction, that soil conservation districts have already had a very great impact upon American agriculture. One of the ways of obtaining the greater public understanding we seek is to do better job of calling to public attention those very considerable changes and advances that the soil conservation district program has brought to bear in less than 25 years.

Fly across this country on a clear day and you'll see many of the trademarks of the soil conservation district program.

The familiar contour strip-cropping pattern was not an exclusive invention of soil conservation districts, of course. But it was not until the widespread organization of these very considerable changes and advances that the soil conservation district program has brought to bear in less than 25 years.

Farm ponds were not invented by soil conservation districts, but the district program has sprinkled them widely across the country to provide better water and grazing management and improved wildlife habitat.

Looking behind the more dramatic and visible evidences, it was the soil conservation district program which put into practical use the basic concept of classifying land according to its capability. The idea of using every acre within its capability and treating it according to its individual needs, has been the core of the soil and water conservation program in districts.

I think this one concept has done more to help landowners and operators become conservationists than any other single development in the district program.

One third, approximately, of all the farms and ranches in the country have basic soil conservation plans built around land capability information. These conservation plans are themselves an historic development in American agriculture. The importance of the basic plan, as it is termed in the district program, lies not only in the essential soil and land capability information it contains. It also relates to that data the decisions of the farmer or rancher as to what treatment and he plans to make of each parcel of land. This approach to planning over as the first really practical, yet scientific approach to the resource problems on a given unit of land.

Another basic concept of tremendous importance that has come out of the district program is recognition of the simple but dramatic fact that soil, water, and vegetation are closely interrelated in their treatment and use. Early conservationists tried, unsuccessfully, to attack soil erosion from the purely mechanical standpoint. They combined vegetative practices with engineering practices—according to the needs of the soil—and in combinations related to the capability of the land and the plans of the landowner.

Westerners know the important change in the approach to range conservation that came into use with the soil conservation district program. The whole conservation program on Western rangelands changed when emphasis was shifted from the old idea of "carrying capacity" and control of livestock numbers to the idea that grass is a forage crop, to be managed as such. It was not until the district program developed this emphasis that stockmen generally came to understand and accept efforts to achieve soil and water conservation and build up ranges at the same time.

As a matter of fact, it is safe to say that soil conservation districts that take credit for much of the grassland program that has taken hold throughout the entire country. Last years farmers and ranchers in soil conservation districts alone seeded grass on more than 1 1/2 million acres of range land and planted improved pasture on just over three million acres. This program has been especially dramatic in the South where diversified farming has largely taken the place of the old single-crop system.

Many of the most useful grasses and legumes now in wide use were introduced or developed in nurseries or plant material centers established to aid soil conservation districts.

Soil conservation districts have made tremendous contributions to the grassland conservation. Working cooperatively with State forestry agencies and the Department of Agriculture, farmers in soil conservation districts alone planted trees on more than one million acres in 1958—an increase of 39 percent over the previous year.

We know today that the principal opportunity for increasing wildlife numbers lies in improved habitat on privately owned farm and ranch lands. As a result this phase of conservation work in soil conservation districts has taken on added importance. Every year, several hundred thousands of acres in districts are developed specifically for wildlife benefit, in addition to the benefits to wildlife that come from many of the regular soil and water conserving practices. A number of outstanding developments of benefit to wildlife such as the use of multiflora rose and sericea lespedeza, have grown out of the district program.

I could go for some time reciting noteworthy contributions to American agriculture that have come from or have been closely identified with the soil and water conservation program in districts. These things are all a matter of great satisfaction, of course. But they didn't just happen. They came about because there was a need—because districts provided the kind of conservation organization and local leadership needed—because districts provided a medium through which effective teamwork between local people and many agencies of State and Federal government could be achieved.

New developments are coming along rapidly. Some 3,600 farmers and ranchers now have contracts and plans for some 10 million

acres in the Great Plains Conservation Program. Their experience gives districts in that region a new opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of proper methods of technical planning and cost sharing for conservation.

I would be remiss if I did not mention one of the most significant by-products of the district movement. That is the aggressive, non-political, non-sectarian, unselfish, and unpaid leadership of men and women serving on the governing bodies of districts. You have become leaders in agriculture, leaders in conservation, and leaders of men.

Yes, the contributions and accomplishments of soil conservation districts, and their leaders, and their farmers and ranchers, are tremendous—America already owes districts—whether it knows it or not—an enormous debt of gratitude.

But you are not looking for gratitude. There is no time for patting yourselves on the back. The challenge to us all is to look ahead, not backward. There can be no stopping place in conservation progress so long as part of the job remains undone. Districts, and those work with districts, must remain alert and flexible, ready to accommodate to ever-changing conditions—always seeking new techniques and new solutions to old and new problems. And they must enlist the support and understanding of every man, woman and child in the Nation for this urgent work.

It is a huge, and a demanding task, but since the goal is better living for every one, can there be any more satisfying, any more challenging job in the world than this?

### Senator Case Says Resources Important

The fourteenth Annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America was held at Rapid City, South Dakota in August 1959.

The following quotation is taken from an address made by Senator Francis Case of South Dakota at that meeting.

"The basic resource of most farmers is soil. Variations in soil conditions create for each farm special management problems to which no uniform design or plan of operations can be applied. This is where the specialist and the man on the land meet. The adequate appraisal of a farm's capabilities—its assets and deficiencies—and the development of a plan of operations requires teamwork of both the farmer and the technicians."

"There is an increasing tendency to oversimplify the science of soil conservation. Too often there is the view that an adequate plan of operation can be developed on a 'do-yourself' basis. Nothing can be further from the truth. The soil scientist and technician knows his business. Just as each individual needs particular advice from his physician and attorney, so each farmer requires the attention of the specialist in soil conservation. Despite the massive progress which has been made since the 1930's, there remains much to be done. While such techniques as contour tillage, contour strip cropping, terracing, and sod waterways are all accepted means of slowing the pace of soil deterioration, there are still too few farmers utilizing these methods."

### Great Plains Program—What Does It Do?

The Great Plains Conservation Program was enacted by the Congress in April 1956 but appropriations did not become available until a year later. In August 1957, Secretary of Agriculture, Ezra Taft Hootch activated the program and issued regulations and operating procedures for 221 counties in the Great Plains States, which were eligible to receive program assistance. By May 1959, the number of designated counties had grown from the original 221 to 331.

In the Great Plains States the number of participants increased from four in December 1957 to 2,131 in May 1959. In addition, 2,665 farmers and ranchers had applications pending.

In Holt County there are 18 participants and 11 applications pending. The first contract was completed May 8, 1958 and the last application was signed in February 1960.

The objective of the program is to give technical and cost-sharing assistance to farmers and ranchers in developing and carrying out, on a voluntary basis, a conservation plan of operations that will use the land within its capabilities, have greater stability through cropping and grazing systems, land use changes and the application of enduring soil and water conservation practices.

The plan of operations and cost-sharing of Federal Funds are arranged to get the conservation job speeded up and done in no less than three years nor more than ten years on any farm or ranch. A complete soil and water conservation plan is based on the careful studies of the range and soil condition obtained by the Soil Conservation Service Technicians. With these facts, the plan is made to use the land within its capabilities and to fit the needs of the unit and operator.

The farmer or rancher is eligible to participate in the program if the owner or operator lives within the county, has control over land considered to be an operating unit, furnishes a plan of operations and enters into a contract.

The Soil Conservation Service technicians will assist the farmer or rancher in developing and carrying out a plan of operations. The farmer or rancher is encouraged to carry out his plan of operations as rapidly as climatic conditions and his own resources permit.

The contract also has flexibility in that it may be amended to include additional land or to de-lease land sold and to change the time schedule to meet the variations in weather and farm income conditions which may interfere with the completion of a conservation practice.

An individual can collect a cost-share payment when he has carried out a practice or an identifiable unit of his plan, has applied for payment, and the technician from the Soil Conservation Service has certified performance and compliance.

### Atkinson News

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack went to Butte Sunday where they attended the family get-together at the home of Mrs. Colfack's mother, Mrs. Adolph Arp. The occasion was in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Arp and family, who recently held a farm sale and have purchased a trailer home and will move to New Mexico where Mr. Arp has employment.

Harold Dunlap, a real estate appraisal agent from Lincoln county came Monday and is spending the week working in Holt county. He is staying at the Wefso home while in this territory.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson and Jim went to Dunlap Sunday where they were dinner guests in the home of Mrs. Johnson's father, Mr. H. L. McMullen. Sunday evening they were supper guests of her brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Art McMullen.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Juracek were Friday evening callers in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson and Jim.

Mrs. Harvey Steinhauser and Tommy and Mrs. John Steinhauser and Mrs. John Freidel of Stuart were Friday afternoon visitors of Mrs. Harvey Steinhauser's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson in Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Sladek came up from Schulzy Saturday and were overnight guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Arp, and were Sunday dinner guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lad Sladek. They returned to their home Sunday evening.

Mrs. Ruth Rocke was hostess to the Atkinson Extension club at her home in Atkinson assisted by Mrs. Ruth Funk, on March 9. Fourteen members answered roll call with, "How do you clean your windows?"

There were two lessons given at this meeting. Mrs. Warren Marr and Mrs. Richard Crippen presented the lesson on, "Shoes That Fit."

### MILLER THEATER

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Sun. - Mon. - Tues. - Wed.  
Mar. 20 - 21 - 22 - 23



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"Hey, Sweetie, how'd you like a new Chevy?"

"Oh, Freddie" (sigh)

"The dealer's got just the model we want, Sweetie. Right color, right everything."

"Oh, Freddie" (sigh)

"In fact he's got the biggest selection I ever saw. No problem at all to find what you want."

"Oh, Freddie" (sigh)

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"Oh, Freddie" (sigh)

"And deal! Sweetie, wait'll I tell you the deal they've offered me. This is the time to buy all right."

"Well, don't just stand there, Freddie. Go ahead and buy it."

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guest, Mrs. Elmer Holm of Butte. Mrs. Wilmer McConnell was hostess on Wednesday afternoon to the Eldeen Extension club. Twelve members answered roll call by naming their favorite kind of shoes. The lesson was presented by Mrs. Ed Jensen and Mrs. Ed Dvorak on "Shoes That Fit."

Contest winners were Mrs. Dale Barnes and Mrs. Arthur Pacha.

The next meeting April 13 will be with Mrs. Harry Mlinar and roll call will be answered with a "Funny Riddle."

Mrs. Gary Lech was hostess to the Happy Homemakers Extension

club on Wednesday afternoon, assisted by Mrs. Dean Funk. The lesson on, "Shoes That Fit," was presented by Mrs. Ray Elsbury and Mrs. Maynard Coleman. Roll call was answered by nine members with some thing about St. Patrick's Day.

The next meeting will be on April 13 with Mrs. Maynard Coleman at which time a Chinese auction will be held.

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### Notice To Bidders . . .

Specifications for bid on 1960 Police car  
4-door sedan; six cylinder engine (Min. Cu. In. 220); Automatic Transmission; Oil Bath air cleaner (or Comparable); Oil Filter; Standard radio; Heater and defroster; 50 amp. lowcut in Gen. with matching regulator; electric windshield wipers; back-up lights; front seat covers (fibre); both driver and passenger sun visors; Flasher type red dome signal lamp on car top; transfer two way radio from old to new car; transfer fender police lamp from old to new car.

Trade in — 1958, 6 cyl. Ford, 4-door

Bids will be opened Wednesday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., at City Council meeting. Submit bids to City Clerk. Council reserves the right to accept or reject all bids.