

Narrative Report

(Editor's Note: The supervisors of the Holt County Soil Conservation District—D. E. Bowen, chairman; E. J. Revell, vice-chairman; Carl Lambert, secretary-treasurer; F. E. Keyes, member, and L. G. Bernholtz, member—present here with their narrative report for the year 1949):

Important Practices—

The Holt Soil Conservation District has shown considerable progress in 1949 in several ways. Possibly the most outstanding is furnishing trees and planting services at a minimum cost to the cooperator.

The promotion of shelterbelts and farmstead plantings according to approved planning has proven a very white benefit.

In an area such as ours, the production of cattle being probably the most important phase of agriculture, conservation measures which add to this enterprise are of prime importance. These high ranking practices include tree planting, grass seeding, deferred and rotation grazing and others. In more local areas such practices as drainage, strip cropping, terraces and waterways stand out but they are not general throughout the area as are the practices dealing with increased beef production.

In 1949, 78 cooperators planted 110,880 trees with the aid of the Holt Soil Conservation District equipment. Cooperators purchased 4,706 from Clarke-McNary that were planted by the District's equipment, the remainder were purchased from the District Supervisors. The District purchased 42,966 from commercial nurseries and secured the balance from the Soil Conservation Service nurseries.

Grass seeding was limited very greatly last spring because of the severe winter weather putting farmers and ranchers far behind in the regular work and unable to get seeding done. Until late in the season it was too wet to get field work done in most areas throughout the county.

Seventy-six applications were received during the year for conservation work. This is more than the normal amount in previous years. Two factors probably account for a greater part of the stimulated interest. First, the publicity and recognition received in winning the Sioux City and Omaha World-Herald Conservation awards. Secondly, the blizzard of 1948-'49 demonstrated so vividly the value of shelterbelts that many individuals were eager to get trees planted as soon as possible.

Cooperation with Other Agencies—

The District has benefited by cooperation with the extension service in several ways. First, extension, of course, "mothered" the organization of our District. The Soil Conservation Service technicians and the county agent have planned and worked out some meetings of the two services giving members of both groups better understanding and respect for one another. The extension service does among many other things the educational work for the District and plans are made annually with the county agent and district supervisors as to what educational meetings are desirable to hold the following year.

We have found the Fish and Game Commission quite cooperative in the stocking of ponds and planting of refuges for game birds on projects laid out by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service technicians. A supplemental memorandum of understanding was entered into with the Game Commission this fall. In so doing, the Game Commission will furnish trees, shrubs, posts, wire, a fencing and planting crew for 4 game refuge plantings in the state. Arrangements have been made that these plantings be made on farms and ranches of L. W. Reimer, T. F. Matthews, and J. B. Ryan, of O'Neill, and Theo. Baumeister, of Atkinson.

We have had little contact with the highway department but it seems to be a good idea for consideration. Also, we have had little contact with the county supervisors except as individuals. However, we believe that anything demanding cooperation between the Soil Conservation District and the county "dads" could be worked out.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Lions Club at O'Neill have been very friendly and cooperative, showing a sincere interest in the progress of the Soil Conservation District. The Farmers Home Administration, through J. O. Walker, is insisting that all clients make application to the Holt Soil Conservation District. While cooperation between the different federal and state agri-



GOOD AND BAD . . . Cattle are contented to make good gains when they are grazed on a good pasture with plenty of grass (above). An over-grazed pasture (below) gives very little feed value to animals and returns per acre are greatly reduced.



cultural services has been good, it can stand some improvement. Perhaps it would improve if each organized agricultural service, also the different civic groups, could get together and understand one another's aims, and set up a goal of more and better service to rural people at less cost to the taxpayer.

District Equipment—

One of our big problems on grass seeding was to have the equipment available for the individual when he was ready to use it. Each cooperator was responsible for getting and returning the equipment. A large amount of breakage and waste of time in equipment usage resulted. It is planned to hire a man, train him in proper seeding technique and let him transport the equipment from place to place and assist the cooperator with actual seeding operations.

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service technicians and the District's planting crew are to be congratulated for planting so large a number of trees. We realize also that even though they were forced to a late start that any bad break in the weather after planting operations started would have proved costly. Thus a new tree planter has been purchased and two crews will be hired to take care of the tree planting load in the future.

In previous years we stored the District equipment, and the equipment on loan from the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, in the county supervisors' lot near the office. This year the county moved their lot making it necessary for us to find suitable space. A fence was built around the lot leased from the CB&Q railroad. (Continued on page 10.)

Attends Shorthorn

Show and Sale—

State Sen. Frank Nelson returned Friday from Omaha where he had attended the annual Polled Shorthorn show and sale. Mr. Nelson bought a bull which was first in his class and next to the reserve champion of the show.

No Agency Rules Holt District

By D. E. BOWEN
Chairman, Holt District
Board of Supervisors

I have had the honor of serving as a member of the board of supervisors of the Holt Soil Conservation District since its organization in the spring of 1944.

Our district, like all others in Nebraska, is administered by a board of supervisors composed of land owners who are responsible only to the people of the District. This is truly an example of democratic home rule. No outside state or federal agency dictates the policies, procedures, or programs sponsored by the District.

At the beginning of each year, our local board develops a plan of work which includes a list of soil and water conservation practices designed to fit the needs of the farms in this county. The supervisors see to it that employees of the Soil Conservation Service assigned to assist the District, carry out the provisions of the plan in their work on farms throughout the county.

We have included educational work in the plans for the District in order that farmers will know the program being carried out in the county. We have scheduled meetings where our plans and the various types of work have been discussed.

With the help of the Soil Conservation Service employees, we will schedule demonstrations for anyone interested in how to build terraces that can be farmed with regular machinery. There is considerable "know-how" needed in building a farmable terrace, and we try to pass this kind of information along to those who want it.

Those of us on the board believed that trees can play an important part in soil and water conservation in this territory and included demonstrations in the planting of farmstead shelterbelts and field windbreaks as a part of our educational program. In fact, we try to keep a general educational program constantly moving forward to inform the people of this county of all the different parts of our Soil Conservation District program.

It is the desire of the supervisors that every farm has a complete conservation program that will fit the needs of the land and as completely as possible conserve the soil and the rain that falls upon it. Each individual farm plan then becomes a part of a still greater plan of the county which in turn fits into and will become

a part of a conservation program of all the Districts in Nebraska and eventually the whole nation.

I believe every District supervisor is always on the lookout for better and easier ways to accomplish the conservation job ahead of us. We will, for a long time, need to be alert to the needs for research in conservation.

In the early days of the District, we learned that there were certain soil conservation practices needed in the county, but available equipment was lacking to get the job done. The U. S. Soil Conservation Service placed on loan to the District a grass drill, packer, tractor and tree planter and then we signed a note to borrow money to buy native grass seed. A small charge was made for the use of

the machinery and the grass seed was sold at a little profit.

What money the District has made in the past years has enabled us to increase the amount of trees, seed and machinery available to cooperators.

In 1948 the District won the \$500 award in the Omaha World-Herald Soil Conservation contest and won regional recognition in the Permanent Agriculture program sponsored

by the Sioux City Chamber of Commerce and Journal Tribune.

A new and modern tree-planting machine was purchased by the supervisors this spring for use in the District as an example of one of the activities of the local board. We consider the selection and purchase of equipment, not commonly available to farmers, as just another one of the services we can perform for the people in the Holt Conservation District.

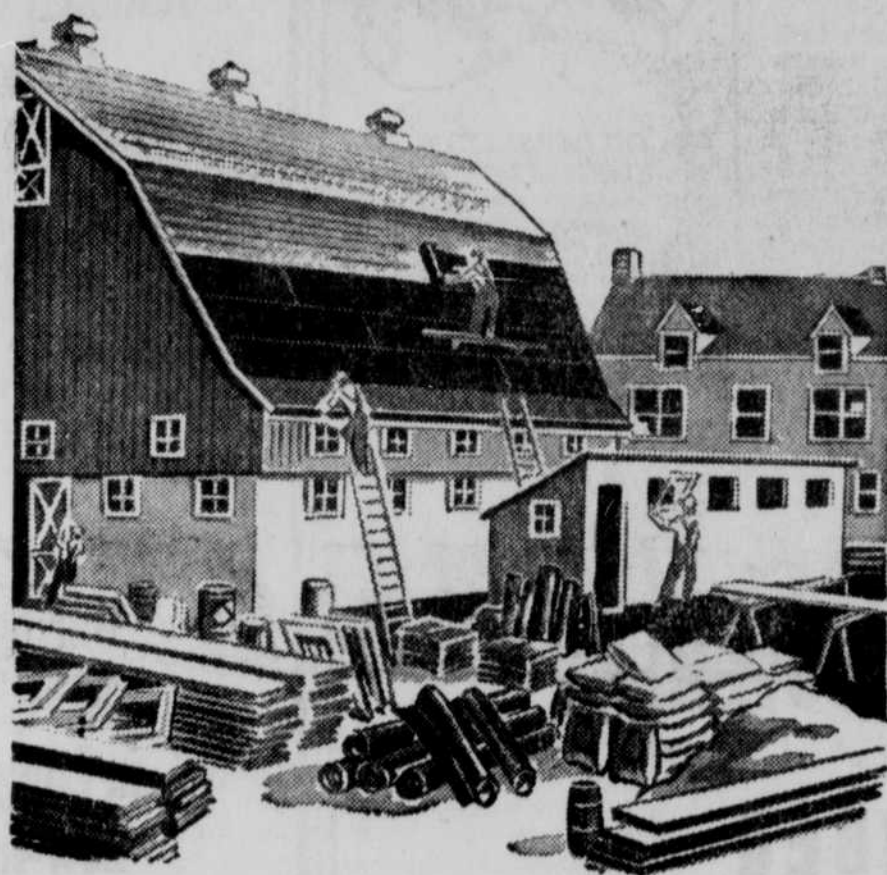
Conserve Moisture



NO QUESTION about it! It will rain dollars from heaven if you hold the moisture . . . if you practice the soil conservation practices that many of your neighbors are finding so profitable and helpful.

★ ★ ★

Preserve Buildings



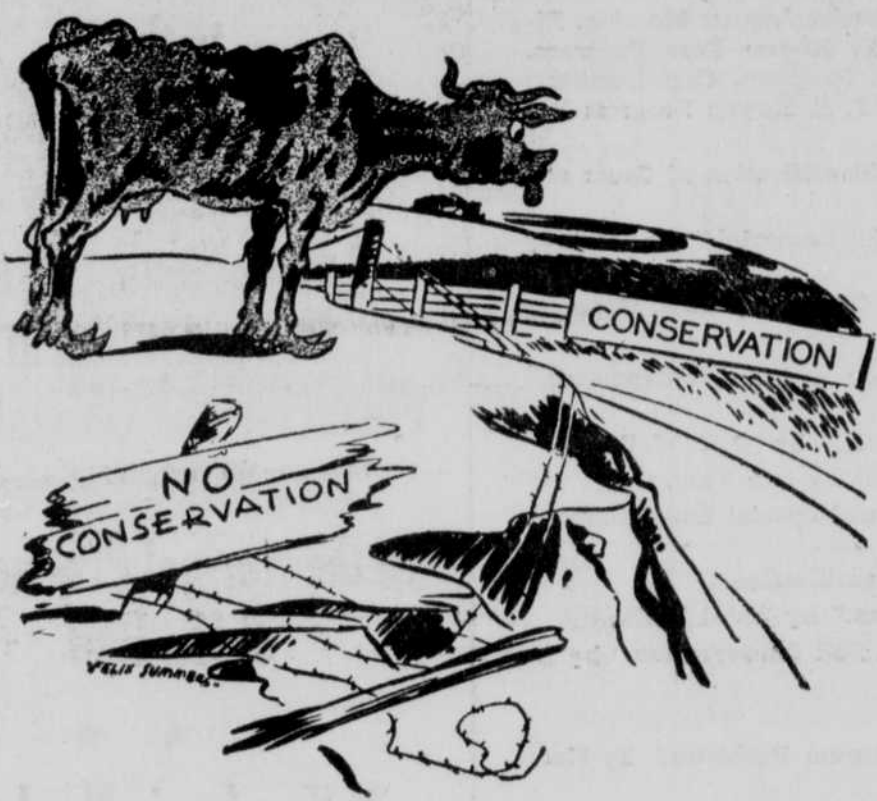
PAINT UP AND FIX UP is the same principle applied to your farmstead instead of the soil. Many of you have not "touched" your buildings since before the war! Better not delay any longer. Hot winds and driving rains in summer hasten deterioration. Why not plan to **PAINT UP AND FIX UP** this spring. We'd be glad to discuss your plans with you.

Spelts-Ray Lumber Co.

PHONE 74

O'NEILL

Grass Is Greener On The Other Side!



IT'S AN OLD ADAGE that "grass looks greener on the other side." When it comes to good soil management and sound soil conservation practices, there's no question about it . . . the grass IS GREENER on the other side.

JUST AS progressive farmers and ranchers are showing the way in soil management, so does the O'Neill National Bank set the pace in the banking field, steadily improving our banking facilities and banking services.

LET US DISCUSS WITH YOU
YOUR BANKING PROBLEMS

O'Neill National Bank

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