PAGE 4.-THE FRONTIER, O'Neill, Nebr., Thurs., Feb. 24, 1955.

Narrative Report

The following is our report on the 1954 activities of the Holt Soil Conservation district. We hope the report will prove interesting, informative and inspirational.

The following table shows the accomplishments of the technical staff for the year, the total amount of each practice applied todate in Holt county and the amount estimated that is remaining to be done.

Practice Unit	1954	To Date	-
Contour farmingAc.	215	2,922	
Cover croppingAc.	2,951	98,728	
Strip croppingAc.	1,816	103,321	
Conservation crop rotation Ac.	1,882	112,520	
Proper use, grazingAc.	9,071	204,269	
Deferred grazingAc.	4,321	100,489	
Range seedingAc.	1,212	16,414	
Interseeding meadowsAc.	395	9,165	
Pasture seedingAc.	2,780	2,959	
Tree plantingAc.	314	11,020	
Wildlife area improvementAc.	21	2,564	
DrainageAc.	314	11,020	
Terraces	.8	40.3	
DiversionsMi.	1.6	6.9	
WaterwaysAc.	51	245	
Pond construction No	13	152	
Livestock wells No	47	1,149	

A study of the above chart will

show that some of the practices marked results from fertilizer such as tree planting are about used on native grassland, half completed. Ponds and wells The agreement of state and

are fairly well established where county highway officials to proneeded, but much remains to be vide adequate culverts, properly done on such practices as terraces, located for drainage problems of waterways and proper use of graz- cooperators, still holds. ing land and seeding of grass.

District Equipment and Labor Cooperation with Other Agencies Any employer can testify to the Commendable teamwork mark- difficulty in securing a competent ed the service and district's rela- employee, acquainting him with tionships with other agencies. The his duties and then retaining this part in the agricultural conser- the services of Virgil Laursen, vation program (ACP). The SCS who went into private business in considerable use. men were required to inspect and June. Duane Gray was hired to approve most of the docket prac- replace Mr. Laursen and has been not as heavy as previously due to tions of the district equipment. a light sign-up in 1954. However, It should be mentioned here determining need and feasibility bining, tree planting, machinery for grass seedings, and will also rental, etc., will be seriously, if supervise and check all perma- not entirely, curtailed by a recent nent practices listed in the ACP USDA directive which will prodocket. Although not required by hibit the local SCS personnel from state directive the county com- participating in or directing any mittee requested that SCS person- district business. Even though nel make seeding recommendations they are ultimately responsible and feasibility determination for for the district's business operaall seedings in the 1955 docket. tions, the board of supervisors has We are pleased that they saw fit relied very heavily on the local to give the district this increased SCS staff, especially the unit conresponsibility and believe that it servationist, C. R. Hill, in helping exemplifies excellent cooperation to oversee the district's business. between the agencies.

In 1954, the state game, foresta- tendency of good employees to to O'Neill. These men are govtion and parks commission, with shift to private business, and with ernment employees loaned to the the district as a "go-between", the probable loss of managerial planted several wildlife areas, a help from the local staff, the disfew of which included the addi- trict board of supervisors is both program. few of which included the addi-tion of cedar trees to the north of existing shelterbelts. The same practice wil be followed for 1955. Bruce McCarraher of the com-mission, stationed in the new dis-trict's business but the board mission, stationed in the new dis-trict's business but the board the board to program. Bruce McCarraher of the com-mission, stationed in the new dis-trict's business but the board the board to program the board to program the board to program. Bruce McCarraher of the com-mission, stationed in the new dis-trict's business but the board the board to program the board to program the board to program the board to program. Bruce McCarraher of the com-mission, stationed in the new dis-trict's business but the board to program the board the board to program the board the board the board to program the board the board to program the

vetch in the fall of 1953 (moisture was discussed and the district pendent on agriculture, which is a good amount of leaves in the shorter grasses. These less pal- kind of grass or whether you want conditions being the deterring fac- furnished a few trees that the boys everyone, to attend all or any part spring before being grazed. It also atable or shorter grasses begin to more forage per acre and, in turn, tor). However, a good stand vol-

and the native grass seedings a tour of the surrounding area and the evening of June 2. (sand lovegrass, Indiangrass and emphasis was placed on grass and The O'Neill Chamber of Comswitchgrass) give promise of be- plant identification. The district merce and the Holt district supercoming seed producers next season. The local SCS staff and the tion day program for the seventh a good impression of this section supervisors view the progress of and eighth graders in the county of Nebraska and its people. the vegetation on these plots with in 1955. As originally planned

field experiment in the rejuvena- connection with the students' tion of a worn out field with a study of geography of Nebraska. the missionary's best means of naturally light soil. One of the A tape recording was made with making a convert. Such is the case All plant food is manufactured in main objectives was to determine if vetch should be seeded prior to pupils and was used on one of the deavor to convert Holt county grass, with grass or after grass broadcasts over WJAG. Mrs. farmers and ranchers to conservawas established. Although results Schollmeyer had previously at- tion practices and confirm them are not conclusive as yet, it ap- tended the Doane college conser- in that way of treating their soil. pears that vetch seeded with the 166.252 grass or after the grass is estab-

grass seeding a year later. 7,075 The use of this field was made 12,075 possible in the spring or 1953 jects. 5,276 through the efforts of Raymond 182 Heiss, then a supervisor on the 5,177 board. 59

Amt. to

Be Done

92.728

284,553

247,601

320,413

800,504

904,284

120,704

12,226

12,070

317

Less Use of Cleaner

than it has been the last several vested.

The Shelhamer Equipment company furnished the district with Page. a new International fertilizer

spreader at 10 percent of the list price for the first year's use. This machine was used considpersonnel again had an active the case when the district lost and as a seeder. The skew treader and seeder treader also saw

All of the equipment owned by the Holt district is operated under tives in 1954. These duties were fairly busy with various opera- the supervision of the local board of supervisors. The district employees are paid from the district

a greater sign-up was attained for that the district's business opera- funds, not the U.S. treasury, and 1955. SCS will be responsible for tions, that is, seed cleaning, com- are responsible to the board. The present board of supervisors consists of Merwyn French, sr., chairman; Elmer Allyn, vice-chairman; Stanley Lambert, secretary-treasurer; Elmer Juracek, member, and Clarence Ernst, member.

The local staff provided by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service consists of C. R. Hill, Weston Whitwer and Harold T. Young. C. B. Crook, soil scientist, was transferred to Minnesota in December and his successor has not as vet been relieved of his present du-In view of the above-mentioned ties so that he can be transferred

ter a highly successful first year | Scout work for the camp at At-| states. However, this is an open | ust and the first part of Septem-| Soon the reserve is depleted and reduces the forage production acbarvest of vetch seed in 1953, kinson and the one held at Goose meeting and we invite and urge per. This grazing program allow- the grass is so weak that is cannot cordingly. there was no volunteer growth of lake. At Atkinson tree planting everyone whose welfare is de- ed the porcupine grass to produce

unteered again in the fall of 1954, Goose lake the boys were taken on vite you to attend the banquet on

plans to carry out an all-conserva- visors will do their utmost to leave

special interest. The project is a this is a biennial affair held in Mrs. Willa Schollmeyer and her vation short course and is doing As before they will appreciate,

a marvelous job of teaching con- whenever possible, contacting tion. lished is superior to seeding the servation in rural schools. Regular small groups and even large ones vetch first and then following with broadcasts were made each month in an effort to make more total from February to September over gains in conserving our natural WJAG, covering a variety of sub- resources.

Since 1900 the percent of farm In November a member of the population has dropped from 90 board attended a soil conservation to 12. In other words, 12 percent Holt Soil Conservation district banquet in Sioux City sponsored of the people feed themselves by the Sioux City Journal-Tri- plus the remaining 88 percent. bune and the Sioux City Chamber How much more can this shrink?

of Commerce where plaques and What will be the effect of this The seed cleaner was used less certificates of merit were award- shrinkage on farm legislation, the ed to farmers and ranchers in the national economy, and basically years. However, about 2,000 Sioux City trade area. The Sioux what effect will it have on the pounds of bluestem was harvested City group sponsors a contest conservation of our soil? It is our locally, about 450 pounds of based on permanent soil conserva- beliefs that only by having an acswitchgrass and about 400 pounds tion. In our district certificates of tive part in the local self-govern- had been stored the previous year, of sand lovegrass were also har- merit were awarded to Leonard ing organization (the Holt Soil there is very little to draw from. Juracek of O'Neill, E. J. Revell of Conservation district) and a

O'Neill and Richard Trowbridge large voice through the state and national associations that proper The district carried on no spe- emphasis will continue to be

cial drive for associate member- placed on agriculture. Who is not ships this year. However, one af- dependent on agriculture? Yet filiate membership was received how few realize the basic methlocal soil conservation service competent employee. Such was erbly both as a fertilizer spreader from D. E. Bowen of Page, former ods of conserving the soil? We board member, at our annual have a moral obligation to our meeting in March. A more con- Creator to leave this land (which centrated effort to bring in asso- we use for a term of years) in a ciate memberships of business- condition to provide livelihood men will be carried out this and food products for untold genspring. These membership pro- erations.

Technical Services

Highlights

It is hard to name one outstanding occurrence in the Holt dis- program. In additon to aiding in trict's year of activities. Perhaps the one highlight which gave the board of supervisors and office all permanent docket practices restaff the most satisfaction was that of receiving the Goodyear soil conservation award. The district received a handsome plaque and each supervisor received a shield which bears his name in gold letters.

local district to carry out the tech-

The time or season of grazing is only one of the management

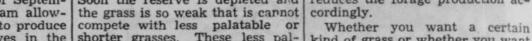
Methods and Accomplishments

havior under grazing is closely associated with a simple physiological process of plant growth. with the local staff in their en-

> A perennial grass that is allow-ed to keep enough of its leaves to manufacture more food than it

orous and very productive. It stores the excess plant food in its roots for future growth, building up a reserve storage much like some people build up an endowment fund.

The grass whose green leaves are grazed off as soon as they can be nipped by livestock never has a chance to manufacture food. Such a grass must keep drawing food from the roots. If very little



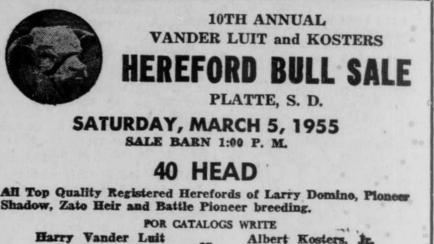
What Happens

planted in the Atkinson park. At of this meeting. We especially in-growth in the fall after the cattle ferred grass is so severely weakened that it dies.

grass offers you these possibilities. This approach has the added advantage of requiring no large fi-Tall, medium and short grasses nancial expenditures. Take care grow in mixtures on the range of your grass and your grass will

land in Holt county. In heavily | take care of you. grazed pastures the cattle will take 60 to 90 percent of the leaves Monday Callersof the tall grasses and 30 to 60 weakens the tall grasses propor-

Mrs. Mabel Shobe and Marjorie percent of the short grasses. This of Page were Monday afternoon tionately more than it does the short grasses. At the same time it Kraft.



Shadow, Zato Heir and Battle Pioneer breeding, Harry Vander Luit Albert Kosters, Jr. Corsica, S. D. Harrison, S. D.

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the same high efficiency and fuel been famous.

ceeds will be used for scholarships | and other promotional purposes. The local staff is year-by-year being given more responsibility in the agricultural conservation the annual farm program sign-up, the soil conservation service men are to lay out, check and approve quiring engineering assistance.

Most other permanent practices become a concern of soil conservation service personnel, too. Now the U.S. government's "task force" on inter-governmental relations suggests disrupting

Goodyear sponsors a contest the relationship between the soil based on soil conservation board conservation districts and their activity. For the purpose of this soil conservation service staffs. Goodyear divides the This trend is toward placing all United States into 50 areas with nical phases of the conservation two areas in Nebraska. The Holt Soil Conservation district won the need of nationwide promotion

the board and one outstanding

techniques that can be used to influence the grasses. Their be-Personal contact, as always, is

the leaves of plants. The plant takes the elements for plant food from the soil and the air. In the green leaf it transforms these elements into plant food which it uses for its growth and reproduc-

needs for growth is strong, vig-

had been sold.

Grass Feeds Grass

trict office at Bassett, has been views with dismay the inevitable promoting conservation agriculworking with many cooperators in curtailment of the tree planting ture in 1954. For the sixth year in conservation farmer. The board improving their fish ponds. The extension service and the district cooperated closely on sev-eral events in 1954. Most note the district operation, rental of district equip-ment for grass seeding, and the district's activities in general. It special edition. The Holt district based based based by the farmer and Elmer Juracek of Star, the member of the board, to make the farmer and the board, to the farmer and the board the board

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eral events in 1954. Most note- should be pointed out that the board has arranged to have the worthy was the joint annual meet- business operations were never weekly newsletter of the Nationing in March. To many, this meet-ing seemed to be the high point provided by the SCS personnel, tion Districts sent to every editor in a series of very successful joint but rather to promote conserva- in the county. annual meetings. Main speaker tion in the district. The present was the world - famed Everett board of supervisors sincerely be-Mitchell of NBC radio. Other note- lieves that the district's activities shown at the Atkinson and O'Neill to wear, including levis, shirt, Mitchell of NBC radio. Other note-lieves that the district's activities schools during the year. Two belt, tie and a 10-gallon hat. The worthy events in which the dis-trict gave the extension service its support were the grassland and other district publicity will

days at Stuart, crop improvement recall the remarkable account of cation contest was held with the for promoting conservation of our tour and the irrigation tour. The the vetch and native grass plots Atkinson group last fall. Soil Con- most important natural resources. crop improvement tour covered on the depleted field south of servation Service technicians apscattered points which showed Page, along U.S. highway 20. Af- peared and assisted with Boy 000 acres of desert land, they

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footed traction!

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meetings were held with the At- clothes then were given to them

make the trip. There were 100 farmers at the Goodyear Farms various agency duties. from all over the United States. This annual narrative report is When they arrived at Litchfield Park each farmer was given a

Must Manage to

Goodyear deserves much credit Goodyear has reclaimed about 16,have 70 irrigation wells and they now raise some of the highest yields of crops per acre in the United States. The county that Goodvear Farms are in is now the second richest agricultural increasing number of ranchers in county in the United States. However, all those irrigation pumps are effectively managing their grasses lowering the water table 10 feet a in such a way as to give them the year, so you can see their future kinds they want. In the final is very limited unless' they can brings in water from the Colo-kinds of grasses that will enable

supply.

Get Grass You Want By L. F. BREDEMEIER, Range Conservationist, SCS (North Platte) You can have the kind of grass ou want if you manage for it. An Nebraska are conscientiously and

to do to supplement their water livestock at a minimum cost. Another highlight of 1954 was.

of course, the joint annual meeting with the extension service. effect of management on the kinds Those present will long remem- of grasses was observed last year ber the stories of our speaker, on the Wolfe brothers' ranch in Everett Mitchell. He brought to Wheeler county. Two pastures standing of agriculture and people of porcupine grass (stipa spartea). in the many lands he had recently visited.

Still another highlight of 1954 Sheridan, Wyo., by Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Juracek. This was a

meeting of soil conservation diswhich are not turned on the pastrict supervisors from six states. There the problems of soil and tures until around May 15. They

laws pertaining to soil conservation districts were discussed and recommendations made. Elmer Juracek carried to the Sheridan conference an authorized and well - planned invitation from the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce for the area conference to consider O'Neill as its 1955 meeting place. To our great pleasure, El-mer returned to Holt county with the acceptance of this invitation. The National Association of Soil

Conservation Districts is made up of 2,597 local soil districts like our own from all over the United States. No supervisors, not even the national president, get any wages or salary. Their reward is seeing conservation of our basic resources being applied. The United States is divided into seven areas. We here in Nebraska are in the Northern Great Plains area. This area is made up of six states -Kansas, Wyoming, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota and

ure at this tendency to belittle the specialized cvonservation effort. At the same time we shall favor the state and federal government economizing wherever possible to avoid wasteful overlapping of the

respectfully submitted by your Holt Soil Conservation district board of supervisors.

soil conservation efforts under

each individual state. In view of

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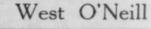
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here visions grace the sky, Freedom shall bless the land



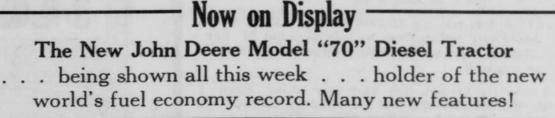
VISIONS are elusive sometimes. But they V have a way of coming down to earth. This thing called soil conservation on the land was once a vision—little more than the seed of an idea, the idea that farmers could work together to solve their mutual problems. The seed proved to be remarkably viable, for the soil conservation district idea has settled down like a protective blanket over our good earth.

There is more than physical resemblance between a contour-stripped field and the red and white stripes of Old Glory. The soil conservation district embodies the very essence of the rights and freedoms for which our flag stands. Cherishing those rights and freedoms, farmers have organized soil conOLD GLORY is a set of principles, a covenant of human rights, rippling in the breeze. So long as the great body of Americans respect the traditions and the principles for which Old Glory stands-so long shall the flag be a vision of hope, a shield against the storms.

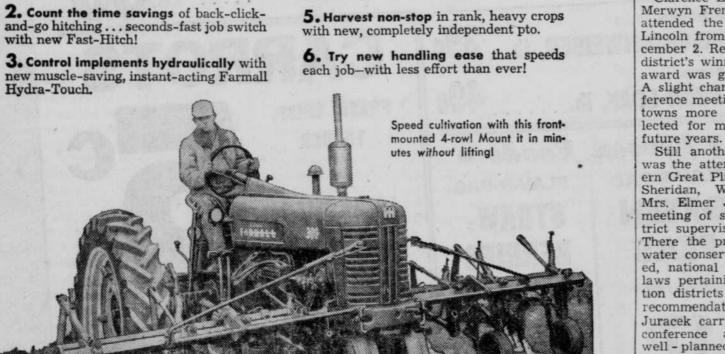
servation districts that are of local people, by local people, for local people.

A soil conservation district is composed of local people who see their own problems and solve them, who see their own respon-sibilities and shoulder them. They are local people doing that which they should do, volunt rily, with no infinement of riber voluntarily, with no infringement of rights and liberties, with scarcely a law, rule, regulation, or tax. The soil conservation district, in action, is literally a bit of the freedom of enterprise that made America a land of opportunity and abundance.

Soil improvement, through good land use, is a modern vision, a new frontier of rural America.







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rado river, which they are trying them to market the maximum of One Way An outstanding example, of the

Clarence Ernst, Elmer Juracek, have sharp needlelike seeds and a Merwyn French and E. J. Revell long awn. It is a bunch-forming attended the state conference in grass that grows in cool seasons. Lincoln from November 30 to De-cember 2. Recognition of the Holt It is relished by livestock and is district's winning of the Goodyear award was given at this meeting. Treadily grazed. If permitted, cat-tle will graze it so much that it A slight change in the state con- will begin to disappear. Heavily ference meeting was planned with towns more centrally located se-lected for meeting places in the Wheeler county contained it in

profusion. The amount of grazing and the degree of intensity was was the attendance of the North- such that the abundance of porcu-

ern Great Plains Area meeting at | pine grass could not be justified. Consideration of the time of grazing pointed to the cause. The Wolfe ranch runs steers

BOB ERWIN

ed, national legislation and state are taken off the pastures and marketed the latter part of Aug-FREE

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the listeners an intimate under- contained an abnormal abundance This is the larger of the two needlegrasses in Nebraska which

