

Conservation District Achievements, Goals Cited

Annual Report Tells Of Accomplishments

1964 Annual Report
HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
December 31, 1964

Interest in District organization resulted from the conservation program which was carried on by the Heppner SCS-CCC camp on the Willow and Hinton creek project area from 1935 to 1941. When it became apparent that the Department of Agriculture was turning most of its technical assistance and other conservation facilities to organized districts, interested landowners who had benefited from the conservation program of the CCC camp inquired of the SCS officials how they could organize a local district.

The Soil Conservation District was organized following a petition signed by 111 farmers which was submitted to the Oregon Soil Conservation Committee for their action. The follow-up hearing and reference resulted in the organization of the Heppner Soil Conservation District with certificate of organization being issued by the Secretary of State of Oregon on October 4, 1941.

Since the original organization, two additions have been made. The first was upon request of the land owners living in township 3 south, range 23 east, adjoining the District boundaries to the west. After a favorable approval by the supervisors and the circulation of a petition of the area to be included, the area was accepted at a supervisors meeting February 2, 1948. The hearing was favorable and the addition was granted with a certificate of organization for inclusion of this addition, issued by the Secretary of State on October 25, 1948.

The second addition was the result of continuous interest by farmers from without the district boundaries. After a long period of time, with petitions circulated, the required number of signatures were obtained and forwarded to the State Soil Conservation Committee. As a result, a hearing was held on June 12, 1950, which was acted upon favorably by the State Soil Conservation Committee. A referendum was held on September 16, 1950, resulting in adding the remainder of Morrow County not then included in a soil conservation district to the Heppner District. A certificate of organization for this inclusion was issued by the Secretary of State on April 2, 1951.

The following supervisors are the governing board of the District:

Name	Community	Office	Term Expires
Raymond French	Heppner	Chairman	Annual Meeting 1966
Kenneth Turner	Heppner	Vice Chairman	Annual Meeting 1966
W. C. Rosewall	Heppner	Treasurer	Annual Meeting 1965
Beyer Palmer	Heppner	Supervisor	Annual Meeting 1968
Vernon Munkers	Lexington	Supervisor	Annual Meeting 1968

N. C. Anderson, County Extension Agent, was elected by the Board to serve as Secretary during 1964.

The supervisors are elected by vote of the farmers at each annual meeting held in February of each year.

DISTRICT EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Ten Monthly Meetings—Meetings held the first Tuesday of each month, except August.
- Annual Meeting—Held the regular meeting date in February.
- Conservation Week—Educational meetings and tours.
- Observe Soil Stewardship Week—To each among us a share.
- Adult Conservation Tour—Lunch at Conservation Man of Year's Farm, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Turner.
- County Schools Fifth Grade Conservation Tour—Lunch furnished by Ione School.
- Sponsored boy to Range Youth Camp.
- Held sponsored meeting with: ASC Committee, Rhea Creek Small Watershed Steering Committee, Forest Service, Neighboring S&W Conservation Districts.
- Made small progress on study of Rhea Creek Small Watershed Project—Water staff gages in tributaries of Rhea Creek.
- School sixth grade Forestry-Soils Tour—School from four Counties.
- Soil judging contest—Prizes from Inland Chemical Service Inc.
- Sponsored the Soil and Water Conservation Speech Contest—Winning second in Area and second in Semi-finals.
- Attendance at OAS & WCD Annual meeting.
- Co-Sponsorship of Farm City Week.
- Recognition and award to Conservation Man of the Year.
- 84 Cooperators used District machinery and stakes.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 1964

- Heppner District has 305 cooperators which includes 759,169 Acres.
- 17 new cooperators signed agreements covering 133,423 acres.
- 11 Basic Conservation plans written on 19,980 acres.
- 9,290 acres soil surveyed this year bring the total surveyed to date 900,291 acres.
- 279 acres of contour strip cropping now totalling 12,746 acres.
- 693 acres of field strip cropping now totalling 3,944 acres.
- 305 acres of wind strip cropping now totalling 4,442 acres.
- 120,630 linear feet of diversions established.
- 206 acres of land leveling bring the total to 4,478 acres.
- 56 acres of land smoothing this year in the district.
- A total of 21,132 acres strip cropped in the district. 3 new cooperators stubbled mulched for the first time for 1485 acres.
- Checked 2,409 acres of subsoiling on 7 farms.
- 37 farmers seeded 850 acres for hay, pasture and range.
- 26 stock ponds, 7 farm ponds, 13 erosion control dams and 7 springs developed.
- 15,330 linear feet of irrigation ditches and 9,570 feet of channel change and clearance.
- Three large irrigation structures built.
- 207 acres of brush control work on 8 cooperators.
- Approximately 1/2 of all our cropland is under stubble mulch type of summer fallow.
- About 1/8 of all range land is under a deferred system of grazing.

OBJECTIVES FOR 1965

Encourage continuation of strip cropping, stubble mulch fallow, contour farming, field diversion ditches and all other needed conservation practices. Heavy storms and snow on frozen ground

What is an Acre Worth?

HEPPNER GAZETTE-TIMES, Thursday, January 28, 1965



KENNETH TURNER, Conservation Man of the Year in Morrow county, not only demonstrates good practices on his ranch but is an ardent promoter and spokesman for soil and water conservation.

1964 Financial Statement

Heppner Soil and Water Conservation Service	
Bank balance on January 7, 1964	\$1,530.86
Received from cooperators for machinery rental, land leveling and the sale of stakes	764.12
Total bank balance including 1964 income	2,294.98
Disbursements during 1964 consisting of the following:	
National Association dues	\$75.00
State Association dues	65.00
Paid to the Secretary of State for 1961 audit	38.05
Lexington Grange Hall rental	15.00
Parts for Gopher Getter — Rue L. Elston Co.	6.63
Paid to N.A.C.D. for Stewardship material	19.00
Gazette-Times, Advertising	61.10
Paid to State Agency Account for Gopher bait	10.00
Tri-County Equipment Co. for parts	38.52
Rule R. Elstrom Co. for parts	6.75
Charles O'Connor for treasurer's bond	10.00
Morrow County Wheat League for Portland 8th grade tour	25.00
Tri-County Equipment Co. for parts	12.02
Soil Conservation Society for subscription	8.50
Postage	10.00
Delegates to the State convention	100.00
Farm City banquet expense	23.60
Portland National Convention expense	25.00
	549.17
Bank balance on January 5, 1965	\$1,745.81
The following rental equipment is owned:	
Noble Blade	Rate \$0.50 Acre, Minimum charge \$5.00
Terracer	1.25 Hour
Drill	.50 Acre
Gopher Getter	.35 "
Packer	.25 "
Depreciated book value of equipment	1,164.84
Total assets as of January 5, 1965	\$2,910.65

again this year brought home to farmers that a complete conservation program is necessary to hold and conserve their soil and moisture.

Bring to attention of all people the importance of conservation of our natural resources and its effect on our economics.

Encourage and take leadership in all water conservation activities in the District. Encourage the use of all conservation and management practices for better water application.

Push for completion of a preliminary study on the Rhea Creek Small Watershed project. Take leadership in all possible small watershed projects for flood control or more efficient use of water.

Continue to work for Resource Conservation and Recreation areas.

Continue co-operation with Oregon Wheat League in selecting a Conservation Man of the Year.

Continue to maintain and operate conservation equipment now owned.

Affiliate with and be represented at the State and National Conservation Associations.

Continue to sponsor Conservation Speech Contest, Soil judging contest, Soil Conservation Tours during Soil Stewardship Week, Conduct Educational tours in Range, Pasture and Woodland Management.

Carry out a well-rounded Conservation Program through participation in Goodyear Conservation Awards Contest.

By KEN TURNER

The value of non-irrigated cropland depends primarily on its soil depth and water holding capacity according to Verle Kaiser, SCS Agronomist. An acre inch of soil-held water produces seven bushels of wheat. One foot of soil will hold 2 1/4 inches of water, which will produce 16 bushels. Or one inch of soil will produce 1 1/3 bushels or more, depending on total depth. In shallow soils (30 inches or less) yield and depth is much more critical.

There is \$1000 worth of nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus in one foot of top soil. This doesn't include valuable humus and organic matter.

Excavated soil at a handling cost of \$2.50 per yard makes soil worth \$3000 an acre foot.

Flooding from summer fallow in Morrow county cost the county several hundred thousand dollars worth of roads in one storm.

Annual silt deposits at the mouth of the Walla Walla river ruined two water front businesses in that area. Loss \$500,000.

World Soil Depletion Alarming

Areas in North Africa and vast acreages in the Eastern Mediterranean countries have completely ruined cropland. It took many centuries to denude the slopes in these old countries with excess grazing and hand cultivation. Modern methods may ruin many areas of the Northwest within this century.

Large acreages have eroded away already in early cotton producing areas of the South in this relatively young nation. Several areas of the Northwest have the biggest soil losses annually in the U. S. the Palouse hills in Washington state being the worst. The Great Plains has severe wind and water eroded cropland.

Erosion losses on summer fallow have increased notably since 1950. This is due to increased horsepower, faster field speeds and more times over the field. Excessively tilled areas are eroded much more than minimum tillage operations.

However, in such European countries as Holland, West Germany, Bavaria and in England intensive cropping methods have stopped soil erosion. Over 60% of the cropland in many of these nations is in grass or grass rotations. Soil loss simply does not occur. Any land subject to erosion is not tilled. Democratic processes have actually made erosion illegal.

Who Is Responsible?

Under past and present farm programs and the attitudes of the public in general, individual farm owners have not stopped soil losses. The value of the soil lost has been greater than the value of the crop in many cases.

It can only be assumed that the emphasis of our agricultural programs in this country must be radically changed. It is of great concern that the U. S. may not be able to feed future markets and mouths with depleted soils. Fields must be returned to grass until we know how to crop without losing the ground this nation stands on.

Don't Wait!

Once an erosion pattern forms on a field, even elaborate conservation practices may not affect accelerated erosion. Broad-based terraces or diversions are needed even with grass seedlings to heal the scars. Silt-laden running water will cut grass sodded areas or strips.

Technically, a regular cropping practice improves soils. Ten years, 100 years or 1000 years of intensive cropping should not involve any appreciable soil

Program

of the

Twenty First Annual Meeting

HEPPNER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday—February 3, 1965

7:30 P.M.—Lexington Grange Hall

FILM ON "CONSERVATION."

BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of 1964 Annual Meeting.

Progress and Financial Report

Machinery Report

Nomination and Election of one Supervisor.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Verle G. Kaiser—Management Agronomist.

Anyone having slides of the Christmas flood please bring them and we will show them at the meeting.

Refreshments—Compliments of

Lexington Implement Company Central Market

losses. Intensive cropping puts farm operation would apply this the same importance on conservation as on yields. An extensive same principle.

THE HEPPNER

Soil and Water Conservation District

EXTENDS

YOU

A CORDIAL INVITATION TO ITS ANNUAL MEETING

Interesting Program — Fine Speaker
Colored Slides — Refreshments

Lend A Hand To More Productive Land--Through Conservation

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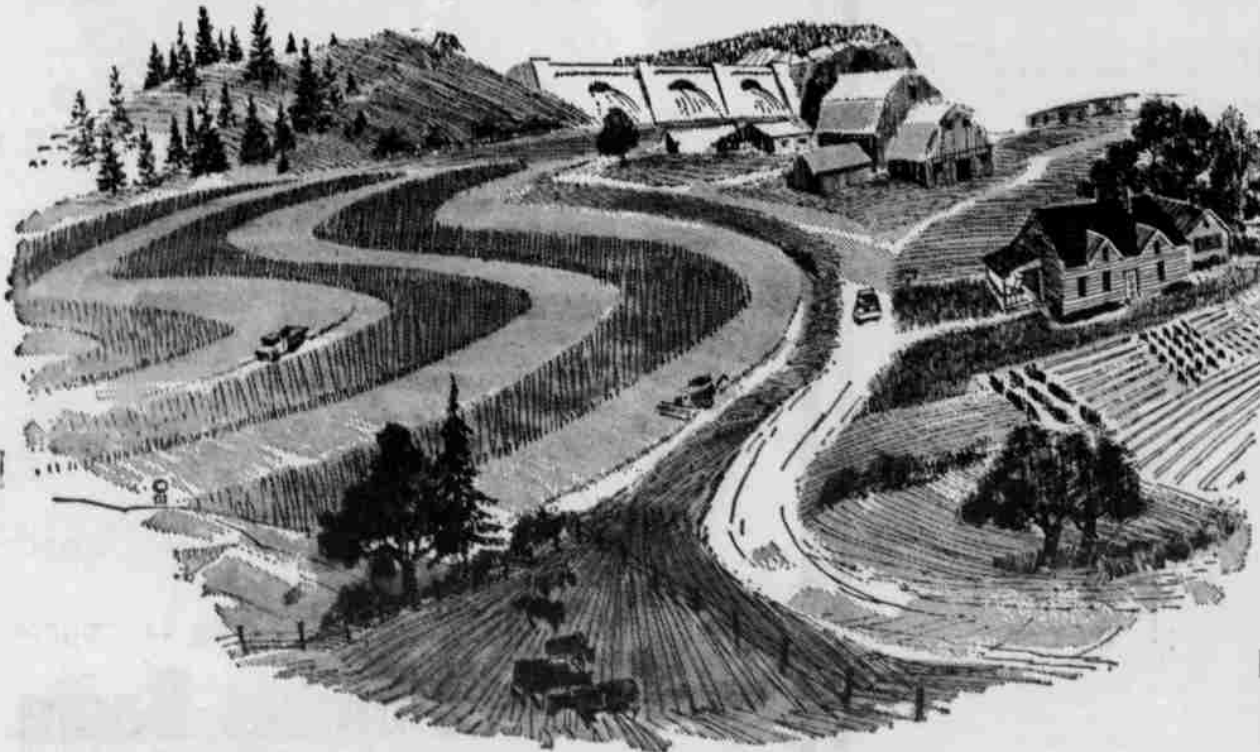
Heppner Branch

First National Bank
of Oregon

The Gazette Times

Inland Chemical Co.

Lexington Implement Co.



Lexington Oil Co-op.

Morrow County Grain Growers, Inc.

Padberg Machinery Co.

Heppner District

Soil Conservation Service