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OFFICIAL NEWS BULLETIN

February, 1961

Your Association President sez:



"Fellow Supervisors - Are we at the crossroads with our soil conservation districts? If so, what is our future route? I am addressing this to you supervisors, since you are charged by the people who elected you to act as their leaders in the field of soil and water conservation.

It appears to me that we are losing ground in many of our district programs, and if you agree, you will no doubt want to take action to strengthen our various activities.

The following issues are of concern to all of us:

We are losing ground in our district educational programs. Two years ago we lost the services of a supervisor of education in the State Department of Public Instruction due to lack of funds.

Last year we lost the services of an Extension Conservationist because the funds used to employ a conservationist were diverted to other uses.

We have always relied on the Montana Agricultural Experiment Stations and the Extension Service for advice and assistance to our districts. Proposed budgets would materially reduce operations in our Experiment Station System and Extension Service.

Montana is a large state, having an area of more than 93 million acres. Agriculture is its greatest source of revenue. The return from this industry alone is about 50% of all income in the state. Can we as district supervisors sit idly by and permit our conservation programs to stand still or to deteriorate? Shall we place greater emphasis on research and educational programs as they effect conservation-our well being - the well being of our future generations? These are questions we must decide.

DOINGS IN DISTRICTS

JUDITH BASIN DISTRICT gives an interesting summary of its 1960 accomplishments in its December news letter. If any supervisor is doubtful regarding his duties, or a well-planned and executed plan, he should obtain a copy of the Judith Basin news letter for December, 1960.

STILLWATER DISTRICT has a list of contractors available for conservation work. This list is made available to district cooperators.

GARFIELD DISTRICT in cooperation with the County Superintendent of Schools, County Agent and SCS are planning half-day sessions on conservation for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students throughout the county.

BROADWATER DISTRICT has announced that Dr. R.R. Renne, President, Montana State College, will be the featured speaker at their annual meeting.

MILE-HI DISTRICT supervisors are proposing that the Board visit cooperators' ranches and determine the extent of use made of conservation plans developed for the rancher.



Ruby Valley Supervisors developing their Annual Plan of Operations. Have you developed yours?



From left to right: Herb Beckers, Carl Johnson, Bill D'Ewart, and Bert Gibson. The last three are from Park District which won the 1960 Goodyear Contest. Beckers accepted the second place award for Wibaux District.

THE STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

The Committee welcomed a new member when it met in Helena on January 11th. Edward C. Wren from Cascade, the new State Commissioner of Agriculture, succeeds Albert H. Kruse as a member of the Committee. Ed is a cooperator with his local district, the Cascade County Soil Conservation District and is acquainted with his district's program.

Mr. Kruse has been a member of the Committee for nearly 16 years, first as Commissioner of Agriculture during Governor Sam C. Ford's tenure and in the last eight years in Governor Aaronson's administration. "Al" as he is genially called

by all his friends has one of the longest tenures as a member of a State Soil Conservation Committee in the United States.

William D'Ewart of Wilsall has been reappointed by Governor Nutter for a four year term on the Committee.

At its meeting on January 11th, the Committee re-elected Fred Sanborn of Great Falls as Chairman for 1961; John Schroeder of LoLo as Vice-chairman; and Truman Anderson as Executive Secretary for the balance of this fiscal year, which terminates June 30th.

The Committee approved the transfer of territory from the Cascade to the Lewis and Clark Soil Conservation District. The territory involved is a small area lying in Lewis and Clark County. The transfer places all of Lewis and Clark County in one district, while all of Cascade County is now on the same boundary as Cascade County.

The Committee also disallowed the transfer of the Three Rivers District to surrounding districts. A petition asking that the District be transferred to Gallatin Valley, Meagher, Broadwater, Jefferson Valley and Madison Districts would have dissolved the Three Rivers District had the petition been approved. The lively hearing recently held by the Committee at Three Forks was evidence that local land occupiers recognize the value of districts and take pride in its membership.

Will all districts please send copies of their 1960 Annual Report and Financial Statement to State Soil Conservation Committee, North Barracks, Montana State College, Bozeman.

MEN WANTED

Water Chemist, Senior Water Engineer, Hydrologist

The above ads appeared in a recent issue of "Western Water News", published at San Francisco, California. The ads are submitted by three different Water Districts in California and reflect the acute water situation in that state.

How soon will Montana communities find themselves in need of such special facilities?

"The world stands aside to let the man pass who knows whither he is going".

MONTANA DISTRICTS WILL CONTRIBUTE TO CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Montana's Soil Conservation District Supervisors soon will be receiving brief questionnaires concerning the educational work being carried on in each District. This is part of an eight-state educational survey of SCD programs, being carried out and financed entirely by the Conservation Education Association, a national organization. The survey plans were presented to the MASOD Education Committee at the recent Annual Meeting, and resulted in the presentation and passage of Resolution #6 which urged support and cooperation of each District in carrying out the survey.

In a nutshell, the whole purpose of the Conservation Education Association's offering to do this job is the knowledge that many Districts have had very successful educational programs which other districts ought to know about. The CEA is interested in establishing "Cross-currents" of information which will strengthen the programs of all districts, by letting them know what has worked elsewhere. After all of the Districts

in the states of Ohio, Arkansas, Texas, Missouri, Indiana, New Mexico, Tennessee, and Montana have been contacted by questionnaires, the forms will be tabulated and a summary report prepared. This report will be sent to all of the Districts in those eight states. It is hoped that by this means Districts will learn of useful and successful educational programs which have worked well, and which might be adapted for their own public contact programs.

In Montana, the CEA member who will be writing to you soon is Dr. Will Clark, of Eastern Montana College in Billings. We urge each District to recognize the potential value of this survey, and to cooperate by completing the questionnaire which will be sent.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR AUXILIARY PRESIDENT, MRS. LESLIE CRISWELL

I wish you could all be with us at the State, Area, and National meetings. You would see the procedure and intensity of interest in the Auxiliary by both men and women. They all have a common interest, that of promoting Soil and Water Conservation.

Many women have asked about membership requirements. Any woman interested in the Soil Conservation Program may become a member of the State and National Auxiliary. There are no membership dues in the National Auxiliary, and the State dues are only one dollar a year. The State Auxiliary pays five dollars a year in dues to the Nat'l.

The Auxiliary feels that a supervisor's wife should take an interest and be willing to assume responsibilities in this important work, which would lead her to become a member of the State Auxiliary. One woman may not assume as active a part as another, but each one's help is needed at this point of organizational growth. Until we become financially able to carry our part of the program we may be a handicap instead of a help. Mrs. Carl Johnson, Shields Rt., Livingston, Montana, is the Secretary-Treasurer of our State Auxiliary. Please send the dues to her.

HERE AND THERE

Dick Marks, Extension forester, says box elder trees may open the doors for a new industry. In Lincoln County, New Mexico, "maple syrup" was recently produced from the sap of box elder trees that grow wild up and down the mountain valleys.

The Pennsylvania Association of SCD in their news letter "Teamwork" offer the following essentials for a good district meeting:

- (1) Everybody present.
- (2) Everybody on time.
- (3) Chairman in charge at all times and sticks strictly to business.
- (4) Complete accurate minutes.
- (5) Everybody participates.
- (6) Well organized reports from cooperating agencies.
- (7) Business transacted efficiently.
- (8) Meeting lasts 1 1/2 hours.

Joe E. Gering, Chief Lecturer, Public Relations Branch, T.V.A., says: "Man has devised machinery and controlling floods so as to reduce the heights and frequencies of floods. We must now apply coordinated effort to controlling himself so as to obtain the maximum benefits from the land and his investments".

H.G. Bobst of the SCS in Montana... the recent Montana Association of Soil Conservationists... "The per capita consumption of water in Montana in 1960, and is estimated to be... water per year per person... such as food, fuel, metals, plastic, water, and gravel, etc. amounts to only 18 tons". "Its not the supply that is limited... it's the number of people who use it - and the continuing growth of population!"

How well are soil conservation districts cooperating with their work in the leadership of water conservation?

Lower Delta Soil Conservation District of Louisiana recently distributed an attractive leaflet through all food markets located within its district. The leaflet explained that all food, clothing, and shelter come from the soil, and that muddy waters carried away valuable soils. The leaflet was placed in each customer's grocery bag.

FROM MONTANA PART II SECTION

"Good Soil is a Living Thing"

There is a wise philosopher who anonymously writes essays for the "Monthly Letter" of the Royal Bank of Canada.

In a recent treatise on soil conservation, Mr. W. W. Nurettin tells the story of soil in a few simple words.

Good soil is a living thing, he writes, and its health is essential to life on earth to plants and animals. What follows is a beautiful story, told in terms "precious" and dirt "treasures" that were as great a scarcity of soil as in some of our most precious metals. We should glorify in a world of demands to purchase only so much earth as we can use in our small plots in any pot.

The soil is constantly renewing. In the soil we find one of the most important factors of earth, growth, water, and air.

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agricultural research station in the world, it has been found that the population of invertebrate fauna per acre of fertilized land is fifteen million, of which eight million are insects.

Water is essential to soil development, as it is, indeed, to all living things.

Movement is of the essence of water, and the most demanding impact of civilized man on his environment is the shattering of this cycle of movement. The break is caused by the destruction of plant cover, removing the sponge-like texture of the complex topsoil - topsoil which, it is estimated, took five hundred years per inch to build.

"Yesterday is dead. Forget it. Tomorrow does not exist. Don't worry. TODAY is here. Use it."

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July, 1961

Your President says:

Starting July 1 the Soil Conservation Districts will have the word "water" added to their name. The State Soil Conservation Committee will not change its name, preferring to retain its identity and avoid confusion in names.

The Area V N.A.S.C.D. meeting will be held at Fort Robinson near Crawford, Nebraska, on August 20-22. Much of the material that comes from our National Association is born and developed in the Area meetings. The six states making up Area V have similar problems so the subjects discussed will be familiar to us and pertinent to our state. A good delegation from Montana will help make a successful meeting. Let's pool rides and take it in.

Leslie Criswell, President
Montana A.S.C.D.

1961 State Contest in Land and Range Judging by Charles M. Smith, Soils Extension

On August 2, 1961, there will be state contests in land and range judging in conjunction with the Great Falls Fair for 4-H and F.F.A. youth. It is the purpose of such contests to provide organized competition in these fields of interest. Historically this technique has proved quite profitable in calling certain subject matter areas to the attention of the public.

A key member of the group contributing to the success of these contests is the Soil Conservation Service. They have provided invaluable assistance in the way of local instruction and key men in the conduct of the contest.

Many of the Soil Conservation Districts have assisted in this worthwhile program in past years. Much of this assistance has been in the form of financial help in transporting youngsters to various contests. This is a commendable activity. The Extension Service has also helped to underwrite certain contests along with assuming the leadership role. However, because of various public projects, with a reduction in available funds it will be necessary to curtail Extension's support for this activity in the coming year.

It has been shown not only in Montana but in other states that these contests have high educational value. We all agree that concern for conservation of our natural resources must be acquired by a greater number of individuals. This is one effective means for bringing the subjects of soil and water to the attention of the public. The continued support of the Districts in promoting these activities is solicited.

* * * * *

State Soil Conservation Committee announces the
appointment of a new Executive Secretary

O.M. Ueland of Butte became the Executive Secretary for the State Soil Conservation Committee on July 1, according to Fred Sanborn, Chairman of the Committee. Mr. Ueland succeeds Truman C. Anderson of Butte, who has been the Committee's secretary since the organization in 1939.

"Ole" as Mr. Ueland is generally known, is well qualified for the job. Since 1952 he served as superintendent in his local soil conservation district, the Milk River district with headquarters at Butte. He was born and raised on a diversified ranch in Prairie County. Since World War II he has operated his own cattle ranch in Silver Bow County.

Mr. Ueland is a graduate of Montana State University. He taught Veterans on-farm Vocational Agriculture for two years. "Ole" and his wife Eleanor are the parents of eight children, including two sets of twins. The children, like their parents, are taking an active part in ranching and conservation enterprises.

Mr. Ueland served three years in the Navy and participated in 11 campaigns in the Pacific Area during the war. At present he is active in the U.S. Naval Reserve; and in recent years has served as Commanding Officer of one of the nation's outstanding Reserve Divisions. His academic training together with his practical experience admirably qualifies him for the post.

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O.M. "Ole" Ueland, Butte

U.S. Naval Reserve; and in recent years has served as Commanding Officer of one of the nation's outstanding Reserve Divisions. His academic training together with his practical experience admirably qualifies him for the post.

Mr. Heland will be primary contact with all Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors throughout the state. Primary correspondence on soil and water conservation program and in maintenance contact with the various Federal, State and local conservation agencies assisting districts.

Committee Chairman Sanborn also announced that Mrs. Heland is headquartered at the School of Mines at Butte and that all correspondence relating to the State Committee should be addressed O.M. Heland, Executive Secretary, State Soil Conservation Committee, School of Mines, Butte. Mr. Sanborn also stated that there are now 59 Soil and Water Conservation Districts in the state covering 20 million acres and that over 50% of Montana's farmers and ranchers have availed themselves of conservation assistance available through their districts.

Members of the State Soil Conservation Committee include: Mr. Sanborn of Great Falls are: John Schroeder, Lolo, farmer member, Carl Hunter, Fairview, farmer member; Wm. F. DeWart, Missall, farmer member, Edward C. Jren, Helena, State Commissioner of Agriculture; Terlief S. Aasneim, Bozeman, State Director of Extension; Roy E. Huffman, Bozeman, Director of Agricultural Experiment Stations; H. D. Hurd, Bozeman State Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service.

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Doings in Districts

Judith Basin's recently elected supervisor Ed Corvenka recently established a record. He sold 20 - \$15 affiliate memberships and 9 - \$10 affiliate memberships, a total of \$390 worth, to the businessmen of the district. Each businessman who buys a \$15 membership is entitled to a heading on the District Newsletter as well as the regular certificate he receives.

Philips District supervisors appoint assistant supervisors from various sections of the district to act as advisors and to work on various district committees.

Hyer Musselshell District contribute the following verse

Our Treasure State we'll treasure more
By saving stubble not burning it over.
Having waterways control water.
Save our soil for Son and Daughter.
We built a barn to store the fodder,
So make a dam and save the water.
Good top soil erodes away
A starving world another day.
The wind may blow soil that is fine
But I'm not worried, I've contoured mine.
No trees - A disaster. Wind erosion. Much faster.
Muddy water never brings you strife;
Clear blue ponds are wildlife.
Too many cattle or too little grass
Like too many roads and too little grass
Lo your gift to the nation
Save your soil by conservation.

Missoula District supervisors in their annual report for 1954 state that season was the driest in the history of the district, but that many conservation measures proved their worth as the growing season advanced.

Madison District supervisors, anticipating that logging operations may soon begin on private timber lands, are urging owners of marketable timber to become acquainted with various harvesting and management phases so that they may most intelligently market their products. This warning is timely and applies to all timber owners.

Treasure District has started a project to produce Birdsfoot Trefoil seed. It is still too early to predict the outcome but should it prove successful it may be a valuable enterprise for district cooperators as well as surrounding districts.

Little Beaver District supervisors say "Education and information is a most important phase of the District program. Effective conservation application and understanding by the people of the area cannot be accomplished until everyone understands the need for, the objectives of, and the ways in which a soil conservation district operates and the goals they intend to reach".

Only six (6) districts entered the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company's Soil Conservation Awards Program last year. All districts should have material on the program that ends April 30, 1962. If any district does not have detailed information write the above company at Akron 16, Ohio, and ask to have your district enrolled. Some district will be awarded a week's vacation to Goodyear Farms, Litchfield, Arizona, for one of it's supervisors and the outstanding conservation farmer in the district next December.

Richland County District moved over three-quarters of a million cubic yards of earth in completing its 1960 soil and water conservation program. This is enough earth to cover 14 city blocks to a depth of thirty feet.

The Richland District Board in their March Newsletter gave the following definition of a pessimist: "A man who doubts what he sees, sees what he doubts, always laughs first-can never laugh last". Judging from the conservation accomplishments in the district there are no pessimists in Richland County.

The Roosevelt County District developed 13 water spreading systems in 1960. These provide flood waters for 1,167 acres. The District also assisted cooperators in planting 155,000 trees.

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