

The History of Conservation in Oklahoma

Geneva Mock - OCC

HISTORY OF CONSERVATION IN OKLAHOMA

prepared by

Laurence Drake
Leonard A. Solomon
Harry Birdwell

This publication was prepared by the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts. It is recognized that some important facts concerning conservation are not contained in this volume. However, more than a year was spent in locating materials and individuals in an effort to get a more complete history. If any important facts were left out it was because the research done on this project failed to turn up all the facts.

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RESURRECTION FROM THE DUST: THE HISTORY OF THE OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

I. THE CREATION OF A DUST BOWL

When the first settlers came to the Oklahoma territory, they found lush native grasslands. These pioneers found that the soil was fertile, when the sod was turned and the first crops were planted. For several years the land remained highly productive, producing abundant crops.

Many farmers who settled in Oklahoma came under the provisions of the Homestead Act. Each settler received 160 acres. To make an adequate living on 1/4 section of land, most of the settlers had to plant every acre. Much of the land cultivated was only marginally tillable. After a quarter century of tilling the land, the soil in Oklahoma was being sapped of its vital nutrients. Crop production began to fall sharply.

SERIOUS PROBLEMS AROSE

One of the first signs of widespread abuse of the land in Oklahoma began to appear within 6 or 8 years after statehood, when gullies began reaching their greedy fingers into fertile fields. By 1920, gully erosion became a major threat to Oklahoma landowners.

With no regard for the future the farmers on the Great Plains continued to plow—year after year. Much land was rendered useless, due to the exploitation of the topsoil. During the four decades following the opening of the Oklahoma Territory for settlement, topsoil on millions of acres was washed away or depleted to the extent that further cultivation was not economical.

Many farmers were not willing to take part of their land out of production, since they had to squeeze all they could from every acre to feed their families. So, the situation grew worse.

In the 1930's when the first erosion surveys were made, it was estimated that over six million acres of Oklahoma farm land was rendered useless by erosion. Over 15% of all the land in Oklahoma was forced out of production!

The early 20th century farmers had no way to foresee the "dirty thirties"; when clouds of dust would roll eastward from the plains. But as they continued to till every available acre year after year, erosion grew worse, production continued to decline.

Actor Dale Robertson, a native Oklahoman, described the disheartening days before conservation programs took hold. "When I was a youngster, they called Oklahoma 'the great Dust Bowl'... The thick, red dust was everywhere. . .in our crops, in our homes, in our throats. . .it even got into the hearts of many Oklahomans. Many got discouraged, and they picked up and left."

John Steinbeck, the noted author of *The Grapes of Wrath,* depicted the story of the "Okies" as born out of the anguish and heartbreak of the land that had been asked to do more than was possible.



Fields were stripped of their usefulness. This area in Okfuskee County was later restored by using diversion ditches, sloping gullies, and terracing the entire area.



Some scars left behind cannot be completely repaired. This gully in Tulsa County is well over 20 feet deep.

HOW BAD WAS THE DUST BOWL?

The "dirty thirties" were just that. . .Ward Perryman, a long time conservation leader from Jackson County, recalls the days of blowing dust in Southwest Oklahoma. "The soil in Jackson County is sandy. When it didn't rain much in the middle 30's to grow enough vegetation to hold down the soil, the wind swept the topsoil away."

Various old timers recall that there were days during the early 1930's when the sun was hardly visible. "We'd just look to the west, and there would be a wall of dust. Dust was everywhere. . .It covered what grass there was. It got to the point where we couldn't turn livestock out into the fields because dust covered the grass," recalled one Western Oklahoma farmer.

One Panhandle farm wife lamented, "I was a grade-school student in the middle 1930's. When the dust was blowing, my dad wouldn't let us children outside. I remember standing at the back window watching him walk toward the barn with the dry dust belching up around his boots. I can still see him sticking his handkerchief in a bucket of water, wringing it out, and placing it over his nose and mouth as he marched to the barn to feed the cattle. My mother tried and tried to keep the dust out of the house. We sealed the windows. . . There was not a way to keep the dust out."

The inconvenience and hardship to the people was the short term effect of the Dust Bowl days. The most lasting effect was on Oklahoma's farm land.

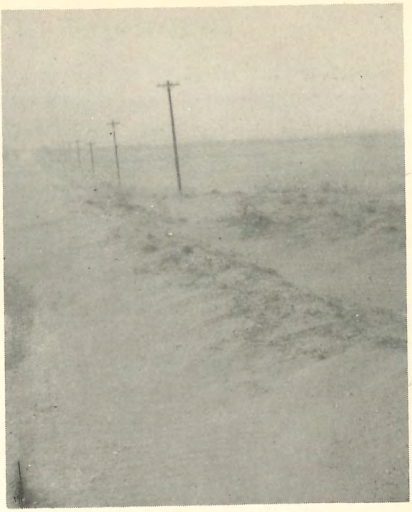
Dr. N.E. Winters, the Director of Oklahoma's first conservation experiment station, put the problem into perspective. "I grew up in Kingfisher County. I helped plow our family's farm as a boy. It got miserable. One of the best fields was washed away by gullies. An old swimming hole that I had fished in as a boy was completely filled with mud. That really made an impression on me."

The first sign of the Dust Bowl was the blowing dust rising from the barren fields. The next great indication came with the rains. Since the vegetative cover on much Oklahoma farm land was inadequate, rains washed huge gullies across the once fertile, productive farms.

Many farmers found that the harder they worked to plow and sow, the less they would reap. It grew worse year after year. When coupled with the Great Depression in which the Nation was entrenched, the 1930's rank as Oklahoma's darkest days.



Wind erosion displaced acres and acres of valuable topsoil before conservation programs became popular.



In Beaver, Oklahoma this valuable topsoil was left to choke the roadway after a dust storm.



Abandoned farm houses all across this state told the sad story of the Dust Bowl and its impact on people's ability to provide for themselves.

WHAT CAUSED THE DUST BOWL?

Since the 1930's thousands of agricultural leaders in Oklahoma have scratched their heads and regrettably tried to reconstruct the reasons why the Sooner state turned into a vast Dust Bowl.

Many reasons have been offered, but these three seem to go to the heart of the matter:

1: Even though the Federal Homestead Act of 1886 is often praised as a legislative milestone because it expanded the base of American land ownership, it led to serious consequences in Oklahoma. The Homestead Act was designed to grant land ownership to heads of households who would agree to live on a farm—one quarter section in size—for five years. Prior to the enactment of the Act, agronomists and technicians had advised Congress that the 160 acres concept would be undesirable for the western 1/2 of the Indian Territory. Arguments were made in Congress that families could not feed themselves properly on 160 acres in some sections of the land included in the Federal giveaway. Congress was encouraged to expand the parcel size to 1/2 section in the area which later became the State of Oklahoma.

Despite advice to the contrary, Congress favored and approved the 160 acre tract concept. The Congressional intent was to make "political hay" by making smaller tracts available to larger numbrs of settlers. Further, the Federal Government was interested in increasing the population density in the untamed territory.

Perhaps the benevolent intent of the United States Congress should not be denied, however, the long term result in Oklahoma merely compounded the disaster of the 1930's. Much of the land tilled as a result of the Homestead Act should never been cultivated. But the farmers must not be blamed either. By necessity they had to till every square foot of uselful land to provide for their families. By 1920, after years of tillage, the Oklahoma soil had been sapped of its life giving nutrients, the once abundant crops were reduced, and major erosion problems set in.

2: Another factor which led to the creation of the Dust Bowl tragedy was the type of "straight row" cultivation procedure employed by farmers in the first quarter of the 20th century. Old timers admit that one measure of a farmer's success was how straight he could plow a furrow. Virtually every farmer in the newly born state plowed up and down hills in the straightest rows possible. When the rains came, year in and year out, the runoff followed the course of least resistance; using the furrows as canals through which the valuable topsoil was swept away. Not much was done prior to the mid 1920's to promote contour farming. So for more than three decades the land in the Sooner State was exploited by the "straight row" cultivation method.

3: The third major reason which drove Oklahoma toward the Dust Bowl days was the type of crops planted by Oklahoma farmers. Until the mid-thirties it never seemed to dawn on most farmers or agricultural technicians that the system of clean, cultivated, annual crops was leaching the soil, and that the bare soil was left at the mercy of the wind and rain. Until the 1930's very little was done to replace any of the vital nutrients being robbed from the soil. Neither

were any cover crops used to hold the soil in place on fields particularly susceptible to runoff erosion. Little thought was given to the "best use" for which certain classes of land should be employed. Often the "best use" conflicted with the past use.

Some may not agree with the foregoing overview of the conditions which led to the Dust Bowl, but all should agree that those days were among the bleakest in Oklahoma's history. The Dust Bowl era left the Sooner State with a black eye that was not easily overcome.

II. THE BEGINNING OF CONSERVATION WORK

Early in the 20th century, President Theodore Roosevelt used the power and influence of his office to encourage the conservation of natural resources. It was not until a quarter of the 20th century had passed, however, that public concern was focused to any notable degree on the problems and consequences of soil erosion.

In the 1920's only minimal conservation work was being conducted. Some federal county agents were beginning to make terracing demonstration; but in Oklahoma during the 1920's the primary emphasis was geared toward increased production, and not toward protection of the land. The conservation work that was done was limited almost exclusively to terracing. It was difficult to build terraces with the crude equipment that was available. The three types of earth moving devices employed for early terracing were "Fresno Slips", the Kelly Plows and Corsacana Terracers. It was enormously time consuming to fill large gullys and construct terraces with mule drawn slips. Once terraces were built with these devices, they were so small that there was a high degree of breakage from rain. Before the Federal government stepped in to help the nation's farms, conservation work in Oklahoma was not the product of an organized statewide effort. Instead, the effort was restricted to individual farmers being assisted by county agents. The procedures involved piece-meal, uncoordinated, localized attempts to approach the growing problem.

EARLY NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Prior to 1928 very little had been done to attract the attention of the nation or the Federal government toward the problems that soil loss and gully erosion were causing farmers in the heartland of America. There had been a few bulletins written about terracing and other erosion control practices. Only minimal demonstration work was being conducted by federal county agents. Hardly any research had been conducted to prepare the way for improved soil management practices.

Congress began to take note of the problem in 1928, when Hugh H. Bennett and W.R. Chapline wrote a widely distributed booklet entitled, "Soil Erosion, A National Menace". This paper gave the first comprehensive indication of the incredible erosion problem that had befallen the country. Later in 1928, due in large part to the study by Bennett and Chapline, Congressional investigations were initiated. These Congressional inquiries pointed to the urgent need for federal assistance.

On February 16, 1929, Congress approved the Buchanan Amendment which began a nationwide effort to protect public and private lands from soil and water damage losses. The Buchanan Amendment appropriated $160,000 for:

1: Ten regional experiment stations for measuring the rate of soil loss by erosion.

2: Surveys to determine the extent of erosion damage.

3: Determination of control methods.

In 1929-1930, regional soil erosion experiment stations were established and manned by the Bureau of Chemistry and Soils, in

cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Engineering.

The results were amazing. Research conducted in fiscal 1930 under funding from the Buchanan Amendment indicated that each year erosion was displacing enough soil from American fields to load a train of freight cars that would extend from the earth to the moon and back again! The evidence was beginning to mount; the nation was learning to comprehend the problem.

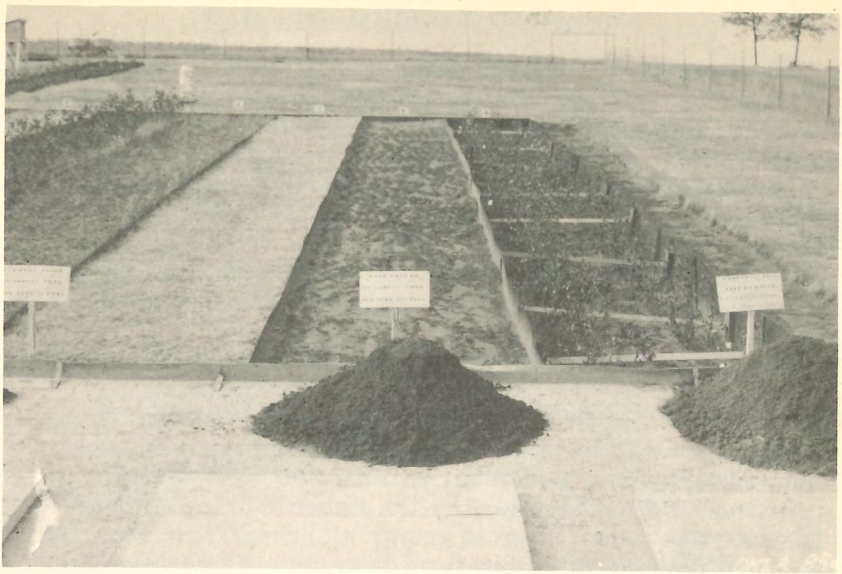
Because of the valuable information gathered during the first year of funding (1930), additional appropriations were made by Congress for the following two years to enlarge the activities of the ten erosion and water conservation research stations established by the Buchanan Amendment. A portion of the additional funds were made available to the Forest Service to assist in an ongoing program to study the influence of forest cover on runoff.



County Agents were some of the first to work with individual farmers to restore inundated and eroded land.



Terracing received major emphasis during the early years of the conservation effort, equipment was crude and the work was hard. Clifford Dawkins, Shawnee, is shown constructing a channel type terrace with a Fresno and a two horse team.



Oklahoma's first experiment and demonstration station was located in Guthrie. To impress farmers with the importance of proper vegetative cover on sloping land, this experimental demonstration was established. There was a series of plots—one left bare and the others planted to crops commonly grown in the area. The soil lost from each plot was calculated after each rain. The data was convincing.



Early conservation spokesmen used every available opportunity to emphasize the need for conservation minded soil management.

THE SOIL EROSION SERVICE

The research of the early 1930's made the picture abundantly clear—soil erosion was destroying vast amounts of American farm land. The Soil Erosion Service (predecessor to the Soil Conservation Service) was established as a temporary division of the United States Department of the Interior in 1933. On August 25, 1933, the Federal Emergency Administrator of Public Works revealed to Interior Secretary, Harold Ickes, that $5,000,000 had been approved pursuant to the National Industrial Recovery Act to "Administer erosion control programs on public as well as private lands".

The actual operation date of the Soil Erosion Service was September 19, 1933. On that date Hugh H. Bennett was chosen as the Director of the agency. Dr. Bennett was the first employee of the service. He was charged with the monumental task of staffing the agency, planning the programs to combat erosion, and administering the expenditure of funds allocated by the Public Works Administration. Bennett was a man of great energy and deep conviction. He had personally surveyed the long term damage done by erosion. In 1928, he had gained national prominence by co-authoring an indepth study of erosion: "*Soil Erosion, A National Menace*".

The first actual on-location conservation work performed by Soil Erosion Service was brought about to provide work for the unemployed. Most work was done with spades, picks and grubbing hoes. The work was hard, the methods crude, but an organized effort to conquer erosion was under way.

THE GREAT DUST STORMS

The Eastern Seaboard experienced first-hand the seriousness of erosion problems in May of 1934. On a cool afternoon, May 11, the first great dust storm swept across the Eastern Seacoast. The storm had originated over the "Dust Bowl" area of the Great Plains and rolled eastward. The gritty, dusty air blew over Washington, D.C., and as far as 300 miles into the Atlantic.

One historian described the events in Washington, "It was terrible. . .We saw a wall to the West, and then it hit. The air was black."

The New York Times reported that lights had to be turned on in New York City in the middle of the day.

The second major dust storm occurred the following spring, and it was altogether as serious as the first. Clouds of topsoil from fields in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado and Texas rolled into Washington and other Eastern cities and out into the Atlantic Ocean. The day was April 14, 1935.

The situation in the great American farming areas was getting worse. Oklahoma was particularly hard hit. The conservation work which had been done under the authority of the Soil Erosion Service had not even begun to approach the need. In fact, things were getting worse, not better. The magnitude of the problem was staggering.

THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE IS FORMED

Not long after the second great dust storm pounded the East, the federal approach to the problem began to change. With President Roosevelt's approval, the Soil Erosion Service was moved to the U.S. Department of Agriculture on March 25, 1935.

On April 27, 1935, Congress enacted the establishing and enabling act of the Soil Conservation Service. The act directed the Secretary of Agriculture to create an agency to be called the "Soil Conservation Service". All the functions and activities of the Soil Erosion Service were included within the mission of the new agency.

Indeed the Federal Government recognized the need to save the valuable farmlands of the Midwest and Great Plains. Public Law 74-36, which created the Soil Conservation Service passed both houses of Congress without a dissenting vote. The bill stated that Congress:

> "Recognized that the wastage of soil and moisture resources on farm grazing and forest lands of the nation, resulting from soil erosion, is a menace to the national welfare and that it is declared to be the policy of Congress to provide for the control and prevention of soil erosion."

The same day the Secretary of Agriculture issued a Department Memorandum establishing the SCS in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with H.H. Bennett named the first Chief.

Public Law 74-46 also provided that the Secretary of Agriculture could require the enactment of state laws providing for the protection of the soil in any state before the state qualified for the benefits from the Soil Conservation Service.

FLOOD CONTROL ACT OF 1936

Parelleling the problems of land management were water management and control needs. The battle against the destruction of the land could not be won without a multi-phased application.

In the Omnibus Flood Control Act of 1936, passed June 22, 1936, (P.L. 74-738), Congress recognized for the first time the importance of providing watershed protection and flood prevention as a complement to the downstream flood control program of the Army Corps of Engineers. In this Act the Congress authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out surveys and investigations to install measures for runoff and waterflow retardation and soil erosion prevention on watersheds.

The Washita River Watershed was one of ten watersheds designated for treatment under P.L. 74-738. With the passage of this significant legislation, the Federal Government had provided another mechanism for great change in agriculture and land stewardship.

MANPOWER AND RESEARCH

One of the most successful early approaches of the Federal Government in combating soil erosion was conservation demonstration work. In order for farmers to be convinced to employ new means of managing their land, they wanted to see first hand evidence of successes. Demonstration areas were established in strategic locations throughout the country.

In keeping with the obvious advantage of demonstrating the virtues of conservation techniques, the officials of the Soil Erosion

Service in Washington contacted Dr. N.E. Winters, who was director of Oklahoma's first Experiment Station at Guthrie. . .to set up additional conservation demonstration work in Oklahoma in 1933.

Dr. Winters recalled, "In 1933 a man called me from Washington and said that the Federal Government would have money for demonstration work. . .and we'd like you to take charge of all the work in Oklahoma to demonstrate what has been found out at the experiment station."

Dr. Winters approached Dr. Henry G. Bennett, President of Oklahoma A&M College about the possibility of taking extended leave to begin the demonstration work. Dr. Bennett was reluctant fearing that Winters would not return to A&M, but reconsidered after evaluating the likely importance of the demonstration programs to Oklahoma A&M in the long run.

The expanded demonstration work began in 1933. It had been several years since Dr. Winters first began to preach the need for improved soil management techniques in Oklahoma. Dr. Winters traveled to present lectures in every county in the state. County agents were crying for Winters to explain the dangers of soil erosion. Dr. Winters became the first great spokesman for soil conservation in Oklahoma. No one else did so much in the early 1930's to awake the minds of the Oklahoma farmers to the need for action.

The new demonstration work was begun in the Stillwater Creek Watershed. Civilian Conservation Corps workers demonstrated on privately owned land those things that had been learned at the Guthrie Experiment Station.

Dr. Winters described his efforts:

> "Well, we went to the landowners. We got all the farmers that would cooperate. And some of them we'd put on our payroll to help do the job we wanted to do. We had what was called a ten-point plan. It included terracing, contour farming, and strip farming where vegetation of different sorts was grown in strips."

The results were impressive. . .greater production resulted during the first year in the portion of the watershed where conservation work was done. Additionally, progress was made toward arresting erosion in the Stillwater Creek Watershed.

Word of the great success of the demonstration spread to the four corners of the state. Farmers and farm groups wanted to see for themselves the result of the new soil management techniques. During the summer of 1934, an average of 75 to 100 farmers and civic leaders per day from all across Oklahoma came to see the work conducted in Stillwater Creek Watershed.

Concerned Oklahomans were waking up. . .They were not content to watch the land waste away. . .They wanted to learn more about better ways of caring for the land.

OTHER DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

As a result of the successful demonstration project near Stillwater, in 1936, the Federal Government allocated the funds for additional demonstration areas in Oklahoma. Ten other major demonstration areas were established. The next was Pecan Creek, Muskogee; It, like Stillwater Creek, was one of the demonstration centers established under SES. Others were: Elk City Creek, Elk City; Camp Creek, Seiling; Tulip and Henry Creeks, Ardmore; Little Washita, Chickasha; Taloga Creek, Stigler; Con Creek, Duncan; Guymon Creek, Guymon; and Pryor Creek, Pryor.

At the height of the program in 1940, there were almost 200 ongoing demonstrations.

To call these ten projects "demonstrations" may be a bit of a misnomer. Often the demonstrations were little more than trial and error. Demonstration leaders were not dealing with longstanding precedents. Rather, they were pioneers. Their experiences—both good and bad were documented for those who would follow.

One conclusion was certain from the collected demonstration data: There was a feeling that soil erosion could be controlled and that it did not have to be accepted passively with no alternative.

III. WIDESPREAD CONSERVATION WORK BEGINS; FEDERAL PROGRAMS LEAD THE WAY

The mid and late 1930's saw America struggling to pull itself from the clutches of the Great Depression. Economic rehabilitation was the key goal of the federal government. Thousands of workers needed jobs. Conservation work was ideal for those seeking employment. With so many people out of work, the needed work force was readily available. Public works employees provided farmers with the work force needed to perform and implement necessary conservation programs.

In 1933, Dr. Nick Winters was appointed to direct the work of over 1100 PWA and CWA workers in Oklahoma. They became available after a major Congressional battle to determine whether federal funds should be used to carry out Soil Conservation Control measures on private land.

To assist farmers with Soil Conservation practices, CCC camps were located in the following Oklahoma cities and towns:

Stillwater	Cordell	Checotah	Hobart	Fort Cobb
Perry	Mt. View	Wagoner	Sentinel	Nowata
Gasker	Idabel	Broken Arrow	Sayre	Tahlequah
Blackwell	Hugo	Boley	Gould	Ardmore
Binger	Wilburton	Chandler	Rush Springs	Clinton
Geary	Broken Bow	Yukon	Beaver	
Guthrie	Morris	Wewoka	Buffalo	
Wynnewood	Boynton	Walters	Purcell	

Each CCC camp was staffed by a conservationist who sought to make agreements with farmers to begin conservation programs. The CCC personnel had to have landowners authority to enter land. Workers were transported from the CCC installation to a farm by truck. Most of the camps employed about 200 workers and five technicians. With forty men working on each farm, a camp could

make improvement on five farms simultaneously. A technician directed the work on each farm.

The men left the camp at 8:00 a.m., and were returned to the camp superintendent at 5:00 p.m. The camp superintendent had charge of discipline, housing and feeding.

What did it cost the farmer to have a sudden work force of forty men on his land? The labor was rendered at no charge. Since there was little large equipment, the farmer was required to furnish such equipment as he could to assist in the implementation of conservation procedures on his land.

As for the workers, life in a barracks in CCC camps offered little luxury. The blowing sand had to be scooped out, there was little privacy. But. . .at least it meant enough food and a job.



Conservation work got a tremendous boost when the CCC program made thousands of workers available to help rebuild stricken Oklahoma farms.



CCC workers near Stillwater among seedlings that were raised for transplanting in shelter belts.

EARLY RESISTANCE TO CONSERVATION MOVEMENT

Despite the demonstrations, despite the availability of federal workers to help employ conservation measures on their farms, there were still people who were suspicious of the conservation movement. During the early 1930's there was resistance to the implementation of conservation measures. The protest continued to be heard until 1940. Some reluctant farmers objected to conservation programs because of misinformation; others because of stubbornness; and others because of immediate economic concerns.

Misinformation was a slowing factor in some parts of the state. Some farmers had the impression that conservation practices were being forced upon them. To many of the pioneering, independent thinking Oklahoma farmers, the situation smelled like Federal intervention in their rights as free land owners. The problems of overcoming the suspicions of these farmers—many of whom were down on their luck anyway—was not an easy task. One promoter of conservation programs recalls having looked down the barrel of more than one shotgun in the hands of farmers who were fearful that the Federal Government was making an effort to force more laws and regulations on the people.

Another tidbit of mis-information that spread rapidly was the rumor that the cost of all Federal conservation work was going to be billed directly to the farmer. Eventually the county agents and conservation employees began to scour the state preaching the truth about the federal assistance programs.

Conservation pioneer Laurence Drake reflected on the difficulty of getting beyond the customs and prejudices of many farmers!

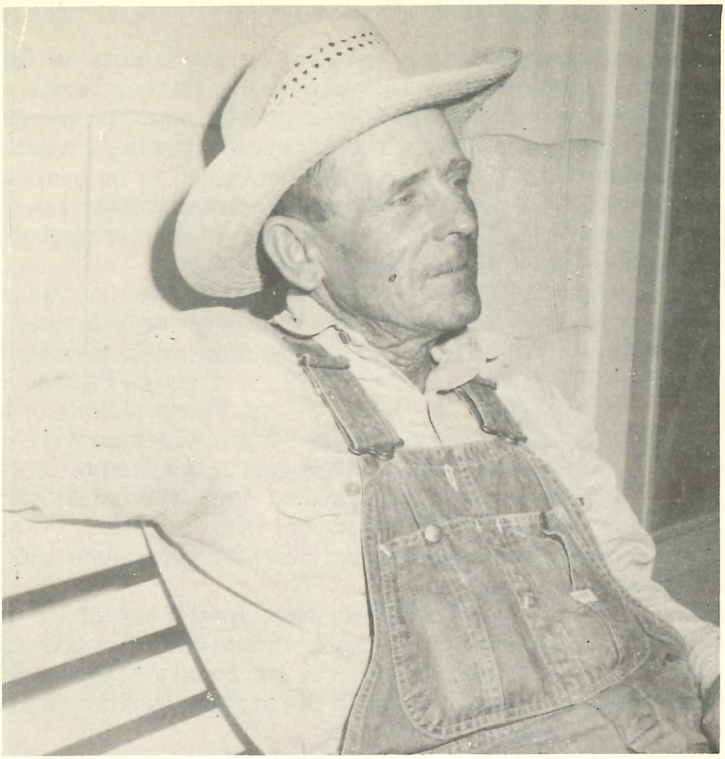
"I talked with lots of farmers who were just so hard headed that they wouldn't listen. They just weren't convinced that there was a need to turn the state's land care techniques around."

There were all kinds of excuses made by farmers who thought that terracing would not work. There was, in some communities, a reluctance to leave "Straight row farm methods". During the forty years following the land run of 1889, a good farmer's hallmark was his ability to plow rows that were straight. It's no wonder that the switch from the "crooked row farming" suggested by conservation leaders was hard for some to accept.

In a few communities, particularly in areas settled by ethnic groups of European descent where customs were most imposing, groups of farmers banded together to resist any and all conservation practices.

In Western Oklahoma during the early 1930's old timers congregated to scoff conservation advocates. They laughed and jeered contending that it was useless to build ponds in Western Oklahoma because they could never be filled. Most of the anti-pond contingent was converted when it became clear that having surface water during drought was a blessing to farmers.

The most widespread resistance to conservation practices found its roots in the economic difficulty associated with the Great Depression. It was a fact of life, most farmers faced with the problem of providing a family's living on 160 acres of washed, eroded land has little choice but to continue tilling all their land. Terracing



Some farmers listened reluctantly to the early conservation leaders. They wanted proof before changing their ways—or before taking land out of cultivation.



For too many years Oklahoma farmers planted fields to row crops with little or no attention paid to contouring, terracing and other soil conservation practices. Here, an agronomist discusses the advantages of contour farming to an open-minded farmer.

meant that most farming equipment in use could no longer be used. New equipment to work between terracing usually had to be secured. In some cases that was prohibitive. In the second place, if farmers accepted the contention of conservationists that some of their land should no longer be tilled, farmers balked fearing they could not provide for their families. In some areas the value of conservation practices had to be shown for ten or more years before reluctant farmers decided that conservation practices would increase their incomes.

IV. THE BIRTH OF THE CONSERVATION DISTRICT CONCEPT

LEGISLATION PAVES THE WAY

The Secretary of Agriculture's Committee on Soil Conservation, in a recommendation approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, June 6, 1935, recommended:

"That on or after July 1, 1937, all erosion-control work on private lands, including new demonstration projects, be undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service, only through legally constituted Soil Conservation Districts."

The recommendation came just forty days after the Soil Conservation Service was created, and it was in keeping with the Agriculture Secretary's authority to require states to pass laws providing for soil conservation before they could qualify for SCS benefits.

Out of the committee thinking was born the Soil Conservation District concept.

A year and one-half later in February, 1937, President Roosevelt submitted to each state governor a standard state soil conservation districts law. The proposed plan provided for the local farmers and ranchers to actively participate in the planning and conducting conservation programs. (The thinking was that the farmers in any area would best know what would be compatible with their own farming style. Additionally, there would be less resistance if farmers were not fearful that Washington was forcing its programs down the throats of individual farmers.) The plan was arranged so that soil conservation districts could be decided upon by referendum vote of landowners and operators; thereby, allowing them to assist in making the decisions regarding the conservation of their soil and water resources.

President Roosevelt used the weight of his personal magnetism and influence to strongly encourage the adoption of the legislation.

Arkansas responded first by immediately passing the legislation only six days after the Arkansas governor received Mr. Roosevelt's letter.



This is the first Soil Conservation Board and staff. (Back Row L-R) Raymond Denny; Henry G. Bennett, President, Oklahoma A&M; E. E. Scholl, Director, Extension Service, Oklahoma A&M; E. P. Weston, State Coordinator, Soil Conservation Service; Lippert Ellis, Head, Experiment Station, Oklahoma A&M; J. B. Perky, Supervisor, Georgia Vo. Ag. and Earl Lowe, Executive Secretary.

Oklahoma also took quick action on the Conservation District Enabling Act, reacting to the President's proposal withing a month of receipt. The bill was introduced into the Oklahoma Legislature in the early spring of 1937. Among the persons testifying before the House and Senate Committees was Richard Longmire, who later served as president of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts. Longmire recalls that his testimony was received favorably in both houses of the State Legislature.

Once the bill came from the committees, passage through the 16th session of the Oklahoma Legislature came swiftly. The original authors of the bill were Senator Joseph Whitaker, Eufaula; Senator Gerald Spence, Chickasha; Rep. A.W. Leechcraft, Durant; Rep. Glade Kirkpatrick, Tulsa; Rep. Mead Norton, Shawnee; and Rep. Bert Larason, Fargo.

After passage of the legislation by both houses of the legislature, Senate Bill 208 became law upon being signed by Governor E.W. Marland on April 15, 1937.

Senate Bill 208 contained provisions which created the State Soil Conservation Committee. The Committee was to serve as an agency of state government. The Committee served as the conservation coordinator for Oklahoma. The members of first state committee were: Dr. Henry G. Bennett, President of Oklahoma A&M College; E.E. Scholl, Director, Extension Division, Oklahoma A&M College; Dr. Lippert S. Ellis, Head Experiment Supervisor, Oklahoma A&M College; J.B. Perky, Supervisor, Vocational Agriculture Education; and E.P. Weston, State Coordinator, Soil Conservation Service.

The first biannual appropriation to the State Committee included $60,000 for fiscal 1938 and $90,000 for fiscal 1939.

With the approval of the District Law in Oklahoma, the stage was set for a major miracle; the resurrection of much of the Sooner State from a wasting dust bowl to productive usefulness.

More and more people began to jump on the band wagon as SCS employees, county agents and local farmers encouraged the formation of conservation districts in meetings and informal sessions. The state awakeneded. . .Enthusiasm spread.

It began to spread like a wild prairie fire. Farmers wanted the benefits of the conservation programs.

The organization of districts which concerned themselves with soil and water conservations signaled the first widespread organized conservation effort in the state. Until 1937, all the conservation work had been conducted on a piecemeal, catch as catch can basis.

Within nine months after the Bill became law, fifty-five petitions, each bearing the required twenty-five land owner signatures, were submitted by the people requesting the formation of Soil Conservation Districts. Twenty-eight districts were formed within a year after the enabling legislation became the Oklahoma law. What a record! Within a year fully one-third of the state was covered by conservation districts. Most of those same districts had prepared written work plans and long range objectives. Priorities for saving precious resources were being set. Good things were happening to the country side all across Oklahoma!

WHICH SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT WAS FIRST?

For many years there was a standing debate over which soil conservation district was the first organized in Oklahoma. The feud existed between the McIntosh District and the Arkansas-Verdigris District.

Just for the record. . .the McIntosh Soil Conservation District was organized on January 28, 1938, and the Arkansas-Verdigris was organized on February 23, 1938. Consequently, the first district organized was the McIntosh District. . .26 days prior to Arkansas-Verdigris.

However. . .two districts began operations before the McIntosh District, despite its earlier organization date. Both the Arkansas-Verdigris and the Garvin Soil Conservation Districts began district program operations on November 2, 1938. McIntosh began December 23, 1938, with District operation.

Both debating groups can be content then, depending upon whether the organization date or the actual operation date, seems most important.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NO. & NAME	ORGANIZATION DATE	DATE OPERATION BEGAN
1. McIntosh County SCD	Jan. 28, 1938	Dec. 23, 1938
2. Arkansas Verdigris SCD (now Tulsa Co. CD)	Feb. 23, 1938	Nov. 2, 1938
3. Garvin Murray SCD (now Garvin CD)	March 4, 1938	Nov. 2, 1938
4. East Central Oklahoma SCD (now LeFlore Co. CD)	March 15, 1938	Jan. 5, 1939
5. Konawa SCD	March 1, 1938	Dec. 29, 1938
6. Kiamichi SCD	March 18, 1938	November 5, 1938
7. Upper Washita SCD	Jan. 28, 1938	Dec. 16, 1938
8. North Fork of Red River SCD	March 31, 1938	Feb. 3, 1939
9. Logan County SCD	April 5, 1938	March 23, 1939
10. Gaines Creek SCD (now Pittsburg Co. CD)	April 6, 1938	July 31, 1940
11. Creek County SCD	May 7, 1938	Feb. 11, 1941
12. Stephens County SCD	April 30, 1938	March 23, 1939
13. Arbuckle SCD	April 29, 1938	November 27, 1939
14. Jackson County SCD	May 20, 1938	May 26, 1938
15. Farm Security SCD (now Harmon Co. CD)	June 4, 1938	May 10, 1939
16. Canadian Walnut SCD (now McClain Co. CD)	May 26, 1938	May 16, 1939

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NO. & NAME	ORGANIZATION DATE	DATE OPERATION BEGAN
17. Cen. North Canadian River SCD	May 19, 1938	May 29, 1939
18. Muskogee-Okmulgee SCD (now Muskogee Co. CD)	June 11, 1938	June 1, 1939
19. Blue & Boggy SCD (now Coal Co. CD)	June 4, 1938	July 23, 1940
20. Checotah SCD	June 11, 1938	August 21, 1939
21. Harper County CD	June 18, 1938	June 18, 1938
22. Verdi-Grand SCD (now Wagoner Co. CD)	August 20, 1938	August 17, 1939
23. Atoka County SCD	August 20, 1938	August 20, 1938
24. Northern Hughes County SCD (now Hughes County CD)	September 16, 1938	June 14, 1939
25. Little River SCD	November 18, 1938	November 27, 1939
26. Okfuskee County SCD	February 10, 1939	February 13, 1939
27. Grady County SCD	November 18, 1938	January 16, 1940
28. Red River Valley SCD (now Love Co. CD)	April 15, 1939	May 30, 1939
29. Seminole Co. SCD	April 12, 1939	March 7, 1940
30. Ark. River Kay Co. SCD	April 6, 1939	July 24, 1940
31. West Tillman and Big Pastures (now Tillman Co. CD)	January 17, 1939	July 24, 1940
32. Mayes County SCD	August 1, 1939	July 24, 1940
33. Garfield County SCD	August 1, 1939	July 31, 1940
34. Shawnee SCD	November 8, 1939	August 15, 1940
35. Cleveland County SCD	September 26, 1939	August 15, 1940
36. East Canadian Co. SCD	January 2, 1940	October 25, 1940
37. Bryan SCD	February 2, 1940	August 18, 1941
38. Cherokee County SCD	March 2, 1940	August 21, 1941
39. Sequoyah County SCD	January 31, 1940	August 11, 1941
40. Valliant SCD	January 3, 1940	May 8, 1941
41. Okmulgee County SCD	Februrary 13, 1940	April 24, 1941
42. Mt. View SCD	June 29, 1940	August 25, 1941
43. Lincoln County SCD	June 14, 1940	August 19, 1941
44. Pushmataha SCD	June 22, 1940	September 4, 1941
45. Craig County SCD	October 29, 1940	March 4, 1941
46. Texas County SCD	February 4, 1941	February 4, 1941
47. Marshall County SCD	February 4, 1941	September 4, 1941

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NO. & NAME	ORGANIZATION DATE	DATE OPERATION BEGAN
48. Ellis County SCD	March 4, 1941	December 20, 1941
49. Beaver County SCD	March 4, 1941	February 10, 1942
50. Greer County SCD	March 23, 1941	March 2, 1943
51. Payne County SCD	March 29, 1941	April 20, 1943
52. North Caddo County SCD (now North Caddo CD)	May 3, 1941	July 6, 1943
53. Dewey County SCD	May 31, 1941	March 4, 1943
54. Rogers Co. SCD	June 28, 1941	June 5, 1944
55. Delaware Co. SCD	June 20, 1941	June 26, 1944
56. Oklahoma County SCD	July 19, 1941	September 11, 1944
57. South Caddo County SCD (now South Caddo CD)	October 15, 1941	November 16, 1943
58. Woodward County SCD	April 11, 1942	July 28, 1944
59. Noble County SCD	May 29, 1943	October 31, 1944
60. Comanche County SCD	March 4, 1944	February 9, 1945
61. Jefferson County SCD	May 6, 1944	June 10, 1944
62. Cimarron Valley SCD	May 2, 1944	January 1, 1945
63. Washington County SCD (now Caney Valley CD)	June 22, 1944	March 6, 1945
64. Major County SCD	July 22, 1944	May 10, 1945
65. Alfalfa County SCD	August 19, 1944	December 5, 1945
66. Blaine County SCD	August 29, 1944	August 24, 1945
67. Adair County SCD	October 21, 1944	January 24, 1946
68. Deer Creek SCD	November 4, 1944	January 2, 1946
69. Osage County SCD	October 16, 1944	October 16, 1944
70. Woods County SCD	June 15, 1945	August 28, 1947
71. Grant County SCD	August 25, 1945	December 19, 1946
72. Western Kay Co. SCD	August 22, 1945	December 19, 1946
73. Nowata County SCD	November 3, 1945	December 19, 1946
74. Talihina SCD	March 23, 1946	September 30, 1947
75. Ottawa County SCD	March 27, 1946	July 7, 1947
76. Kiowa County SCD	February 23, 1946	July 16, 1947
77. Pawnee County SCD	October 26, 1946	April 30, 1948
78. Cotton County SCD	October 12, 1948	November 22, 1948
79. Cimarron County SCD	November 23, 1948	September 2, 1949
80. East Woods County SCD	December 17, 1948	September 6, 1949

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NO. & NAME	ORGANIZATION DATE	DATE OPERATION BEGAN
81. Haskell County SCD	April 19, 1950	April 2, 1951
82. *Murray County SCD	October 31, 1950	October 31, 1950
83. *Johnston County SCD	June 8, 1951	June 18, 1951
84. *Latimer County SCD	August 9, 1951	September 9, 1951
85. *Pontotoc County SCD	December 11, 1951	June 9, 1952
86. *Washita County SCD	August 3, 1953	June 4, 1953
87. Kingfisher County SCD	September 9, 1956	September 19, 1956
88. *Custer County CD	February 28, 1973	February 28, 1973

*Deannexed from a larger district

ALL OKLAHOMA NOW IN CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

The entire land area of Oklahoma, both privately and publicly owned is now included in one of 88 conservation districts. The last conservation district in Oklahoma was formed on September 19, 1956, when a charter was issued to the Kingfisher County Conservation District. It was not until 1961, however, that the final portion of Oklahoma land completed the Oklahoma district picture. A small area of Beaver County was incorporated into an existing district on January 16, 1961. Although, Custer County was the last district organized it was originally a part of the Upper Washita Conservation District.

As each conservation district was organized, it was staffed with Federal Soil Conservation Technicians trained in soil conservation engineering who worked with farmers and district leaders to implement conservation programs.

JUST WHAT IS A CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Conservation districts are special purpose sub-divisions of the State of Oklahoma, similar to dependent school districts; except that conservation districts lack the power to tax or make assessments. In the beginning, the districts were not empowered to condemn land for public use.

Since the formation of the first conservation district in Oklahoma, there have been several name changes of districts. Some of the first districts were formed along watershed boundaires, while others were established whenever early day conservation leaders could influence farmers to participate in conservation programs. However, most districts are formed on a county basis with county lines serving as district boundaries.

HOW ARE THE DISTRICTS GOVERNED?

The governing board of a conservation district is composed of five members. Two of the members are appointed by the State Conservation Commission for two year terms. Three members are elected to serve three year terms.

To be eligible to serve as a director, the individual must be a qualified voter in a District and have a conservation agreement with the district. An election is held during the first full week in March to elect one director. The election may be held at polling places or at an annual meeting of the cooperators. The Board of Directors determines the election methods.

After the election, the results are certified to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission by the election committee. The individuals receiving the highest number of votes are declared elected by the state board. The term of office begins on April 1st, following the election and runs for three years.

AUTHORITY FOR DISTRICT AND SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE RELATIONSHIP:

The District Enabling Act authorizes directors to cooperate with or enter into agreements with SCS in carrying on erosion

control and preventive measures, for flood prevention and for the conservation, development, utilization and disposal of water in the district.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DISTRICTS AND THE SCS:

Pursuant to the authority granted by law, districts enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Secretary of Agriculture. This memorandum is the basis of the relationship between a district and the SCS. In summary, the authorities and responsibilities of each under the terms of this memorandum are as follows:

1. The directors are to recommend to the SCS the development and administration of conservation activities and the overall problems and work plan in the district.

2. The directors are to prepare an annual work plan to serve as a guide in carrying out its program during the year.

3. Directors are to enter into agreements with landowners for the carrying out of conservation plans.

4. The directors have the responsibility of determining kind, amount and priority of work to be performed by it on farms and ranches and for seeing that the agreements with landowners are carried out.

5. The function of the SCS is to give technical assistance to the district in carrying out the conservation program of the Board of Directors.

The technical phase of soil conservation work on the land within a county is under the direction of the Soil Conservation Service technician assigned to the district.

When the conservation district law was passed in 1937, the most pressing conservation problems faced by Oklahoma landowners were wind and water erosion. Fields were scarred with chiseled gullies. Windblown gritty sand piled up along fence rows and barns. Sand dunes formed in wheat fields. The early work of the districts was directed toward eradicating those significant problems.

The most popular conservation practice in the late 1930's, when the program began to sweep the state, was terracing. Soil erosion was then the greatest land management problem in the entire state.

Horses and men were throwing up rows of dirt around steep hills, as they were advised by Soil Conservation Service surveying teams. These terraces were designed to conquer erosion. Sometimes they did, sometimes they did not.

But they did usher into Oklahoma more scientific conservation methods which have turned the tide of land destruction and opened the way to better land management.

The first terraces were called "narrow ridge". Then came the "broad base" with a defined channel. After several years of experience, a new design was used. It was the "upside down" variety, with the dirt taken from the lower side and no definite channel on the upper side.

Without the aid of large earth-moving equipment, the task of implementing conservation projects was difficult. The wife of an

early conservation leader said terraces were built with slips "no bigger than thimbles".

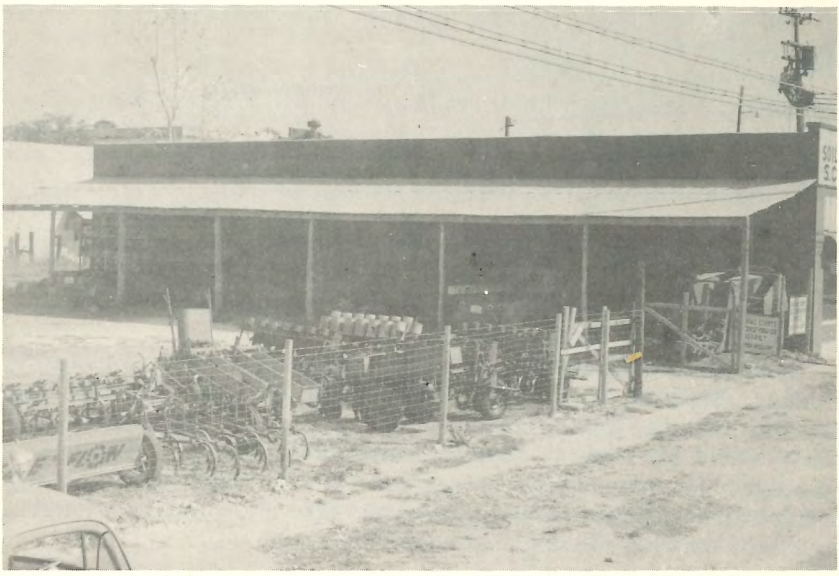
Indeed early conservation plans employed crude equipment by comparison with present standards. The coming of heavy equipment has been a boom to conservation. Fortunately, tractors and graders became available to most farmers, either by purchase or by hire, in the early years of the conservation effort.



This picture taken near Mangum in Southwest Oklahoma depicts the site of the first shelterbelt in the United States.



This McIntosh County farmer is constructing a diversion terrace with a three horse team and Fresno to throw extra water from about 25 acres of grassland into farm pond in background.



Districts began to accumulate equipment to aid farmers in making conservation improvements. This is a district office and storage space for equipment.



This two row bermudagrass sodding device was loaned to LeFlore County Conservation District landowners.

V. THE DISTRICTS ORGANIZE

PROBLEMS OF DISTRICT SUPERVISORS

There were times in the early days when several pragmatic district supervisors became upset and frustrated by all the "red tape" required to receive governmental assistance of conservation projects.

The government moved slowly. The enthusiastic eager supervisors wanted action.

One long time supervisor from Jackson County, Ward Perryman, remarked, "We didn't have funds at the local level rapidly enough to be dispursed. We had the responsibility for writing district plans—and for creating a plan of action that would achieve maximum returns without lasting erosion resulting. But we had to wait for the SCS people to move before we could start a project. . .We thought any delay was too long. . .Time was wasting . . .so was the land. . .We needed help". Despite their impatience, most supervisors accepted the delays in stride as necessary evils, so long as the aid did finally come.

Long time conservation activist Laurence Drake recounted, "Most directors have taken their job seriously. . .We've been dealing with the land. People's livelihoods are at stake. . .Directors have stood for what is best for landowners. They aren't "rubber stamps" for government programs. We've tried to implement programs for the individual landowners that allow farmers to gain a good return while saving their land from abuse.

FORMATION OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION

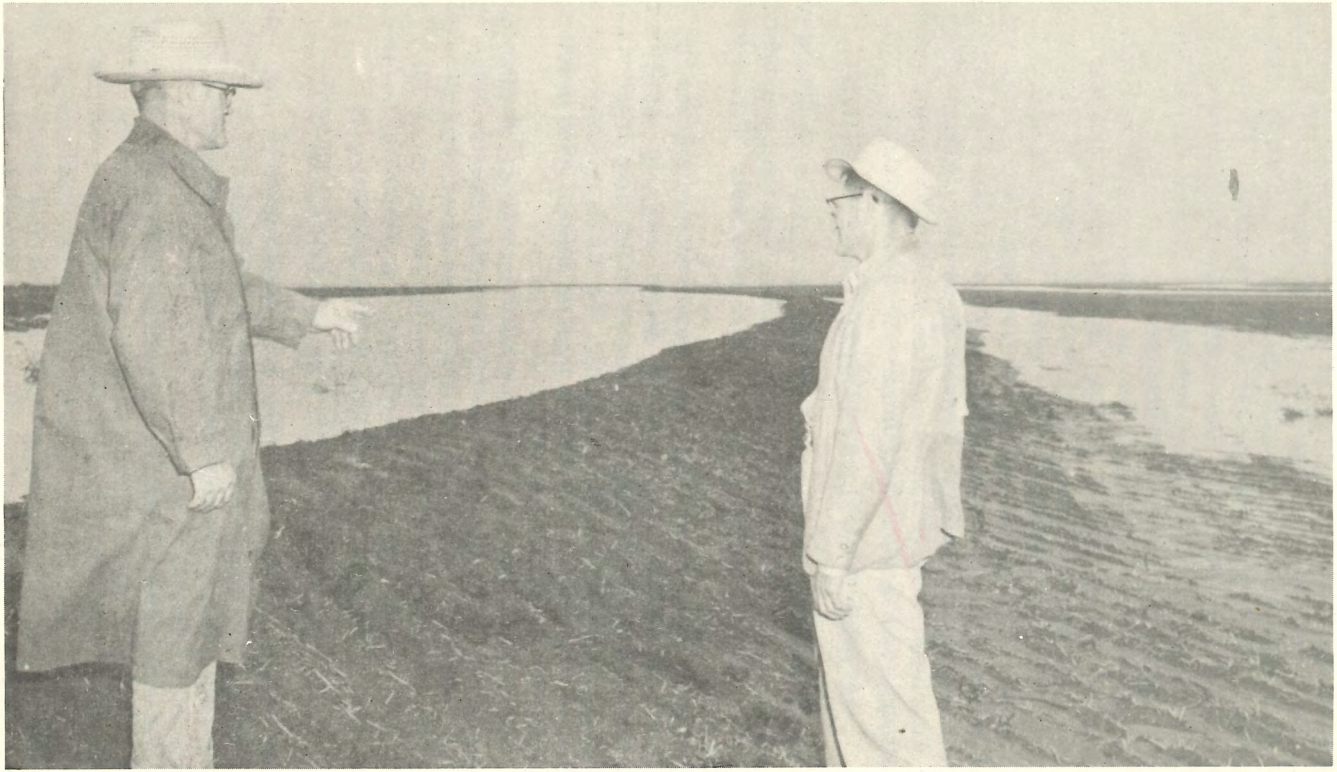
In late January of 1939, the State Soil Conservation Committee called a conference in Stillwater, the purpose of which was to train men to be effective directors of Soil Conservation districts.

The meetings were tedious. Nolen Fuqua stated that the greatest amount of time was spent "being lectured to by bureaucrats from Washington". The patience of the district directors began to run thin during the long sessions. The conservation enthusiasts wanted action. . .and not more talk.

During a lunch recess several of the delegates decided that an organization of Soil Conservation districts was essential. The group determined to meet again the same evening to discuss the matter further.

The small group met in the office of Earl Lowe, the Executive Secretary of the State Committee. The district directors discussed the emerging realization that the district boundaries did not encompass the whole of their responsibilities. . .Mutual problems had arisen. . .problems that crossed district lines. . .Experiences, both successful and unsuccessful, needed to be shared among the districts. . .Surely, it was thought, other districts could profit by what their counterparts had learned.

The result of the discussion was a group determined to create an organization of districts. The following day a constitution and by-laws were drafted to create the Soil Conservation District Supervisors Association, thus establishing the first such state



SCS engineering aides from the Clinton work unit inspect detention terraces on a district supervisor's farm near Cordell. These terraces held every drop from a six inch rain, allowing precious water to soak into the ground.

organization of districts in the nation.

Article II of the organization's Constitution outlined its purpose: "*. . .to furnish a centralized head through which the Soil Conservation districts may more efficiently work in a united effort to secure the proper supervision and machinery, financial and other assistance necessary in furthering the conservation of soil and moisture; to counsel with the State Soil Conservation Committee, the SCS and other interested agencies in carrying out this program. . .and to keep the general public informed of the needs and accomplishments of the Soil Conservation District program.*"

The meeting to approve the constitution was held on February 1, 1939, in Earl Lowe's office in Stillwater.

The constitution provided for an eight member Executive Committee. On the night of the birth of the organization the Executive Committee was chosen. Nolen J. Fuqua of Duncan was chosen as the first president of the group. The headquarters of the association were in the office of the State Soil Conservation Committee in Stillwater. ironically, it would be less than six years until the Soil Conservation District Supervisors Association and the State Soil Conservation Committee would have a major skimish resulting in an irreconcilable rift between the two groups.

WORLD WAR II AFFECTED CONSERVATION

The district program was shifting into high gear when World War II was declared. When the United States was plunged into the conflict late in 1941, Conservation programs were altered drastically.

The labor force, which had been available through the Civilian Conservation Corps, was suddenly swept away to serve in the armed services. Additionally, the war effort left much needed earth moving equipment in short supply. To further complicate the situation, the nation was forced into an all-out food production effort for the duration of the War.

Generally speaking, the conservation movement in Oklahoma took a back seat to increased production during the war years. Part of the gains of the first few years of effective conservation work was lost. As had been the case prior to the 1930's, much land only marginally suited for crop production was employed to produce food. Some such land eroded further during the war years.

THE STATE COMMITTEE IS REORGANIZED

The organized districts have been the most powerful force supporting the conservation movement in Oklahoma. In 1945, the organization flexed its muscles, resulting in a redirection of state conservation management.

For the first several years the program began to gain momentum . . .but several district supervisors were contending that the program funds appropriated by the state legislature were not being properly administered by the State Committee. Inadequate records were being kept. . .Some supervisors argued that too much control over the state conservation effort was placed in Stillwater at Oklahoma A&M. As a matter of fact, the State Committee was

being accused of lumping the conservation appropriations into the general operating budget of Oklahoma A&M.

It was becoming evident during the early 1940's that the members of the State Committee were preoccupied with their professional positions and were not able to give the proper attention to the conservation needs of the state.

Stillwater and the State Committee seemed far removed from the rest of the state. The State Committee was divorced from the field work. A communication gap was growing. For the first five years of the operation of the State Committee, the district supervisors were so in awe of the predominantly university official composed Commitee that none dared to suggest that the Committee makeup be changed.

In January, 1943, the murmuring had spread among the districts to the extent that three men openly suggested that the State Committee be swept away from the control of Oklahoma A&M. The three were Nolen Fuqua, Duncan; Frank Dunaway, Jones; and Richard Longmire, Pauls Valley.

The matter was quickly brought to a head. The ensuing battle centered on personalities and politics.

Dr. Henry Bennett, chairman of the State Committee, was aware that the district supervisors had become annoyed with the State Committee's lacking attention to conservation needs. Consequently, Dr. Bennett, in an effort to create some action in the districts, decided to recommend a state appropriation of one million dollars to hire extra engineering aides throughout the state. Nolen Fuqua, who was then the President of the Soil Conservation District Supervisors Association, explained the reaction to the move: "The supervisors resented Dr. Bennett's gesture and regarded it as a political ploy to try to rebuild the diminished confidence in the State Committee".

Then in order to appease the supervisors, Dr. Bennett called a session of all the supervisors in the state to meet at Stillwater to discuss projected uses of the requested funds.

The meeting was held, but it backfired. It did little more than provide a forum for the supervisors to indicate to the State Committee the growing dissatisfaction among the district supervisors. Many supervisors were willing to state that the State Committee, which had its own interests at heart, was competing for the same state funds needed for conservation work. The showdown was set.

A BATTLE FOR CONTROL

Several district supervisors combined to draft an amendment to the Enabling Act of 1937 calling for the abolishment of the State Committee, and providing for a State Soil Conservation Board to be made up of members from five geographical areas over the state. The proposed amendment provided that each member of the State Soil Conservation Board must be a district supervisor who derived the major portion of his income from farming or ranching. It was recommended that each member be appointed by the Governor of Oklahoma to a five year term. The expiration of terms would be staggered so that one appointment would be made each June 30th.



These District Supervisors attended a meeting called by the State Committee in Stillwater. After the sessions one evening several supervisors conceived the idea of a state organization of Districts, which today has become the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts.



The State Committee was dissolved in 1945. To replace it the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Board was established. Paul Mungle was one of Governor Kerr's first appointments to the new Board. Mungle (right) inspects a 2 year old stand of white Dutch clover.

A number of the district supervisors from across the state spent as many as forty days during the 1945 Oklahoma Legislative session working at the State Capitol in support of the Amendments to strip control of conservation programs away from Oklahoma A&M.

Governor Robert S. Kerr was a political friend of A&M President, Dr. Henry Bennett. Obviously, Dr. Bennett and Oklahoma A&M did not want control of the conservation program taken out of Stillwater. Richard Longmire reflected on the Governor's attitude when he recalled, "Governor Kerr fought the proposal tooth and toenail. Many people think Robert S. Kerr was always a conservationist, but in the early years of the conservation program he didn't fully understand that the soil conservation districts needed total support from the State Committee".

Legislative hearings revealed that the State Committee composed almost entirely of administrators at Oklahoma A&M had not kept adequate financial records. No minutes of State Committee meetings were produced at the Amendment hearings. The assumption must be that no formal minutes were kept. Consequently, no one knew what the state Committee had been doing or how conservation funds were spent.

After several months of fierce battling, legislative sentiment was running with the districts. . .the district law was amended by the Oklahoma Legislature on April 28, 1945 (Senate Bill No. 78). Governor Kerr reluctantly signed the measure into law, thereby stripping control of conservation coordination away from Oklahoma A&M.

With the abolition of the State Committee, the State Soil Conservation Board was formed to oversee, and provide

Oklahoma.

In 1975, at a ceremony at the Oklahoma State University the family of H. H. Finnell presented to the Oklahoma State University Library all of his papers and other material to the Oklahoma State University Library.

Clarence Bunch, a well-known authority on native range land grasses said that one of the problems that conservation districts and landowners faced in the late 1930's and early 1940's was the shortage of recommended species of grass seed. Bunch later became Extension Range Land Specialist and played an important role in developing techniques for harvesting and storing native grass seed.

By December 7, 1941, the date of bombing of Pearl Harbor, 58 Soil Conservation Districts had been formed. Many of those were not in operation and some of them were poorly financed. With the coming of World War II the activities of and the work of these districts were greatly curtailed because of a lack of personnel to do the conservation job plus the fact that the big push was on for food and fiber production and the conservation of soil and water took a back seat at that time for the duration of the war. Following the close of World War II the Soil Conservation District program once again started moving forward.

EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT SOUGHT BY DISTRICTS

At the close of World War II the Federal Government had vast quantities of heavy earth moving equipment to dispose of as war surplus. Legislation was introduced into congress to grant this machinery to the U.S.D.A. for the benefit of soil conservation districts by Senator McKellar, Tennessee, and Representatives Bob Poage of Texas, and Lyle Boren of Oklahoma in the House. The Senate Bill passed, but the House Bill had been stalled in the Rules Committee.

As a show of their continuing interest in conservation despite their defeat a year earlier when the State Committee was abolished, Governor Robert S. Kerr and Oklahoma A&M President Dr. Henry G. Bennett agreed to lead a delegation of Oklahomans to Washington in 1946, to work for the passage of the legislation which would grant the idle earth moving equipment to the soil conservation districts. In addition to Kerr and Bennett five conservation leaders went to the nation's capitol to lobby for the McKeller legislation. The five were: A. F. Houston, Claude Ingram, A. P. Atkins, Clarence Reeds, and E. B. Smith.

The Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts and Governor Kerr's staff were bent on a widespread show of support; thereby, delegations from every state were encouraged to group together and join the lobbying effort. Forty-one states responded affirmatively and sent groups to Washington. The representatives met in conference in Washington to plan their strategy to get the bill out of committee and passed by the U.S. House.

Governor Kerr was appointed chairman of the conference, since he had played the vital role in the conference preparations. In a January 16, 1946, letter to President Franklin D. Roosevelt encouraging his support, Kerr stated. . .

Conservation District began operation on the same date November 2, 1938, which is several weeks earlier than the McIntosh County Conservation District which was the first organized. So the McIntosh County District was first organized but the Tulsa County and Garvin Districts were the first to begin operation.

Since the Soil Conservation Districts did not have any funds for office rent, clerical assistance, office supplies or equipment they established on office under an agreement with the Soil Conservation Service in the Soil Conservation office. Many of those districts have remained located in the Soil Conservation office to the present time. However, a number of districts have built their own buildings and are no longer in the courthouse or the federal building.

Following the formation of the Soil Conservation District and after all five members were elected or appointed, the Soil Conservation District developed a long range plan that considered the natural resources of the district and the way that they were going to go about conserving these natural resources. In addition to the long range plan, each district prepared an annual plan of work that would give some guidance for the Soil Conservation Service technical assistance to do the job.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Soil Conservation Service, agreed to furnish technical assitance to the local Soil Conservation Districts to carry out the conservation measures that the landowners wished to include in their conservation plan. These technicians furnished by the Soil Conservation Service were graduates of an agricultural college. And they had degrees in Agronomy, Soils, Biology, Agricultural Education and plus other technicians furnished by Soil Conservation Service worked with landowners developing conservation plans on farms and ranches. The Soil Conservation Service technician went out on the land and met with the landowner and using soils information that was available on that particular farm would develop a plan for each field along with concurrence of the landowner that this would be the plan that the landowner would follow in conserving the soil and water.

Once this plan was prepared it was presented to the Soil Conservation District Board and they approved the plan. This plan could be amended later or could be canceled by either landowner or the conservation district upon 30 days notice.

The early day conservation work was concerned with primarily soil erosion. This was the treatment of gullies by the use of terraces and other measures that control eroision. In the 1930's in the western half of Oklahoma, wind erosion was a serious problem and revegetation of old fields, overseeding of native pastures and even some residue management took place in the 1930's. It is a well known fact that some type of cover must be left on the ground in order to protect the soil particles from wind.

Much of the early day research in the area of wind erosion took place in the panhandle of Oklahoma and the panhandle of Texas by an individual. Much of the credit for the perfecting of wind erosion measures have been given to H. H. Finnell who was with the Soil Conservation Service and did much of his work in the Amarillo, Texas area and also around Panhandle A&M at Goodwill,

conservation program coordination in Oklahoma. The office of the State Board was moved from the campus of Oklahoma A&M to the State Capitol in Oklahoma City.

Governor Kerr immediately set out to appoint the new Board, one member from each of five geographic areas. The Governor appointed, and the Oklahoma Senate confirmed the following persons to serve on the State Conservation Board: Area I, Laurence Drake, (Gate); Area II, D. H. Brown, (Norman); Area III, A. F. Houston (Gore); Area IV, Claude Ingram (Hollis); and Area V, Paul Mungle (Atoka).

Edd Roberts, State Extension Conservationist, was pleased with the performance of the new Board, "AT the time the change from the Oklahoma A&M to Oklahoma City was controversial! There were arguments pro and con—but when the program was placed into the hands of farmers and ranchers, it improved the state's enthusiasm for conservation. . .The farmers on the Board were in touch with the conservation problems in every area of the state on a day-to-day basis. They knew what the needs were. . .they cared enough to spend the time to improve the situation.

It became apparent very soon after the conservation programs were placed under the control of a farmer composed Board, the workings became smoother and the legislature began making greater appropriations for conservation work immediately. The largest financial appropriation under the State Committee was $90,000. Since the 1945 change, the state appropriations have continually moved upward, indicating the value which Oklahoma places on its soil and water resources; as well as the ability of districts to convince the Legislature of the necessity of conservation.

Robert S. Kerr will be remembered for his leadership as a champion of conservation. Strangely enough he knew very little about the operation of the conservation districts until the 1945 confrontation resulting in the abolition of the State Committee. But as soon as Governor Kerr was fully aware of the vital progress being made under the district concept, he made enormous contributions to the conservation of Oklahoma's soil and water for many years to come.

Since the State Committee was located at Oklahoma A&M the officials of the college assigned the responsibility to the formation of the conservation districts to the Extension Service. And it is generally conceded that the Extension Service did an outstanding job and was primarily responsible for the rapid formation of the conservation districts. In addition to Edd Roberts who was Extension Soil Conservationist, the district directors, district agents of Extension Service, were very instrumental in seeing that the local county agents had meetings county-wide to explain to conservation districts concept to interested individuals.

Following the organization of the Soil Conservation District it took several months for the district program to become operational. McIntosh County Soil Conservation District was organized January 28, 1938, but did not begin operation until December 23, 1938. Arkansas Verdi-gris Soil Conservation District which is now Tulsa County Conservation District and the Garvin/Murray Soil

"Every state in the Union now has Soil Conservation Laws. There are approximately 1500 organized local districts embracing three and one-half million farms with approximately eight hundred million acres.

Individual soil conservation programs for these three and one-half million farms either have been planned, are being, or shortly will be planned. . .The manpower is available in each district to do the job, but without heavy earth moving machinery this manpower cannot even start the job."

"The Federal Government has vast quantities of just the kind of machinery needed. It was purchased with the people's money and used as a mighty weapon in winning the people's war. . ."

"We do not ask the appropriation nor the spending by the Government of a single dollar. We ask you, Mr. President, and the Congress, to make it possible for American farmers to use what otherwise is a wasting asset-this surplus machinery-in a program that will save and rebuild the nation's greatest natural resource—the soil, not for the benefit of the farmers alone, but for the benefit of all the people."

Although the effort failed, it marked the first time that a meeting of district directors was held on a national basis, and the Oklahoma Association can claim to be god-father to the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts, which later held its 5th Annual Convention in Oklahoma City in February, 1951.

VI. WATER MANAGEMENT IN OKLAHOMA

The history of conservation's impact on the Sooner State is only half told if no commentary is made with respect to the legal and physical aspects of water use and management.

The result of a flood is a sickening sight. It is disheartening to walk through the ruins of a crop ravaged by flood waters. Often during the early days of statehood Oklahoma farmers saw the end of a hard year of planting and caring for a crop, ended in a single afternoon. To other Oklahomans flood waters meant the loss of their homes. To some families it meant the tragic loss of a loved one.

As a fledgling state Oklahoma was hard pressed by the problem of either too little water for extended periods or too much water when rains did come.

Fertile bottomland had to be kept out of production because of frequent flooding. Many acres were worked only sporadically because of heavy sediment and flood damage. Production was low, profits only marginal; if there were any profits at all. Repairing flood damage to farm buildings, fences and equipment was expensive and time consuming. Land title records all across the state reflect the story of hundreds of farmers who became so discouraged that they abandoned their bottomland farms to be sold for taxes.

Flood damage hit farmers hardest from 1900 to 1940, but the effects were felt by non-farmers as well. In short, everyone paid for the destruction floods caused in one way or another.

In 1934, Laressa Cox McBurney exhibited the contempt and the ever present fear that Oklahomans harbored toward flooding. Her poem, Washita River, was included in her book of verse *"Always the Prairie"*.

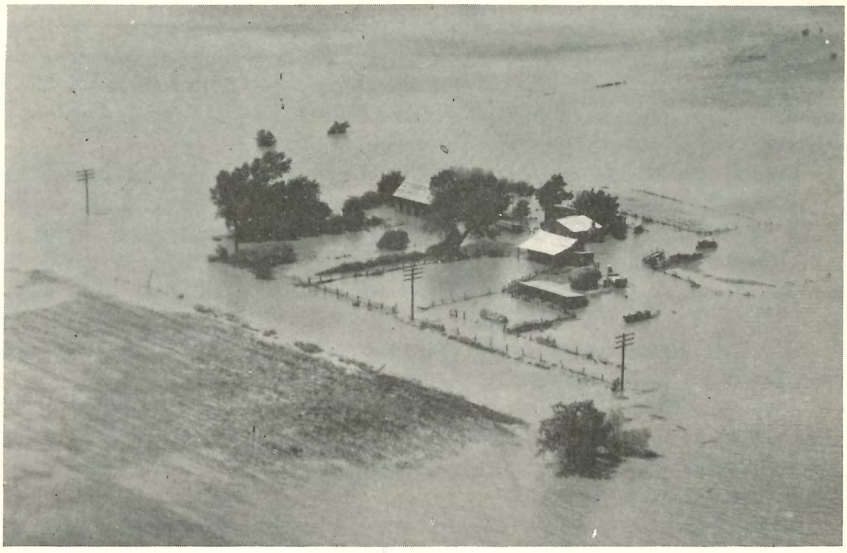
WASHITA RIVER

When the Oklahoma sun glares hot overhead
The Washita River, through its gulch of red,
Trickles slowly along on its tortuous way
Through Clinton, Anadarko and Chickasha,
From the Cheyenne Hills and the Texas plains,
Where the hot winds blow and it seldom rains
Through the C. and A. country and the Kiowa
Clean down to Red River and the Chickasaw
Through windswept prairies and lonely sandhills,
To the tree-bordered valleys where coolness distills.

When the spring rains come and the winter snows thaw,
It's a different story—The Washita.
Then the swollen river roars down with a flood
Turning fertile farm lands into swirling mud,
And riding the waves of its mighty crest
Like cattle stampeding or stallions abreast,
Come branches and trunks of uprooted trees
Where an hour before one crossed it with ease.
It goes rip-roaring on its ravaging way,
And man counts his losses with gloom and dismay.

The most disturbing element of Oklahoma's flood has been the frequency with which they occurred. For example, there were 70 floods between 1923 and 1942 along the Wildhorse River near Duncan. Damage averaged over $600,000 per year. The residents living in Bear, Fall and Coon Creeks watershed located in Logan County suffered through 114 floods from 1933 to 1950. Forty-three

of the floods covered at least 50% of the flood plain. The Wildhorse Creek and Bear, Fall and Coon Creeks are not typical examples. They are cited only because accurate records concerning damage in these watersheds is readily available.



Economic losses occasioned by flood waters are no respecter of persons. The rich, the poor; fields, homes—whatever is in the pathway of rampaging flood waters is affected.



Prior to the construction of a detention reservoir, Cobb Creek overflowed from its banks to inundate the surrounding country.

The need to control flooding came into dramatic focus in the spring of 1934, when heavy rains in Western Oklahoma sent the Washita River out of its bank sweeping a path of unequalled destruction. The result was millions of dollars in property losses. What's worse; 17 persons were drowned. As a result of the flood the Washita Valley Improvement Association was formed to try to control flooding on the Washita.

Much study was given to the entire nation's flooding problems between 1936, and 1941; however very little construction occurred. A flood control survey of the Washita was completed in 1939. During the Second World War flood control work was suspended because of the manpower needs of the war effort.

In the late 1930's pursuant to the directives in the Omnibus Flood Control Act technicians of the Soil Conservation Service introduced the watershed concept. This management concept uses small retarding dam structures to treat an entire watershed to keep the water close to where it falls. Dams are built to catch the flood water and hold it to be released over a period of time at a rate so as not to flood the downstream area. Additionally, the watershed concept involves vegetative measures to reduce runoff speed.

Congress liked the idea. In 1944, it approved the construction of Upstream Flood Prevention Structures on 11 U.S. watersheds. The Washita River was one of the development areas under the Flood Control Act (P.L. 78-534).

Because of the need for defense dollars during World War II, Congress did not appropriate federal money until the fighting stopped and the troops were home. But in 1947, funds were authorized to begin work on the Washita.

By 1977, over 1200 dams had been constructed on the Washita and its 64 sub-watersheds.

The first flood control dam to be completed in the United States was on Cloud Creek, a tributary of the Washita. The dedication of this first such detention reservoir was in 1948. Over ten thousand people gathered at the site for the dedication ceremony just across the river north of Mountain View, Oklahoma. Dr. H.H. Bennett, Director of the Soil Conservation Service, flew from Washington, D.C., to address the group and hail the achievement as a noteworthy milestone in flood prevention and year-round water management.

EISENHOWER FAVORS EXPANSION OF SMALL WATERSHED CONCEPT

Two time Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts President Richard Longmire of Pauls Valley was in a group summoned to Washington, D.C., in early 1953, in the first days of the Eisenhower Administration. The group was called to investigate the possibility of expanding the small watershed program from demonstration projects to the entire nation. Several days were spent in Washinton. President Dwight Eisenhower participated in a portion of the discussions. The President supported the concept of expanding small watershed management. The Eisenhower Administration clearly supported upstream flood prevention and recommended legislation to expand lake construction.



July 7, 1948, was a big day in conservation history in Oklahoma. The nation's first detention reservoir, constructed under the authority of the Flood Control Act of 1936, was dedicated on that date. At the dedication ceremony of the reservoir on Cloud Creek, Dr. H. H. Bennett (left) and the Honorable Robert S. Kerr visit on the platform.

PUBLIC LAW 566

In the years following the dedication of Cloud Creek the experience gained from the Washita and the 10 other pilot projects across the nation led to the Congressional adoption of Public law 566 in 1954. (P.L. 83-566; The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act). President Eisenhower who had long favored the concept, signed the legislation on August 4, 1954. Under the provisions of the law the Soil Conservation Service was designated as the USDA ACTION AGENCY, WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR USDA's cooperation with local organizations in small watersheds throughout the nation.

The important thing about P.L. 566 is that is provided a vehicle for the development and proper management of all the watersheds in Oklahoma.

RESISTANCE TO P.L. 566

Public Law 566 did not appeal to the local watershed organizations as quickly as the federal government thought it would. A requirement of the law was the government would match funds with private individuals. It was too difficult to raise the necessary matching construction money at the local level.

Richard Longmire remembers, "There were some provisions in P.L. 566 that were not workable. The law initially provided for local people to absorb 1/2 of the construction costs. I knew that would not be acceptable. And it didn't work".

P.L. 566 IS AMENDED

Two years after P.L. 566 was passed, amendments were introduced in Congress to reduce the contribution of the local sponsors. Senator Robert S. Kerr of Oklahoma introduced the 1956 amendment to authorize the Soil Conservation Service to pay 100% of the construction costs, so long as the local watershed organization could furnish the easements and rights-of-way. When the measure cleared Congress, the watershed program in Oklahoma "took off".

But why suddenly in 1956, was there such a wave of action? Why were farmers so ready for the development of upstream flood control projects?

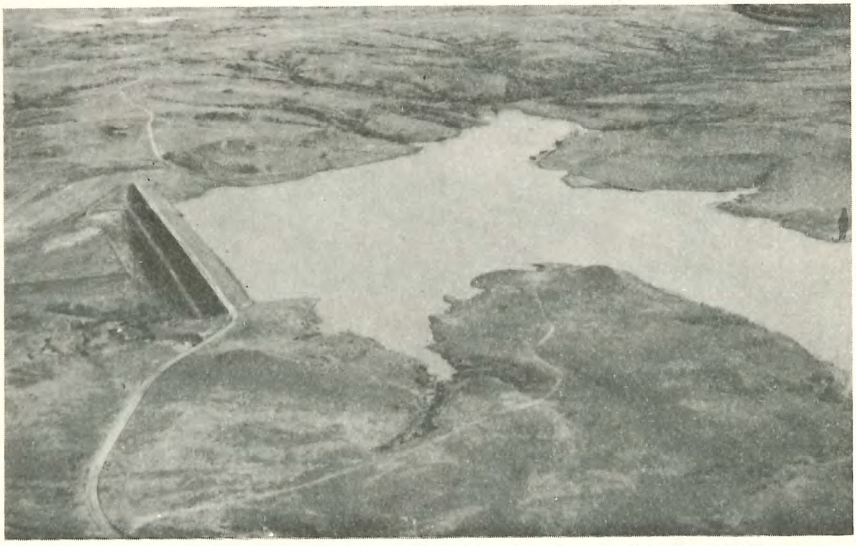
Former Executive Director of the State Soil Conservation Board (now Oklahoma Conservation Commission), Marvin Emerson, explained that "the success of the program on the Washita had great impact on the rest of Oklahoma. Red Males, Dick Longmire, Judge Lavern Fishel, Dr. Lloyd Church and several others traveled the state stirring up interest. Perhaps the greatest boost the program received came with the floods of 1954. The flooding in the Spring of 1954, washed out so many bridges and roads that the state had to levy a special 1¢ gasoline tax for a temporary period to repair them all. That situation stimulated interest and enlightened people to the extent that they undertook to solve the problem".

The State Association of Conservation Districts can take major credit for getting information to the people and stimulating interest in finding solutions to water management problems. Indeed the leadership from the conservation districts did hold the key to the

program's success. A large number of the 124 watershed applications filed, occurred as the result of the leaders of the districts and the members of the State Conservation Board being available to discuss the advantages of the watershed program. Meetings were held in school houses, community centers, city halls, churches with anyone interested in getting relief from flooding. Always the story the conservation leaders carried was the same—flooding could be controlled and runoff water harnessed for productive good.



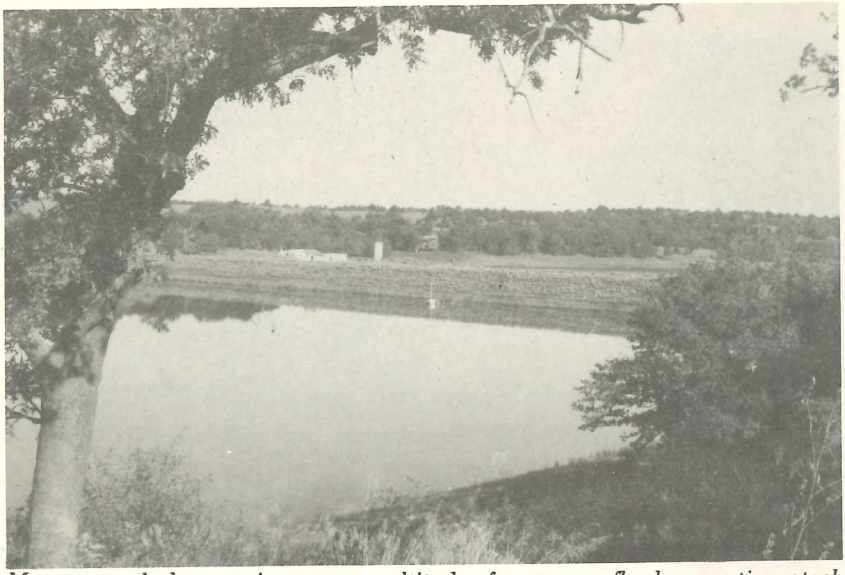
As heavy equipment became more widely available and more technically reliable, it gave the watershed program a tremendous boost.



This flood water detention structure located on Sandstone Creek near Cheyenne, Oklahoma reduced flooding and made water the farmer's ally.



When farmers saw the benefits derived from watershed planning, they were anxious to give state and federal agencies the necessary easements for construction of detention reservoirs. Here, Warren Douglas of Guthrie signs the first easement on the Bear, Fall and Coon Creek Watershed.



Many watershed reservoirs serve a multitude of purposes—flood prevention, stock water, irrigation water, recreation, and human water supply.

The State of Oklahoma began to appropriate greater amounts of funding for conservation work once the watershed management program got into full swing. The first big appropriations came during the term of Governor J. Howard Edmondson in 1959.

Another significant development brought about by the flood prevention program was that Oklahoma became the first state in which the Legislature gave the soil and water conservation districts the right to eminent domain in acquiring easements and rights-of-way on property where flood prevention structures were planned. Without the power of eminent domain, the flood prevention projects would not have been so successful.

Since P.L. 566 was amended in 1956, the development of the Upstream Flood Prevention Program in Oklahoma has been fantastic. It has received support from people in all walks of life, because in most cases it benefits all the people. No conservation program yet initiated has been as popular and in as much demand in Oklahoma as the Upstream Flood Prevention Program

Besides flood control, the watershed projects offer many other benefits. A number of cities and towns have used the program to secure additional municipal water. Multi-purpose sites are being



At the 1971 dedication of Oklahoma's 1500th Upstream Flood Control Structure (Wiley Post Memorial Lake near Maysville in McClain County) dignitaries pose beside the commemorative plaque: (left to right) Dr. L. L. Church; Oklahoma Lt. Governor George Nigh; Robert Kerr, Jr.; and State Representative A. L. Carlton.

used for irrigation, wildlife conservation and development of recreational enterprises.

In many cases drainage systems are being installed as a part of the watershed development. Besides the flood control dam, channel improvement is also a part of the watershed plan. Regardless of the problems encountered in a watershed, a plan can be developed to control the flooding and siltation.

In 1971, the 1500th upstream flood control structure was dedicated. It was significant that the 1500th Oklahoma Watershed structure was dedicated on the 25th anniversary of the construction on the first structure on the Washita River.

The 1500th Upstream Flood Control Lake was named Wiley Post Memorial Lake in honor of one of Oklahoma's favorite sons. Located in South Central Oklahoma, the lake now provides water storage, flood control, recreation and municipal water for the city of Maysville. Lt. Governor George Nigh spoke to the dedication crowd, lauding the achievements of Oklahoma's conservation minded citizens. Nigh advised that the conservation achievements in Oklahoma are a modern day miracle.

Another milestone in watershed management came with the dedication of Lake Liberty on May 14, 1976. More than 1400 people gathered to dedicate the 1776th flood control dam to be built in Oklahoma. The dam is located on Sandy Creek, 18 miles southwest of Ada, in the Lightning Ridge community. In remarks dedicating the Bicentennial Watershed Dam, U.S. Senator Henry Bellmon praised Oklahoma's achievements in Watershed Management by noting, "Oklahoma is the undisputed leader in flood prevention. The first watershed flood control dam in the nation was built in Oklahoma. The first entire watershed project to be completed in America was the Sand Stone Creek Watershed in Western Oklahoma. The



Lt. Governor George Nigh dedicated the Bicentennial 1776th Watershed reservoir in Oklahoma in May of 1976. Lake Liberty, near Ada, was another watershed management milestone for Oklahoma.

first multi-purpose flood control structure to be built in the nation was Lake Humphrey in Duncan. Oklahoma was the first state to complete 1500 Upstream Flood Control dams. Finally Oklahoma is the first state to complete 1776 watershed structures. . .No doubt Oklahoma is the number one state in watershed management".

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF UPSTREAM FLOOD CONTROL?

What can be said for the results of the upstream flood prevention program in Oklahoma?

*Farmers are receiving more income from each acre.
*Expense of replacing fence, land leveling and loss of livestock are gone.
*Money once spent for flood damaged roads and bridges is now being used to build new roads.
*Productive use of rich bottom land for the first time in over a quarter century.
*Greater sales of goods and services by merchants in cities and towns.
*Mosquito infested swamps have been drained and put to productive use.
*Disease producing floods in many cities and towns have been stopped.
*High quality water is being made available to thousands of city dwellers from flood prevention reservoirs.
*Drifts of brush and other debris no longer pile up against bridges and fences where watershed programs have been implemented.
*More family picnic and recreation areas are available.
*Improved homes, barns and fences have emerged.
*Improved fishing, and more boating opportunity for Oklahomans.

As far as Oklahomans are concerned the watershed program is a good example of local people working with their Local, State and Federal Governments to solve problems. The local people initiate the watershed project, through the sponsorship of the local conservation district. The Board of Directors of the district must approve the watershed work plan and secure the necessary easements and right-of-ways for construction. The Soil Conservation Service bears the cost of construction, and once the district board approves the completed dams, maintenance is the responsibility of the conservation district. Through January 1, 1977, the federal government had expended over $172 million on the watershed program in Oklahoma, but the annual benefits from the watershed program have amounted to $350 million. One example of the benefits, other than the actual prevention of floods, accruing from the watershed program is that 24 of Oklahoma's 39 multi-purpose sites now provide the municipal water supply for 145,000 people in the State of Oklahoma.

VII. OKLAHOMA GETS A WATER POLICY

By the close of World War II it had become obvious that Oklahoma would need greater supplies of fresh water as the state focused its sights on development and growth. Agriculture, for the most part, was beginning another phase of revolution, becoming more mechanized, and because the results of research were used by farmers. Some irrigation of farmlands was being initiated as a production tool and as insurance against drought.

In many communities expansion of municipal water supply was given top priority. Water for industry was needed if the state was to expand business enterprises.

The Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts began a plea for a statewide water policy that would spell out the rights that citizens would have in the water resources of the state. Together with a short-lived organization called the Oklahoma Watershed Association, the Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts convinced Governor Raymond Gary, in 1953, to appoint a water study committee. The thirty-three member commission, with members from all walks, was charged with the responsibility of compiling recommendations for the state's comprehensive water policy.

Dr. Lloyd Church, a long time conservation leader, was appointed chairman of the group. Under Church's leadership the committee held hearings at various points throughout the state. For 18 months the hearings continued. Over 6,000 Oklahomans made their preferences known concerning the water policy.

Some conservation district leaders feared that the 33 member commission would recommend a water policy which would strangle the influence of the conservation movement by splintering the funding for water resource management to unsympathetic state agencies. Divergent views arose in many parts of the state.

When the committee made its recommendations in December, 1956, it noted, "The more valuable water becomes, the more conflicts arise over its use and management. The conflicts may lead to insecurity of investments and impeded or unbalanced economic growth if basic law is not provided to assure protection of rights and a fair apportionment of the supplies to satisfy the rights."

Dr. Church commented, "In many places it will be necessary to make both large and small impoundments of surface water to conserve our resources. Proper treatment of watersheds from whence their supply comes is a matter of importance in order that the water may be useable and of high quality."

The Commission defined the order of importance for priority of water uses:

Sustaining life—consumption by the household and for livestock on the farms.

Maintaining health.

Increasing wealth.

The second recommendation was that a Water Resources Board be established to administer and settle disputed water ownership and use rights. (It was specifically recommended that the Water Resources Board should not have authority to build, or construct,

or finance waterways, dams, or projects of its own; since that authority had long since been delegated to the State Soil Conservation Board and the conservation districts.)

Responding to the established guidelines, former president of the Oklahoma Association of Soil Conservation Districts (OACD) Frank Dunnaway believes, "this policy seems to be the best in America. It effectively sets up a formula by which present law may be measured. It also provides a back drop for future water legislation. Agriculture can now be able to move forward in developing water resources to furnish water for supplemental irrigation to stabilize crop production and to control flooding'.

The Water Study Commission recommendations were adopted by the Oklahoma Legislature in 1957.

VIII. THE GREAT PLAINS PROGRAM

Conservation in Oklahoma got another major boost in the mid 1950's. Congress recognized that the Great Plains area was one of the most vital agricultural regions in America. So that a strong, vibrant agricultural industry could be maintained in the nation's heartland, the Great Plains Program was developed in 1956. Because the Great Plains area receives limited rainfall and contains millions of acres of sandy soil which is subject to wind erosion if not properly protected, specialized conservation measures are required to preserve the land.

Consequently, the Great Plains program involves a complete specialized conservation program readily adaptable to the Great Plains. Once a Great Plains farmer agrees to implement a complete conservation program, he is assured that funding will be available.

Thirty Oklahoma counties are eligible to participate in the benefits of the program. (All Oklahoma counties west of U.S. Highway 81.)

Farmers and ranchers in Western Oklahoma have received assistance in developing complete, long range conservation programs on their land. Federal funds have been made available for making needed changes in land use or cropping systems. During the twenty years since the program began, it has played a key role in establishing permanent conservation measures on Western Oklahoma farms.

On March 27, 1976, Irvine Brandy of Freedom, Oklahoma, became the 50,000th farmer in the Great Plains Region to take



In May, 1971, Sam Karber of Balko became the 5,000th Western Oklahoma farmer to sign a Great Plains Contract.

advantage of the Great Plains assistance. Oklahoma has the largest number of active Great Plains contracts of any state which qualifies for the program.

Laurence Drake of Gate stated, "The Great Plains program has received the best response from Oklahomans of any conservation program offered by the federal government.'

STUBBLE-MULCH JAMBOREE

The Assistant State SCS Conservationist, Leon "T-Bone" McDonald, approached the Oklahoma Hardware and Implement Association in 1960, with the idea of holding Annual Stubble-Mulch Jamboree to emphasize to Oklahoma wheat farmers the virtue of leaving plant residue on the plant surface year round for protection against wind and water erosion. The manager of the Association was skeptical.



Stubble mulching has proven valuable to Oklahoma wheat farmers.



Ward Perryman, then president of the OASWCD, served as Master of Ceremonies at the second Stubble Mulch Jamboree in Enid.



Equipment demonstrated at Stubble Mulch field day.

But with the assistance of Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts the idea was eventually sold to the Hardware Association as the initial sponsor. Other groups fell in line—farm groups, youth groups, utility companies, and business groups combined to operate the Stubble Mulch Jamboree in Enid beginning in 1961. The objective of the Jamboree was to demonstrate to youth and adults how stubble mulch farming can be used effectively to protect soil and conserve rainfall in wheat farming.

Various types of farm machinery used in stubble mulch farming were demonstrated during three large annual events held in 1961, 1962 and 1963. Thousands came to view the demonstrations in Enid.

During the three years from 1961-1963, it is estimated that more farmers began using stubble mulch techniques than during the twenty proceeding years combined.

Oklahomans suddenly became aware through the Jamboree and its attendant publicity that stubble mulch farming controls wind erosion, reduces water erosion, increases intake of water, protects small seedlings, and helps to uniformly trap snow.

Crozier Bush, Alva, a member of the Woods County Conservation District, another promoter of stubble mulch farming claims that the Stubble Mulch Jamboree was a significant turning point in the history of Oklahoma agriculture, since it ushered in a major emphasis on conservation minded wheat farming in Oklahoma.

IX. CONSERVATION EMPHASIS GROWS

BANKERS JOIN DISTRICTS TO HONOR CONSERVATION PRACTICES

The Oklahoma Bankers Award Program has often been described as the "brain child" of leon "T-Bone" McDonald who was the long time Assistant State conservationist for SCS.

As farmers were struggling to avoid mortgage foreclosures and resource loss during the 1930's, "T-Bone" saw Oklahoma bankers lament with their customers. If any group in Oklahoma should be more interested in keeping family farms productive and in seeing sound conservation measures utilized, it was Oklahoma bankers. T-Bone carried the idea of an awards program to the Oklahoma Bankers Association.

Such was the conception of the vehicle by which local bankers could honor their farm customers who went the extra mile to be good soil stewards; that is, the Oklahoma Bankers Award Program in 1942.

The Oklahoma Bankers Award Program has been a continuing program. Oklahoma was the first state with such a program; however, the idea has spread nationwide and today most other states have developed a similar program.

Only those cooperators who have completed at least 90% of the conservation practices identified in his conservation plan may be selected. Over 10,000 district cooperators have been honored throughout Oklahoma.

Bankers and conservationists alike agree that the bankers program has prompted conservation work on many farms and ranches.

George H. C. Green, formerly the Senior Vice President of Liberty National Bank, Oklahoma City pinpointed bankers interest in conservation.

Green said, "Among other reasons, bankers are interested in anything that has its foundation in agriculture; when the farmer prospers, the bankers prosper. When the soil is leached and washes away, the farmer suffers, and naturally the banker and the merchant suffer, and everybody feels the pinch."

Recipients of the Oklahoma Bankers Conservation Award are selected by the district directors of the respective conservation district.

LAY CONSERVATION AWARDS

As the Bankers Award Program gained impetus, and more lay persons became involved in promoting soil conservation in Oklahoma, an additional opportunity was growing to give public recognition to lay leaders for giving unselfishly of their time and talent to further conservation. The Lay Conservationist Award program was begun by the Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



Youth activities and contests—as well as classroom instruction—have been the OACD's greatest tools for encouraging youth to respect our renewable natural resources.



A thorough understanding of soil types is essential to aspiring stewards. This scene shows contestants participating in the Annual International Land and Pasture Judging Contest held in Oklahoma City.

FAA - CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Throughout the 1930's and 1940's it was obvious that the greatest obstacle facing the conservation movement was the lack of public information. The conservation districts sought to expand understanding of conservation. The impact needed to reach beyond the generation of Oklahoma farmers in the first half of the 20th century.

By the mid 1950s J. B. Perky, who was then State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture, became convinced that the way to expand conservation in the long run was to teach it in vocational agriculture classrooms. At that time there were 405 vocational agriculture classrooms in Oklahoma. A program of instruction and awards was devised for the 17,000 FFA members in Oklahoma by a group of vocational agriculture instructors, officials of the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil Conservation Service personnel.

Once the program was formulated, there was a need for a source of funding. In 1955, Joe Scott, former President of the State Board of Agriculture and then President of Bankers Life Insurance Company, pledged $7,500.00 per year to fund the program. Scott believed that, "the effort would add many pair of capable and willing hands to the job of getting soil conservation on the land." As a result of the initial financial commitment, Bankers Life Insurance Company co-sponsored the program with OACD until 1965.

There were several aspects of the total evaluation of FFA Chapter acomplishments. Among those are poster, essay and jingle contests, soil improvement crops, chapter conservation demonstrations, community tours on conservation and a statewide speech contest.

Since the program was begun in 1955, thousands and thousands of young Oklahomans have become torchbearers for conservation. It is just now becoming obvious how valuable the program actually is. For instance in the past, when a farmer sold out and the farm changed hands, the conservation education had to begin anew so that the new owner would understand the merits of soil conservation. Now, thanks to the FFA Conservation Program, Oklahoma Future Farmers are already sold on the idea and trained to take over.

OKLAHOMA PRESS AWARDS

The Oklahoma Press Association recognized the importance of widespread dissemination of conservation information through the public media. To encourage conservation districts to do the best job possible in publicizing their activities and projects, awards are presented annually to conservation districts based upon a point system designed in cooperation with state conservation leaders. Awards are given for conservation editorials, stories about conservation activities, and advertisements featuring conservation.

In 1958, Leon (T-Bone) McDonald conceived the idea that soil conservation districts, newspaper publishers and "Main Street" would make an unbeatable combination. Districts, because soil conservation is a commodity; newspaper publishers, because they are in the

advertising business; and "Main Street", because the merchants know soil conservation affects their business prosperity.

The genuine merit of the program has been written on the pages of Oklahomas soil for each of the years since the program began.

The most dramatic impact came in Western Kay County Conservation District. After a year of organized publicity and a full page advertisement published monthly, the results were as follows:

Referrals increased	145%
Pond Construction rose	64%
Waterways sodded grew by	215%
Terraces built increased by	78%

The tangible benefits can be added up, and give concrete evidence of the merits of a good information program. Possibly the greatest benefit has come however, in a field that cannot be totaled on an adding machine. That is in the field of goodwill—the field of joint accomplishment on a goal for the common good.

The program is still going strong.

MASS INFORMATION DISTRIBUTION

In addition to the contests and awards programs which have emphasized and promoted conservation, conservation leaders have had the good judgment to use mass media to praise the conservation movement.

PAMPHLETS AND TRACTS

Several pamphlets and tracts have been prepared for widespread distribution to inform the general populace about the need for conservation consciousness.

BILLBOARDS

From time to time billboards stressing the result of conservation have dotted highway rights-of-way across the state. The most effective, no doubt, were 208 billboards placed at strategic points all along the state's highways.

"LET'S GET ONE THING CLEAR—WATER"

The Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts received much acclaim for its purchase of those thought provoking billboards.

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Through the years Oklahoma radio and television stations have made considerable public service time available to conservation-minded spokesmen. The biggest such contribution was in 1970—when ten television stations and seventy radio stations contributed $110,000 of broadcasting time. Dale Robertson, noted actor and Oklahoma native, was featured in the spot announcements that emphasized the need for the entire public to work and cooperate with their respective Conservation District.



Districts have utilized numerous means of conveying conservation's message to the masses. This picture shows conservation district exhibits at the 1973 Tulsa State Fair.

X. CONSERVATION DISTRICTS— CONSERVATION EDUCATION

When the State Association was founded in 1939, there was a tremendous informational task ahead. The glaring disrespect that some Oklahomans exhibited toward the land aroused conservation district directors. All the people of Oklahoma had to be awakened to their dependence on the land.

It was inevitable that OACD should become a major force in promoting conservation education. Their philosophy is that the greater number of people who become informed about conservation measures and the advantages derived, then the more apt our state will be to have widespread conservation minded land management. The challenge was laid: district directors had to do something to promote effective conservation instruction.

One of the first things the directors found was that to influence others, they had to be examples. They had to use proper conservation practices on their own lands before encouraging their neighbors to join the battle against eroded fields and gullied hillsides.

Early district directors also felt that public schools should begin to influence youngsters by encouraging conservation. In the 1940s, the district directors encouraged vocational agriculture instructors and 4-H leaders to teach soil conservation concepts to their students. Classroom discussions led to visits to demonstration projects and to observe those methods recommended in classes. Demonstration sites often included the land of a district director who had installed conservation measures on the land. The emphasis was on the importance of properly managed soil to the farmer. Districts often assisted with the Land, Range, and Pasture Judging contests and still do so today, from the local to the international level.

With each passing decade, the emphasis of conservation efforts in the public school on the part of district directors has broadened, and in the 1950s the need for education of those young people who were not involved in the 4-H and FFA programs became evident. Essay contests, poster contests, and science fair projects were sponsored by conservation districts. District directors assisted with the special information needed and then a district board usually supplied the awards for contest winners. The emphasis was on the 5th and 6th grade students and caught on only when there was an interested teacher who was already, well-aware of the need for conservation.

In the 1960s, a need was seen for greater teacher awareness and sessions in "outdoor classrooms" were held at Central Christian Youth Camp, in Logan County. The Logan County Conservation District took a lead in arranging for teachers to attend the 3 day sessions at the camp. The "outdoor classroom" concept consisted of calling in all available resource people from all those agencies dealing with natural resources, to present concepts in conservation to 5th and 6th grade students at one central location, such as the Central Christian Youth Camp, used by the Guthrie Public Schools or the Fort Cobb State Park, used by the Fort Cobb Area Schools.

The 1970s, brought about another change in philosophy concerning conservation education. First of all, it was felt that conservation education should be included in the curriculum for all students from Kindergarten through high school. Also, because few agencies have the manpower to staff outdoor classrooms for all of these students, and because most resource people have no training in education, the emphasis turned to training the teachers to use the environment to teach conservation values. So in 1972, state colleges at Enid, Tahlequah, Muskogee, and Alva, with the technical assistance of the Soil Conservation Service, U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Wildlife Conservation, and other resource personnel, and under the sponsorship of their local conservation districts, offered a 2-day workshop in environmental education. Conservation districts paid lodging and mileage for teachers to attend and for the first time, an hour of college credit was offered for a course for teachers in conservation education.

In the middle 70s East Central University, Ada and the Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, offered a course in outdoor education at the Geology Camp in Colorado. For the first time, conservation education was approached from a multi-disciplinary stand, that is, teachers learned to use the environment to teach all subjects. In 1975, a graduate of such a course was employed by the Pontotoc County Conservation District to work with local teachers and schools in conservation education. As a result of the work done in Pontotoc County Conservation District during 1975, by the specialist, the Soil Conservation Service personnel, the local teachers and administration, and the Pontotoc County Conservation District Directors, the district was the recipient of the 1975 National Association of Conservation Districts—Allis Chalmers Environmental Education Award for a conservation district. A Pontotoc County teacher was the Southwest Regional Teacher of the Year in the same program.

In 1976, conservation districts began recruiting in-service teachers and supplying scholarships to attend the conservation education leadership training programs held at Oklahoma State University and East Central University. The programs entailed 2 weeks of on-campus study of conservation concepts, followed by 2 weeks of applying the concepts in the environment at Camp Goddard near Sulphur. One of the 59 who received a scholarship in 1976, was then employed by the Logan County Conservation District and both of the Conservation Education Specialists were given statewide responsibilities.

The Deer Creek Conservation District was influential in convincing Southwestern Oklahoma State University, Weatherford, to offer the Conservation Education Leadership Training program on its campus in the Summer of 1977.

XI. LADIES AUXILIARY

At the annual meeting of the Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in 1954, the O.A.S.W.C.D. Ladies Auxiliary was officially recognized. The term "officially recognized" is used to indicate that in many Oklahoma communities, women had taken an active part in conservation efforts, since the movement began.

The biggest problem that the ladies group had in their effort to be recognized was their lack of financing capability. Consequently they were organized as an Auxiliary was formed to assist the O.A.S.W.C.D. to achieve its stated objectives.

There were a few areas where the Auxiliary was developed slowly. Some men felt that an auxiliary for women would not lend assistance to conservation programs.

Mrs. Enid Thurman Hunter, Woodward, described the difficulty of organizing the Auxiliary in some districts, "I remember during the 1950's there was a little fighting to get the Auxiliary accepted. They didn't want the women around. . .But I don't think that some districts realized what the Ladies Auxiliary could do. . .But by 1958, no district could deny the beneficial aspects of the Auxiliary."

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

One of the major statewide activities promoted by the Ladies Auxiliary is the annual Soil Stewardship Week. Efforts are made to encourage effective soil management. Throughout the state a one-week concerted effort is correlated to stress the responsibilities of tillers of the soil to maintain and improve it for generations to follow.

As a result of the Ladies Auxiliary's sponsorship, the Soil Stewardship Week sees ministers observe the occasion with sermons encouraging proper land stewardship. . .Along main streets all over Oklahoma, conservation pamphlets are distributed by enthusiastic Auxiliary members. . .and during the week thousands of school children participated in poster contests by depicting their concepts of proper soil management in graphic form.

OTHER-ACTIVITIES

The Ladies Auxiliary has assisted in other ways to promote conservation mostly through information distribution. Many district auxiliaries have assisted with the operation of the conservation speaking contests, while others have sponsored community conservation essay contests.

In the late 1950's and early 1960's the Ladies Auxiliary used effective television advertisements to stress the continuing need to conserve our natural resources.

STATE PRESIDENTS OF THE AUXILIARY

Mrs. Paul Mungle from Atoka was selected as the first president in 1953. She later became president of the National Ladies Auxiliary. Those who have followed Mrs. Mungle are Mrs. Enid Hunter, Woodward; Mrs. Margaret Riney, Bartlesville; Mrs. John

Scheihing, Pawnee; Mrs. Lester Davis, Reydon; Mrs. Barbara Mason, Billings; Mrs. Jess Dewees, Clinton; Mrs. Roy J. Smith, Bartlesville; and Mrs. Gene Earnest, Alva.

XII. WHERE ARE WE NOW?
SENATE BILL 101

A major change occurred at the state level in 1970 as Senate Bill 101 was approved by both houses of the Oklahoma Legislature and signed by the Governor.

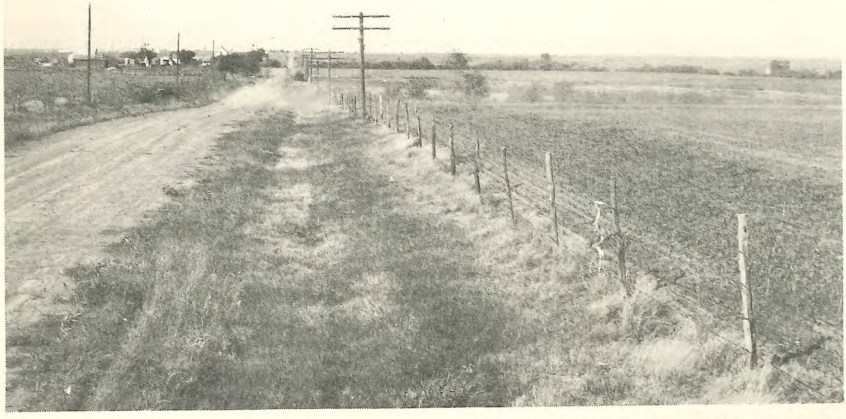
One of the provisions of the legislation changed the name of the State Conservation Board to the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts were renamed Conservation Districts. (Prior to 1961 they were known as Soil Conservation Districts.)

The intent of the name changes was to enlarge the program for conservation. The emphasis of the program does not now concern itself totally with rural conservation problems, but with urban needs as well.

The Act provided that on local conservation district boards at least three of the five members should be actively engaged in farming or ranching. The other two members may be urban or rural representatives.

The expanded charge given to the conservation district directors has allowed conservation assistance along roadway projects and in urban housing developments where erosion is often severe.

Senate Bill 101 provided authority for conservation districts to work jointly with County Commissioners on projects of mutual interest. Of particular significance since 1970 has been the cooperative work done on county roads. Almost 1% of the land area in the state is taken up by county roads and easements. Because county roads follow section lines, they run up and down hills, in all types of soils, which makes them subject to critical erosion.But through the combined efforts of the conservation districts and County Commissioners throughout Oklahoma, significant steps have been made to improve drainage and reduce erosion on county roads.



Above is an example of roadside erosion control. Severe gullying of roadside channels has been halted by sloping and sodding the banks to bermuda grass. Before this work was done, the gullys on each side of the road were cutting back into the fields and damaging the fences.

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS SERVE PEOPLE

While conservation achievements are often noted in acres, miles, and number of dams, the essential job of the conservation districts is to serve people.

When the conservation practices were first used on Oklahoma land to any widespread degree, the early 1930's, the population of the state was largely rural. Today the population trend has reversed. Less than 1/3 of the states people live in rural communities. But, there is still a big job ahead of the Oklahoma Conservation Districts.

Former Conservation Commission Chairman Gene Earnest from Alva explained, "The responsibilities of the districts have not lessened because of fewer people on the land, but rather, the responsibility has increased because of increased population in urban areas. More is being demanded of our resources today than ever before. Take the soil and water for instance. With the greater demands for food production and the expanding need for clean, useable water, the challenge is clear."

"The outlook might be bleak except that the conservation districts have the responsibility of planning for the utilization and development of Oklahomas renewable resources. Over the years, district directors have seen the need and met the challenges to bring about an orderly development of our natural resources."

The landscape of the State has undergone a gradual but significant transformation. Conservation measures installed are impressive. But the most significant achievements of conservation districts in Oklahoma are to be found in the minds and hearts of the people. There are changed attitudes on the part of people responsible for the wise use and care of the states land, water and related resources; and on the part of public officials who support this fundamental conservation effort.

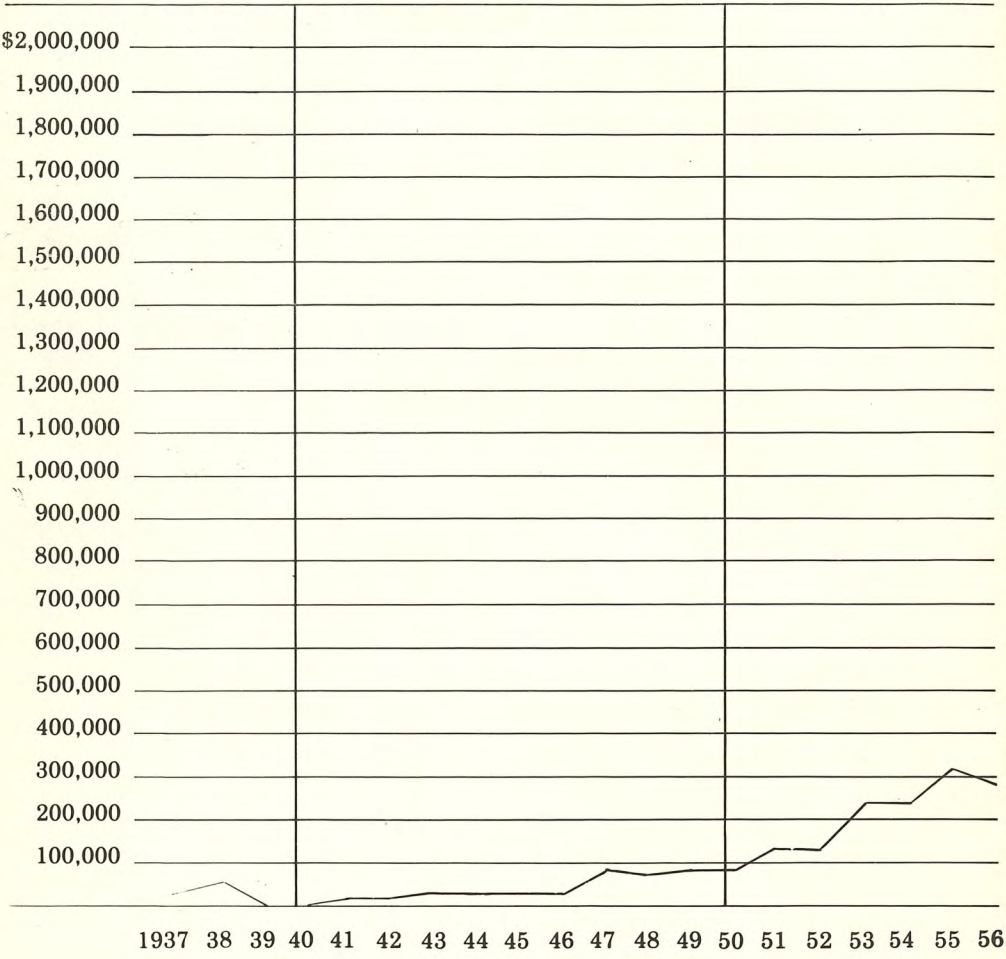
One of the great conservation leaders A.P. (Red) Atkins made a revealing statement early in 1976, at his home in Guymon when the panhandle was "dry as a powder keg and the wind was whipping across the country."

"We are as dry here as we have ever been—drier than the thirties. But I dont think well ever approach the dust bowl days again because the land is so much better cared for now than then."

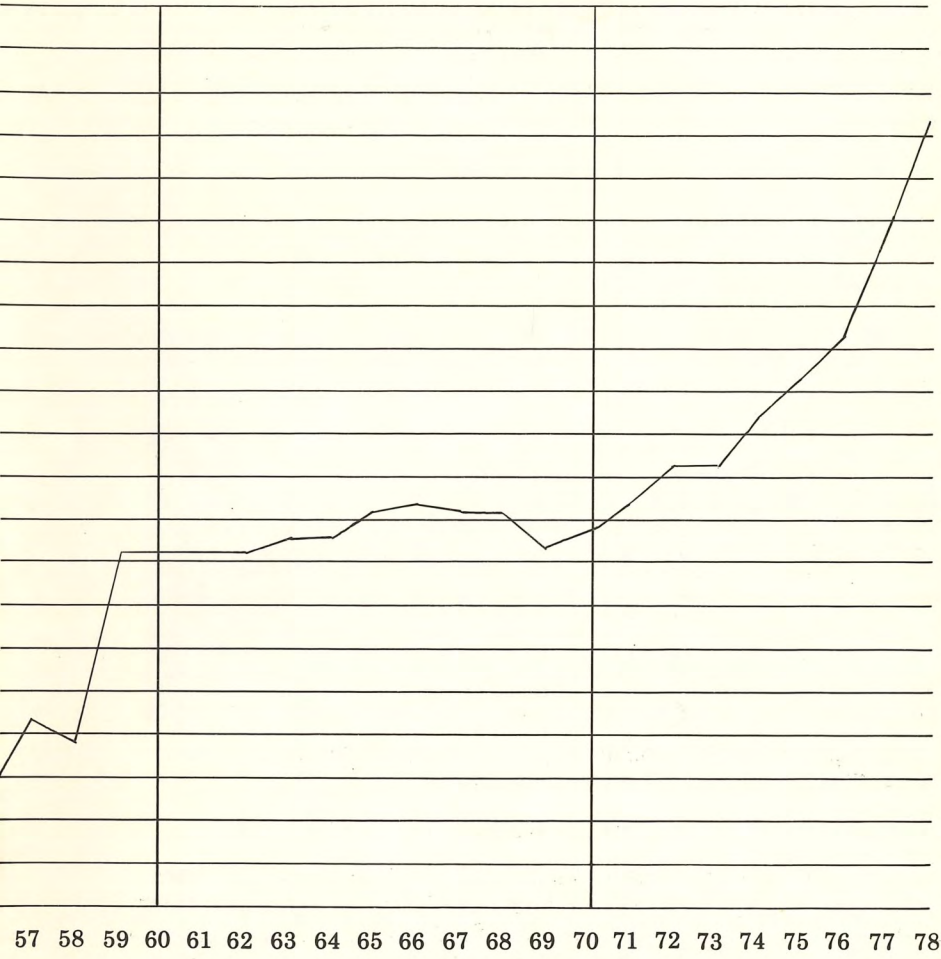
OKLAHOMA'S SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION WORK

One measuring stick of the popularity and success of conservation programs is the amount of state support afforded the program since the legislature officially recognized the effort in 1937.

APPROPRIATIONS TO THE STATE



CONSERVATION COMMISSION



DISTRICT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Sometimes figures are boring—they can be used to mislead. No attempt will be made to overstate the impact of the conservation movement here by using statistics.

The attempt here is merely to indicate that statistics alone cannot measure the value of programs which helped resurrect a state called "Dust Bowl". Figures alone cannot describe how the conservation practices helped to reconstruct the broken spirits of the people of a state on the verge of financial collapse.

Nonetheless—the figures surrounding the story of Oklahoma's rebirth to a fertile, productive state are impressive. Here are a few examples to indicate the accumulated volume and impact of applied conservation measures on the renewable resources of the state.

Selected Practices completed to date:

Active District Cooperators 99,886
Conservation Plans Prepared 100,700
Soil Surveys 96% complete
Farm Ponds and Reservoirs Constructed 187,000



Bermuda grass cover has proven effective for thousands of Oklahoma cattle raisers. Here cattle graze on irrigated Midland Bermuda north of Fargo.

- CONCLUSION -

Perhaps Edd Roberts summed it all up. "Sometimes I look back at the days when we had to convince people to use conservation methods. I remember being shouted down in public meetings. Sometimes I wondered whether we would ever get it done. But I didnt let it bother me. I just went ahead. I believed in what I was doing."

"Its nice to look back now to think of those things. You can see the change wrought by thousands of ponds, contour cultivation, and old farms taken out of cultivation and placed into pasture."

Box 7, Duncan 73533 Stephens Co.

PRESIDENTS
OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS



Nolen Fuqua
February, 1, 1939-1946

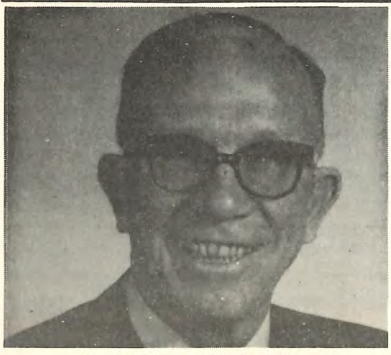
Nolen Fuqua is considered to have been the prime mover in the organization of the Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and was elected as the first president of this organization on February 1, 1939, and served through 1946. Fuqua has been described as an excellent public relations man with the ability to motivate people. His leadership of this fledging organization in the early stages established a sound base for growth in the state. Most of his time was spent in getting conservation district directors involved in an organization which would bring about public acceptance of the district program, recognition by legislative leaders and support from business and professional people. He also played a major role in the formation of the National Association of Conservation Districts. He served on the board of directors and was national president for four years 1955-1959.

Box 54, Guernsey Panola Valley expired 1986



R. C. Longmire
1947, 1970-1971

Richard Longmire is the only president to have served two nonconsecutive terms. His first term was for one year, 1947. During this first term, the watershed program was begun in Oklahoma. During his second term, 1970-71, the major achievement was the passage of Senate Bill 101 which broadened the entire scope of conservation work by conservation districts in an effort to meet the environmental needs for both rural and urban people. Longmire is recognized as an effective worker in the area of state and national legislation affecting conservation districts. He is known nationwide as an enthusiast for the small watershed program and was selected "Watershed Man of the Year" at the National Watershed Congress in 1972. Longmire was appointed to the Conservation Commission in August, 1972, and served almost 2 years.



A. P. "Red" Atkins
1948-1950

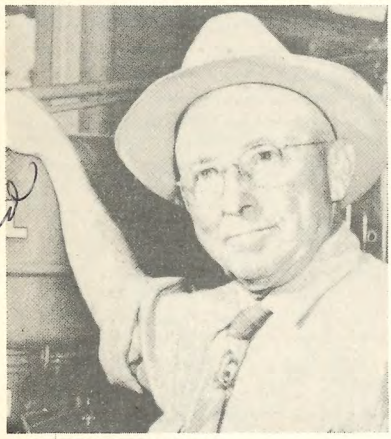
Atkins was instrumental in securing legislation which permitted federal surplus earth moving equipment to be used by conservation districts for conservation work. It was during his term of office that the first area meetings were held around the state. He was a force in getting additional research done on the Great Plains area in Oklahoma. He suggested that a legislative committee for the OACD be established and he named the first members. The first awards to 4-H Club members for outstanding work in conservation were given during his term.

expired

Expanding the number of district cooperators was the Number One priority of the Oklahoma Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts during Claude Thompson's tenure. During his term of office, the conservation districts program "really went public". He developed a series of conservation programs which were aired on metropolitan television stations on a regularly scheduled basis. Thompson remained very active in conservation work until his untimely death in 1956.



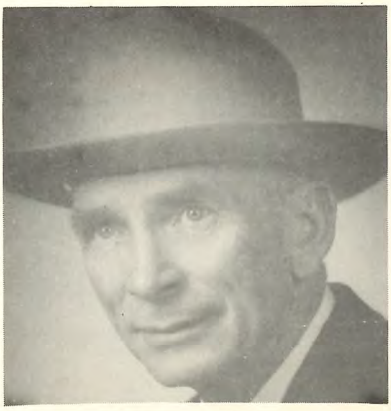
Claude V. Thompson
1951-1953



Frank C. Dunnaway
1954-1955

Frank Dunnaway's terms as President was marked by an aggressive effort to get soil conservation districts' influence in the state's water development policies. It was also during his presidency that the State Ladies Auxiliary organization was formed to assist the OASWCD Promotional and award programs. The FFA-SWCD Speech and Awards Program was begun. Dunnaway is recognized as the first president to publish an Association Newsletter in September, 1955. Public Law 566, Small Watershed Protection Program, was passed in 1954, and the first watershed plan under PL-566 was the Wewoka Creek Project which received approval by the Secretary of Agriculture in 1955.

Harral Allen served only one year but it came at a time when the Small Watershed Program was gaining momentum. Much of his time was spent in getting Public Law 566 amended to be more effective in controlling floods in Oklahoma. Although his primary interest was the Sandy Creek Watershed in Pontotoc County, he recognized the tremendous impact that this program would have statewide. He passed away April 17, 1965.



Harral Allen
1956



Lavern Fishel
1957-1961

This district court judge was articulate and was very active as he traveled Oklahoma making hundreds of speeches on the value of conservation. He was an outspoken advocate of the Small Watershed Flood Prevention Program and he played a major role in getting increased funding from state appropriations for the watershed program. In 1956, the last conservation district in Oklahoma was formed in Kingfisher County. It was during his term of office that the Great Plains Program was begun. Judge Fishel pushed for the creation of the Stubble Mulch Jamboree which pointed out the great value of minimum tillage and residue management. The Judge, as he is referred to, still has a great interest in conservation statewide and is doing an outstanding job on his own farm.

Ward Perryman is commonly referred to as "Mr. Chairman" because he has chaired more conservation meetings in Oklahoma than probably any other individual. He served as chairman of his local board for 40 years and served two terms on the State ASCS (PMA) Committee. Under his leadership, the small Watershed Program was expanded, even though during his term of office he was faced with stiff opposition to the watershed program by a statewide group called the Land Protective Association. Perryman has served in almost every capacity of the State Association and continues to serve on committees and special assignments.



Ward Perryman
1962-1963



Hugh Green
1964-1965

Hugh Green has been described by his friends as a man who cared about people's problems and left no stone unturned in searching for solutions to the problems. It was during his term of office that a District Outlook Committee was formed with the assignment to develop new goals and objectives for the districts. He appointed Crozier Bush of Alva as chairman, and the work of this committee resulted in new legislation six years later with the passage of Senate Bill 101. Green was appointed as a member of the State Soil Conservation Board July 1, 1967, and served until his death, January 5, 1968.

Rt 1
Fairland 74343

During the two years that Joe Hill served as president, the District Outlook Committee continued to meet to develop new legislation to broaden the scope of the soil conservation districts program and to bring about more public participation in the decision-making. In a commentary of his presidency, Hill reported that there was much heated discussion and that a vast majority of the district supervisors did not support broadening the scope of the soil conservation districts to include anyone except farmers and ranchers. Much of the credit for the new legislation must go to him because it was during his two years that the final draft of the legislation was completed and first presented to conservation district supervisors for their consideration.



Joe Hill
1966-1967 Ottawa



Dick Piner
1968-1969

During Dick Piner's term of office special attention was given to informing soil conservation district supervisors as to what was contained in the proposed new legislation affecting soil conservation districts. It was during his term that the State Association undertook one of its most ambitious publicity programs of all times with a major billboard advertisement emphasizing the need to protect sources of clean fresh water. Piner was recognized as a strong advocate of the family tree farm and the total development of the forestry lands in Oklahoma, and it is ironic that his death came while felling a tree December 13, 1973.



Laurence Drake
1972-1973

Laurence Drake is one of the original conservation district directors on the Harper County Conservation District formed in 1938. He later served as a member of the State Soil Conservatior Board 1945-1966. He served as vice president of the State Association for a number of years. It was during his presidency that special emphasis was given to the outdoor classroom program in which conservation districts assisted teachers in attending special seminars where they developed plans for outdoor classrooms. The final draft of legislation was updated and presented to Senator Herschal Crow of Altus and Representative Gary Payne of Atoka who became authors of Senate Bill 101 in the 1971 legislative session. Also, strong efforts by the Association were made to revitalize the 4-H Club and Boy Scouts conservation programs. The first conservation district directory was printed during Mr. Drake's tenure.



Jack Hudman
1974-1975

During Jack Hudman's term, action was taken to bring together all of the organizations interested in our natural resources. In May, 1974, the OACD sponsored a Land Use Forum and brought together all interested people and discussed land use planning. Out of this meeting came a permanent Land Use Planning Committee with representatives from nine groups and they continue to hold meetings and get input from individuals who are concerned with land use planning. Attempts were made in the past to write a history of conservation districts in Oklahoma. This history is a result of Mr. Hudman's determination that a conservation history be written.

Rt 2 Chattanooga 73528

Colton Co.

The latest of a long list of great conservations to head OACD is Wallace Denny. Mr. Denny served a number of years as chairman of OACD's Education Committee, and through his efforts conservation districts became involved in giving assistance to teachers interested in conservation. Upon Mr. Denny's becoming president of OACD, conservation education became the Association's Number One priority. Two conservation education specialists were employed by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission to support conservation districts in their assistance to teachers. Denny carried out a conservation district information program on the development of a statewide 208 non-point source pollution plan.



Wallace Denny
1976-1977

Jack Grimmett
Box 579 - P.V. 73075

1002 N. Wentz
Guthrie 73044

Leonard Graumann
Rt 1 Granite - 73547

Emmett Mitchell - Beaver Co.
Rt 2 Box 61 - Balko - 73931

PRESIDENTS
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

E. C. McArthur, South Carolina	1946
Kent Leavitt, New York	1947 - 1950
Waters S. Davis, Jr., Texas	1951 - 1954
Nolen J. Fuqua, Oklahoma	1955 - 1959
William E. Richards, Nebraska	1960 - 1962
Marion S. Monk, Jr., Louisiana	1963 - 1966
Sam S. Studebaker, Ohio	1967 - 1970
John S. Wilder, Tennessee	1971 - 1974
George Bagley, Louisiana	1975 to Present

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS OF THE OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Several persons have served as Executive Director of, first, the State Soil Conservation Committee or the Oklahoma Soil Conservation Board, and now the Oklahoma Conservation Commission.

At times the job of coordinating conservation activities has been frustrating and thankless, but the objective has always been the same; to win the battle against the needless wasting away of soil and water resources.

The following men have done much to aid this state, to transform itself through conservation:

Earl Lowe	1-16-38 to 5-18-39
Vernon Howell	6-1-39 to 8-31-42
Joe Preston	9-1-42 to 9-30-43
E. B. Smith	10-1-43 to 8-1-45
Clarence Ramming	8-2-45 to 5-17-47
Ward Cromwell	6-9-47 to 1-30-55
Herschel Burris	3-3-55 to 2-29-61
Marvin C. Emerson	3-4-61 to 1-10-71
Leonard A. Solomon	1-11-71 to present

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE USDA

It was the late 1920's before erosion was considered a real threat to this country. Dr. Hugh Bennett, the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service had preached about the dangers to come, but it was 1927, before he had his initial opportunity to present the facts to Congress. The result of the meeting with Congress was the first appropriation for fundamental research in the problem of soil erosion and its control.

Through Dr. Bennett's influence, Congress established ten erosion control experiment stations in 1929. The Red Plains Station at Guthrie, Oklahoma was the first on to get under way. This was the start of the conservation movement in Oklahoma.

In May, 1934, the first great dust storm originating in the Great Plains swept fine particles of soil over Washington, D.C., and three hundred miles out into the Atlantic Ocean. In March, 1935, the second great dust storm occurred. These giant clouds of dust convinced Congress how serious the problem had become and in April, 1935, they passed the Soil Conservation Act. This act set up the Soil Conservation Service as a permanent agency of the Department of Agriculture. That same year 39 erosion control projects were put into operation. The Stillwater Creek Project (Stillwater) and the Pecan Creek Project (Muskogee) were among these. N.E. Winters was designated regional director in charge of the Oklahoma projects. Civilian Conservation Camps were also established. From these technical help and labor was provided to landowners to solve their erosion problems. Thirty-three of these camps were established in Oklahoma. Some of the locations of these camps were Geary, Binger, Boley, Blackwell, Broken Arrow, Clinton, Duncan, Purcell and Idabel.

The Soil Conservation Service assists Conservation Districts by providing technical assistance through Districts to individuals, groups and units of government, in solving soil and water problems. Over 97,000 conservation plans have been developed in the state by landusers with help from Soil Conservation Service technicians.

Several conservation programs are administrated by the Soil Conservation Service including the Small Watershed Program, the Great Plains Conservation Program, and the Resource Conservation and Development Program.

Flood prevention projects began in Oklahoma with the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 534). Work began on the Washita River Flood Prevention Project, which now has had over 1,000 watershed structures constructed on it. In 1954, the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 566) was passed. This made treatment of small watersheds available throughout the state. Over 700 flood retarding structures have been built under this program.

The Great Plains program was authorized in 1956. It provides federal cost share funds to establish conservation measures on the land such as terraces, ponds, grass plantings and gully shaping. Landowners enter into a contract with the Secretary of Agriculture for a period of three to ten years. The contract is based upon a conservation plan developed by the landowner with assistance from

Soil Conservation Service and Conservation Districts. Oklahoma has 30 western counties in this program and leads the nation in number of active contracts with more than 2,600. Twenty million dollars of federal cost share funds have been spent in the last twenty years in this program. Over 6,000 contracts have been written covering almost 5 million acres.

The Resource Conservation and Development Program began in Oklahoma in 1962. This program was established by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1962. The first project in Oklahoma was the Cherokee Hills RC&D Project which included three counties, Adair, Cherokee, and Delaware, three other counties were later added. There are four RC&D projects in the state today. The other three are Fun Country RC&D, 10 counties in the south central portion of the state; Ouachita Mountains RC&D, 7 counties in southeast part and ASCOG RC&D area, 8 counties in the southwestern part of the state. These 31 counties included in RC&D areas cover 16,703,238 acres.

The basic and most important work that has been accomplished by the Soil Conservation Service is the land treatment program. Working with landusers to apply conservation measures on the land. Because of this effort 28,000,000 acres (over 60% of the total land area in the state) is considered adequately protected.

Soil Conservation Service State Conservationists who served in Oklahoma:

Harry M. Chambers—State Conservationist 6-16-42 to 1-13-54
Ray Walker—State Conservationist 1-13-54 to 7-31-65
Courtney A. Tidwell—State Conservationist 7-31-65 to 6-14-70
William L. Vaught—State Conservationist 6-14-70 to 11-12-72
Hampton Burns—State Conservationist 11-12-72 to 12-20-75
Roland R. Willis—State Conservationist 12-21-75 to Present

AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION CONSERVATION SERVICE USDA

INTRODUCTION

The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) has been known by several names. Two of these were Agricultural Adjustment Agency (AAA) and Production Marketing Association (PMA). This agency's prime mission through the years has been to provide a stable agricultural base through stabilization of farm income and the conservation of our land and water.

This report attempts to provide an overall view of how Congress modified legislation to meet changing economic situations.

HISTORY

The Farm Crisis During the Depression Years

In the summer of 1920, farmers began to get caught in a squeeze between the prices they received for farm products and the prices they had to pay for supplies. Although farm organizations and publications had been advising farmers to control production, little was accomplished. Withholding movements developed in some areas but proved unsuccessful over a period of time. Farmers next turned to cooperative marketing associations. Things became even worse as the depression hit in 1929. The entire country was left in a near state of despair. Farmer, likewise, had been pushed to the point of desperation. Realized net income of farm operators in 1932 dropped to less than one-third of what it had been in 1929.

Major government action to solve the farm economic problem began in 1933. The primary tool used to raise farm prices and income became the control of agricultural production.

The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933

Organization

The Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA) was passed on May 12, 1933. Its goal was to restore prices to farmers at a level which would give agricultural commodities their 1909 to 1914 purchasing power. The Secretary of Agriculture had new powers invested in his office. To restore farm purchasing power, the Secretary had many methods he could use. These included the authorization: (1) to secure voluntary reduction of the acreage in basic crops through agreements with producers, and the use of direct payments for participation in acreage control programs; (2) to regulate marketing through voluntary agreements with processors, associations of producers, and other handlers of agricultural commodities or products; (3) to license processors, associations of producers, and others handling agricultural commodities to eliminate unfair practices or changes; (4) to determine the necessity for the rate of processing taxes; and (5) to use the proceeds of taxes and appropriate funds for the cost of adjustment operations, the expansion of markets, and the removal of agricultural surpluses.

Congress declared its intent, at the same time, to protect the consumer's interest. Base acreages were established for basic crops. Different base years were used for different crops.

Basic Programs in Early Legislation

The following commodities were listed as basic in the original legislation: wheat, cotton, field corn, hogs, rice, tobacco, milk, and milk products. Amendments to the legislation in 1934 and 1935 added the following to the list of basic commodities: rye, flax, barley, grain sorghums, cattle, peanuts, sugar beets, sugar cane, and potatoes. However, acreage allotment programs were only in operation for cotton, field corn, peanuts, rice, sugar, tobacco, and wheat.

It was impossible to reduce acreage effectively before the 1933 crops were ready for market. As emergency measures, portions of cotton and tobacco crops were plowed under during 1933. Payments were made to farmers for this plowing down of a portion of their crop. Nonrecourse loans were initiated to give farmers increased purchase power and allow them to receive the benefits of controlled production more quickly. The increased purchasing power of farmers was in line with the overall recovery program for the country.

Surplus Disposal

As the USDA made nonrecourse loans and took other actions to increase farmers' purchasing power it built up its own inventory of surpluses. Surplus disposal programs were initiated as an emergency supplement to crop adjustment programs. The paradox of crop adjustment particularly when it involved crop destruction at a time when people were hungry troubled the Secretary of Agriculture and other top officials. A provision in the 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act authorized processing tax funds which were used for surplus distribution. These and other funds help distribute both basic and nonbasic commodities to unemployed families and through relief distribution channels.

Supreme Court Decision of 1936

The original agricultural adjustment program was dealt a severe setback on January 6, 1936, by the Hoosac-Mills decision rendered by the U.S. Supreme Court. This decision invalidated the production control provisions, including the tax on marketings, provided under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933. Little time was wasted in taking action to replace the Act. In the three years from 1932 to 1935, farm income increased more than 50 percent. The effect of the Agricultural Adjustment Act is hard to evaluate because of the many factors involved in the farm income increase.

Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act of 1936

The Supreme Court's ruling negating the production control provisions of the Agricultural Adjustment Act presented the

Congress and the USDA with the problem of finding a new approach before arrival of the spring planting season. USDA officials and spokesmen for farmers recommended to Congress that farmers be paid for voluntarily shifting acreage from soil-depleting surplus crops into soil-conserving legumes and grasses. The Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act was approved on February 29, 1936. This Act combined the objective of promoting soil conservation and profitable use of agricultural resources with that of reestablishing and maintaining farm income at fair levels. The goal of income parity, as distinguished from price parity, was introduced into legislation for the first time. it was defined as the ratio of purchasing power of the net income per person on farms to that of the income per person not on farms which had prevailed from August 1, 1909, to July, 1914.

President Roosevelt stated as a third major objective of the new Act, "the protection of consumers by assuring adequate supplies of food and fiber". Under the 1936 program farmers were offered soil-conserving payments for shifting acreage from soil-depleting crops to soil-conserving crops. Also offered were soil-building payments for seeding soil-building crops on cropland and for carrying out approved soil-building practices on cropland or pasture.

Curtailment in crop production due to severe drought in 1936 tended to obscure the fact that planted acreage of the basic crops increased, despite the soil conservation program. Normal weather, crop surpluses, and declining farm prices in 1937 focused attention on the failure of the conservation program to bring about crop reduction as a by-product of better land utilization.

Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938

Department officials and spokesmen for farm organizations soon began working on plans for new legislation to supplement the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act. The Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 combined the conservation program of the 1936 legislation with new features designed to meet drought emergencies as well as the price and income crisis resulting from surplus production. A marketing control approach was substituted for direct production control. Authority was based on congressional power to regulate interstate and foreign commerce. The new features of the legislation included mandatory nonrecourse loans for cooperating producers of corn, wheat, and cotton under certain supply and price conditions (if marketing quotas had not been rejected). Loans were at the option of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for producers of other commodities. Marketing quotas were to be proclaimed for corn, cotton, rice, tobacco, and wheat when supplies reached certain levels. Referendums were to be used to determine whether the marketing quotas proclaimed by the Secretary should be put into effect. Another feature was parity payments to producers of corn, cotton, rice, tobacco, and wheat in amounts which would provide a return as nearly equal to parity as available funds would permit. These payments were to supplement and not replace other payments. In addition to payments authorized under the continued Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act for farmers in all areas, special payments were made in ten states to

farmers who cooperated in a program to retire land unsuited to cultivation as part of a restoration land program initiated in 1938. The attainment of parity prices and parity income was stated as a goal of the legislation. Another goal was the protection of consumers by the maintenance of adequate reserves of food and fiber. Systematic storage of supplies made possible by nonrecourse loans was the basis for the department's "Ever-Normal-Granary" plan.

Wartime Measures

The large stocks of wheat, cotton, and corn resulting from price-supporting loans, which had caused criticism of the Ever-Norman Granary plan, became a military reserve of crucial importance after the United States entered World War II. Concern over the need to reduce the build-up of government stocks changed during the war and post-war period to concern over attainment of production to meet the then current needs.

On December 26, 1940, the USDA asked farmers to revise plans and to have at least as many sows farrowing in 1941 as in 1940. Following the passage of the Lend-Lease act on March 11, 1941, Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard announced a price support program for hogs, dairy products, chickens, and eggs at a rate above market prices. Hogs were to be supported at not less than $9 per hundredweight.

Congress decided that legislation was needed to insure that farmers shared in the profits which defense contracts were bringing to the American economy, and as an incentive to wartime production. Legislation was enacted requiring that prices be supported on many agricultural commodities.

The Soil Bank

The Soil Bank, established by the Agricultural Act of 1956, was a large-scale effort, similar in some respects to programs of the 1930's, to bring about adjustments between supply and demand for agricultural products by taking farmland out of production. The program was divided into two parts: (1) an acreage reserve, and (2) a conservation reserve. The specific objective of the acreage reserve was to reduce the amount of land planted to allotment crops, wheat, cotton, corn, tobacco, peanuts, and rice. Under its terms, farmers cut land planted in these crops below established allotments; or, in the case of corn, their base acreage, and received payments for the diversion of such acreage to conserving uses. In 1957, 21.4 million acres were in the acreage reserve. The last year of the acreage reserve program was 1958.

All farmers were eligible to participate in the conservation reserve by designating certain cropland for the reserve and putting it to conservation use. On July 15, 1960, 28.6 million acres were under contract in this reserve.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965

Programs established by the Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 were in effect from 1966 through 1969. The Wool Act of 1954 and the voluntary feed grain program begun in 1961 were extended

through 1969. The voluntary wheat certificate program begun in 1964 was extended through 1969 with only limited changes.

The Act established a Cropland Adjustment Program. The Secretary was authorized to enter into five-to-ten year contracts with farmers calling for conversion of cropland into practices or uses which will: conserve water, soil, wildlife, or forest resources; or establish, protect, or conserve open spaces, national beauty, wildlife, or recreational resources; or prevent air or water pollution. Limited funding to enter into CAP contracts was provided in 1966 and 1967. Since that time the Congress has not authorized funds for any new CAP contracts.

The Food and Agriculture Act of 1965 continued many of the features which characterized farm legislation since 1933. For a third of a century, price support and adjustment programs have had an important impact upon the farm and national economy. Consumers have consistently had a reliable supply of farm products, but the proportion of consumers' income spent for these products has declined. The legislation and resulting programs have been modified to meet varying conditions of depression, war and prosperity and have sought to give farmers economic equality with other segments of the economy.

The Agricultural Act of 1970

This legislation was enacted November 30, 1970. Major features of this Act were: (1) produces had more flexibility in making their farm-operating decisions, and (2) it emphasized more reliance on the marketplace as the principal source of farm income.

Significant changes were made in the supply management programs for wheat, feed grains, and cotton. The existing adjustment programs for peanuts, tobacco, and rice which were a part of earlier agricultural legislation were not affected by the new Act.

This Act also included for the first time a limitation ($55,000) on the payments a participating producer would be entitled to receive. This limitation applied to each crop (wheat, feed grains, and cotton) separately.

The Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of 1973

The Act of 1973, placed emphasis on production rather than curtail the production of wheat, corn, upland cotton, and tobacco.

A new concept of target prices was introduced which would provide compensating payments to farmers whenever average crop market prices fall below target levels.

"Disaster" payments were authorized if eligible producers were prevented from planting any portion of allotments or if yields were critically reduced because of drought, flood, or natural disasters, or other conditions beyond their control.

The Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP)

From its beginning in 1936, ACP has been applicable to all the states. It has been continuously available as a public financial aid to share cost with farmers and ranchers for carrying out approved soil,

water, and woodland conservation measures except for 1973, when the program was terminated by the Administration. it was reinstated in 1974, due to court action.

During the period 1971 through 1973 the program was known as the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) and in 1974 as the Rural Environmental Conservation Program (RECP). In 1975, the name was changed back to ACP.

FORTY YEAR SUMMARY

The following is a summary of the most common ACP practices accomplished for Oklahoma from 1936 through 1975.

Practice	Extent
Establishment of Permanent Vegetative Cover	3,460,527 acres
Improving Permanent Vegetative Cover	4,701,289 acres
Planting Trees for Forestry	23,501 acres
Improving a Stand of Trees for Forestry	51,985 acres
Water Impoundment Reservoirs	211,762 structures
Stripcropping for Erosion Control	599,848 acres
Field Terrace Systems	3,882,983 acres served
Diversion Terraces	607,036 acres served
Permanent Wildlife Habitat Establishment	20,000 acres[1]
Sediment Retention or Erosion Control Structures	839 structures[2]
Water Runoff Erosion Control Measures (waterways, gullies, etc.)	170,456 acres served
Reorganizing Irrigation Systems	233,272 acres served
Developing Livestock Water Facilities	15,276 facilities
Draining Cropland for Conservation Farming	150,353 acres[2]

[1] Years included are 1967 through 1975.

[2] Years included are 1940 through 1971.

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OFFICERS

YEAR 1943

President, Nolen J. Fuqua, Duncan; 1st V.P., F. S. Hurd, Broken Arrow; 2nd V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 3rd V.P., J. W. Bashore, Vinita; Treasurer, Joe B. Preston, Stillwater.

YEAR 1944

President, Nolen J. Fuqua, Duncan; 1st V.P., F. S. Hurd, Broken Arrow; 2nd V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 3rd V.P., J. W. Bashore, Vinita; Treasurer, E. B. Smith, Stillwater.

YEAR 1948, 1949, 1950

President, A. P. Atkins, Hardesty; 1st V.P., Jess Dewees, Clinton; 2nd V.P., F. C. Dunaway, Jones; 3rd V.P., L. J. Lantz, Stigler; Treasurer, W. E. Rice, Red Rock.

YEAR 1951, 1952, 1953

President, Claude V. Thompson, Ada; 1st V.P., W. A. O'Buck, Antlers; 2nd V.P., J. Bryan Gentry, Hobart; 3rd V.P., J. S. Holmberg, Erick; Treasurer, John W. Myers, Crescent; Area I Director, J. C. Holmes, Laverne; Area II Director, Ross Smith, Davis; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ralph Crall, Weatherford; Area V director, Floyd Allcorn, Kenefic.

YEAR 1954

President, Frank Dunnaway, Jones.

YEAR 1955

President, Frank Dunnaway, Jones.
(Other officers not available.)

YEAR 1956

President, Harrell Allen, Ada; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Lowell Caskey, Stratford; Area I Director, H. C. Gadin; Area II Director, Lowell Caskey, Stratford; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Dick Piner, Idabel.

YEAR 1957

President, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Lowell Caskey, Stratford; Area I Director, J. B. Kelsey, Waynoka; Area II Director, Charlie Hollopeter, Blackwell; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Jessee, Durant.

YEAR 1958

President, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Lowell Caskey, Stratford; Area I Director, Ira Marlatt, Orienta; Area II Director, Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Jessee, Durant.

YEAR 1959

President, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Jeanette Smith, Coalgate; Area I Director, Ira Marlatt, Orienta; Area II Director, Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Jessee, Durant.

YEAR 1960

President, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Jeanette Smith, Coalgate; Area I Director, Ira Marlatt, Orienta; Area II Director, Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Hall, Ft. Towson.

YEAR 1969

President, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Walter Sears, Ramona; 3rd V.P., Ward Perryman, Duke; Treasurer, Jeanette Smith, Coalgate; Area I Director, Crozier Bush; Area II Director, Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Dick Piner, Idabel.

YEAR 1962

President, Ward Perryman, Duke; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Jack Carmen, Bristow; 3rd V.P., Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Treasurer, Lavern Fishel, Coalgate; Area I Director, Crozier Bush, Alva; Area II Director, C. S. Pratt, Lindsay; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Dick Piner, Idabel.

YEAR 1963

President, Ward Perryman, Duke; 1st V.P., Hugh Green, Carmen; 2nd V.P., Jack Carmen, Bristow; 3rd V.P., Jean Neustadt, Ardmore; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Crozier Bush, Alva; Area II Director, C. S. Pratt, Lindsay; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, E. F. Coker, McAlester.

YEAR 1964

President, Hugh Green, Carmen; 1st V.P., Joe Hill, Fairland; 2nd V.P., E. F. Coker, McAlester; 3rd V.P., John Myers, Crescent; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Crozier Bush, Alva; Area II Director, Eber Heady, Tonkawa; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Woolley, Jr., Ada.

YEAR 1965

President, Hugh Green, Carmen; 1st V.P., Joe Hill, Fairland; 2nd V.P., E. F. Coker, McAlester; 3rd V.P., John Myers, Crescent; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Crozier Bush,

Alva; Area II Director, Eber Heady, Tonkawa; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, George Huckaby, Sentinel; Area V Director, Walter Woolley, Ada.

YEAR 1966

President, Joe Hill, Fairland; 1st V.P., Dick Piner, Idabel; 2nd V.P., Crozier Bush, Alva; 3rd V.P., George Huckaby, Sentinel; Treasurer, Charle Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Edward Rohrer, Jr., Selman; Area II Director, Eber Heady, Tonkawa, Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ward Perryman, Duke; Area V Director, Walter Wooley, Jr., Ada.

YEAR 1967

President, Joe Hill, Fairland; 1st V.P., Dick Piner, Idabel; 2nd V.P. Crozier Bush, Alva; 3rd V.P., George Huckaby, Sentinel; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Ed Rohrer, Jr., Selman; Area II Director, Eber Heady, Tonkawa; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ward Perryman, Duke; Area V Director, Victor Herron, Ravia.

YEAR 1968

President, Dick Piner, Idabel; 1st V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 2nd V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; 3rd V.P., Robert Hartley, Vinita; Treasurer, Charlie Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Ed Rohrer, Jr., Selman; Area II Director, Eber Heady, Tonkawa, Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ward Perryman, Duke; Area V Director, Victor ~~Henon~~ Herron, Ravia.

YEAR 1969

President, Dick Piner, Idabel; 1st V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 2nd V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; 3rd V.P., James Schiltz, Ponca City; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Howard DeBock, Woodward; Area II Director, Roger Jameson, Davis; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ward Perryman, Duke; Area V Director, Allen French, Madill.

YEAR 1970

President, R. C. Longmire, Pauls Valley; 1st V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 2nd V.P., James Schiltz, Ponca City; 3rd V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Howard DeBock, Woodward; Area II Director, Roger Jameson, Davis; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Ward Perryman, Duke; Area V Director, Allen French, Madill.

YEAR 1971

President, R. C. Longmire, Pauls Valley; 1st V.P., Laurence Drake, Gate; 2nd V.P., James Schiltz, Ponca City; 3rd V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Perry McOsker, Alva; Area II Director, Rodger Jameson, Davis; Area III Director, Ray Winters, Chouteau; Area IV Director, Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; Area V Director, S. L. Clifton, Broken Bow.

YEAR 1972

President, Laurence Drake, Gate; 1st V.P., S. L. Clifton, Broken Bow; 2nd V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; 3rd V.P., Vencil Green, Cherokee; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Harvey Base, Geary; Area II Director, Wallace Denny, Guthrie; Area III Director, Euel Lancaster, Wagoner; Area IV Director, Clarence Duncan, Thomas; Area V Director, Tommie Wilson, Holdenville.

YEAR 1973

President, Laurence Drake, Gate; 1st V.P., Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Elmer Maddux, Moreland; Area II Director, Wallace Denny, Guthrie; Area III Director, Euel Lancaster, Wagoner; Area IV Director, Clarence Duncan, Thomas; Area V Director, Tommie Wilson, Holdenville.

YEAR 1974

President, Jack Hudman, Chattanooga, 1st V.P., Wallace Denny, Guthrie; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Elmer Maddux, Moreland; Area II Director, Jim Williams, Morrison, Area III Director, Euel Lancaster, Wagoner; Area IV Director, Meredith Lauer, Granite; Area V Director, Tommie Wilson, Holdenville.

YEAR 1975

President, Jack Hudman, Chattanooga; 1st V.P., Wallace Denny, Guthrie; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Elmer Maddux, Moreland; Area II Director, James Williams, Morrison, Area III Director, Waldo Funk, Inola; Area IV Director, Meredith Lauer, Granite; Area V Director, Herman Coussens, Talihina.

YEAR 1976

President, Wallace C. Denny, Guthrie; 1st V.P., Jack Grimmett, Pauls Valley; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Warren Little, Alva; Area II Director, W. F. Lott, Oklahoma City; Area III Director, Waldo Funk, Inola; Area IV Director, Craig Meacham, Clinton; Area V Director, Herman Coussens, Talihina.

YEAR 1977

President, Wallace C. Denny, Guthrie; 1st V.P., Jack Grimmett, Pauls Valley; Treasurer, Charley Kidd, Sayre; Area I Director, Warren Little, Alva, Area II Director, W. F. Lott, Oklahoma City; Area III Director, Waldo Funk, Inola; Area IV Director, Craig Meacham, Clinton; Area V Director, Herman Coussens, Talihina.

THE TOP TEN RECORDS MADE IN OKALHOMA

1. Oklahoma leads the nation in the amount of conservation measures applied per acre.
2. Oklahoma has more upstream flood control structures than any other state in the nation.
3. The first small watershed flood control dam in the nation was built in Oklahoma.
4. Sandstone Creek Watershed was the first entire watershed project to be completed in the nation.
5. The first multi-purpose flood control structure to be built in the nation was Lake Humphrey at Duncan.
6. Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to complete 1500 upstream flood control dams.
7. Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to build 1776 flood control structures.
8. The 50,000th Great Plains Contract was signed in Oklahoma.
9. Oklahoma was the first state in the nation to have full time district clerks.
10. The best conservation district directors are found in Oklahoma.

WOMEN WHO SERVED AS CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Mrs. Margaret Riney, Bartlesville, Caney Valley Conservation District, was the first woman to serve as a conservation district director in Oklahoma. She was elected to the board of directors in 1959 and has served continuously since tha time.

Mrs. Barbara Mason, Billings, Noble County Conservation District was appointed to the board of directors in 1968.

Other women who are serving on conservation district boards are:

Leva Joy Brantley, Fletcher, Comanche County Conservation District

Opal Watts, Pauls Valley, Garvin Conservation District

Anna Ruth Milor, Marietta, Love County Conservation District

Mrs. Nelson Brensing, Pawnee, Pawnee County Conservation District

Margaret J. Swank, Stillwater, Payne County Conservation District

ROSTER OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS

ADAIR COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Tom Coleman 1944-1956
Frank Grooms 1956-1960
Ernest Buffington 1960-1962
Verlin Littlejohn 1962-1963
Gregg Hilton 1963-1969
Bill Grooms 1969-1969
John Lewis 1944-1949
E. J. Campbell 1949-1975
Basil W. Cox 1969-
J. C. Morris 1975

ELECTED

Melvin Smith 1945-1948
M. K. Heflin 1945-1948
J. C. Fain 1945-1948
1956-
Rex Starr 1948-1951
W. H. Ferrell 1948-1951
F. C. Mongold 1948-1952
J. O. Willis 1951-1955
Wid Hampton 1951-1956
Wayne Ghormley 1952-1956
G. F. Mays 1955-1969
James P. Strauss 1956-1962
W. D. McConnell, Jr. 1956-1958
P. H. Simmons 1962-1974
Ola Cantrell 1969-1975
A. G. Bradford 1974-
Carl Stevenson 1975

ALFALFA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

R. W. Gwinn 1944-1948
Harold Johnson 1948-1956
Doyle Johnson 1956-1964
Fred D. Cormack 1964-
Cecil Whitman 1944-1948
Ralph Weber 1948-1955
Robert Glynn 1955-1957
Hugh Green 1957-1967*
Vencil Green 1968-

ELECTED

E. G. Thompson 1945-1950
Charles Nelson 1945-1952
P. N. Manning 1945-1950
Hugh Green 1950-1958*
O. A. Findley 1950-1969
Jay F. Walker 1952-1974
W. G. Tucker 1958-
Cecil White 1969-
Michael Morrison 1974

ARBUCKLE SWCD

APPOINTED

J. C. Brooks 1938-1941
J. F. McCants 1941-1947
M. E. McLain 1947-1950
Ray McKown ..... 1950-1951)
1957-1958)
Harry Veal 1951-1954
Jess Phipps 1953
R. R. Covey 1938-1944
T. J. Barnes 1944-1949
Hollis Hodges 1949-1951
Neil Monson 1951-1953
M. W. Smith 1953-1957
John Fish 1958-

ELECTED

Richard Simmons 1938-1948
W. E. Brogdon 1938-1948
Andrew Riddle 1938-1941
T. B. Orr 1941-1946
Bennie H. Beall 1946-1948
E. C. Cantwell 1948-1950
Tuss Bond ..... 1948-1952)
(Served Coal County ..... 1956-1966)
A. P. Farr 1948-1949
Paul Speake ..... 1949-1952)
1959-1974)
R. C. Surber 1950-1959
J. S. Noland 1952-1953
Mark Wasson 1952-
Jean Neustadt 1957-
Scott King 1975

*Moved from Elected Position to Appointed Position

ARKANSAS RIVER-KAY COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

R. L. McFall 1939-1953
Sidney Spore 1953-1975
Ralph Graham 1939-1947
W. W. Whitmore 1947-1949
Glen Grantham 1949-1956
Jim Butterfield 1956-1958
Keith Fruits 1958-1960
Burch Lane 1960-1961
Kerney Graham 1961-1975
Donald Wolfe 1975
Franklin Spore 1975

ELECTED

Henry F. Engelking 1939-1943
Oliver Butler 1939-1946
Douglas Cooley 1939-1943
Joe G. Love 1943-1951
Frank Midgley 1943-1953
H. E. Bliss 1946-1956
E. C. Locke 1951-1959
J. W. Olson 1953-1959
Frances Shafer 1956-1959
Otto Leven 1959-
Eldon Greenhagen 1959-1961
Merle Lesemann 1959-1966
Marvin Kahle 1960-1966
Lawrence Suedmeir 1964-1966
William Pitts 1966-1975
Alvin Vap 1966-
Lynn Scott 1975

ATOKA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

B. K. Cooksey 1938-1946
R. C. (Bob) Rains ..... 1946-1949)
1965-1977)
Harmon Jones 1949-1957
R. E. Cochran 1957-1963
O. B. Estep 1963-
P. M. Mungle 1938-1965
V. L. Troutman 1977-1981

ELECTED

A. J. Durbin 1939-1942
A. L. Jackson 1939-1945
Fred Reinking 1939-1962
C. H. Pruitt 1942-1945
Ross Faudree 1945-1950
J. E. Baker 1945-1949
W. T. Waggoner 1949-1973
Hayden Thompson 1950-1951
Gene Briggs 1951-1952
Virgil Hardin 1952-1977
Merle J. Sexton 1962-
D. H. Loftis 1973-1974
Dan Hardman 1974-

BEAVER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

M. O. Hester 1941-1963
Jimmie Cole ..... 1963- *
Roy McGuire 1941-1949
Lloyd Brown 1949-1952
J. L. Babbitt 1952-1964
J. S. Shaffer ..... 1964- *

ELECTED

Lloyd Barby 1941-1955
D. E. Wolf 1941-1944
Dwight Leonard 1941-1942
William McMillan 1942-1945
J. S. Shaffer ..... 1944-1949)
1960-1964*)
Bill Deck 1945-1952
Fred Reiswig 1949-1958
Claude Saunders 1952-1958
J. P. Whisenhunt 1955-1957
Halbert Whisenhunt 1957-1959
Richard Kamas 1959-1960
Floyd Van Deburgh 1959-1961
Jimmie Cole 1960-1963*
Raymond Watson 1961-1974
Charles Custer 1963-
Glen Myers 1964-1973
Ervin Mitchell 1974-
George W. Loepp 1974

BLAINE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

B. E. Long 1944-1963
Bennie Tice 1963-1966*
Ralph Murray 1966-1971
E. R. Smoot 1944-1960
Harold Haigler ..... 1960- *
J. G. Matli ..... 1971- *

ELECTED

C. T. Scott 1945-1955
George Armor 1945-1945
D. A. Rohling 1945-1955
H. A. Paulsen 1945-1950
Bennie Tice 1950-1963*
J. G. Teeters 1955-
Harold Haigler 1955-1960*
J. L. Matli 1960-1971*
E. M. Loosen 1963-1965
Emil C. Loosen 1966-
Kay Garriott 1971-

BRYAN SWCD

APPOINTED

Lee Sharp..... 1940-1944
Gus Hendrix..... 1944-1946
H. E. Small 1946-1949
Floyd Allcorn 1949-1969
J. J. Marshall 1940-1946
Holland H. Robinson 1946-1950
W. H. John..... 1950-1970
David Robinson..... 1970-1973
Walter Davis..... 1970- *
Ralph Wilson 1973

ELECTED

J. T. Lilley 1940-1942
J. B. Flowers..... 1940-1944
C. E. Saunders 1940-1943
Z. V. Gordon 1942-1945
Clyde Woods..... 1943-1946
Paul W. Goodman 1944-1948
Alfred Keeton..... 1945-1946
Clark Bass..... 1946-1950
R. C. Wood..... 1946-1950
Tom O'Dea 1948-1950
John Shipp 1950-1950
Grady Duncan 1950-1952
Paul Bragg 1950-1957
O. W. Lowe 1952-1954
R. P. Badger 1952-1960
Garland Washington 1954-1955
F. R. McCandless..... 1955-1956
Hollis McIntire..... 1956-1960
Walter B. Jessee..... 1957-1970
W. H. McCarley, Jr. 1960-1962
Arnold J. Rambo 1960-1963
Claud Childress 1962-1965
L. C. Hodge..... 1963-1966
Troy A. Stone..... 1965-
Walter Davis 1966-1969*
Roy Colclazier..... 1969-
Donald J. Reece 1970-

CANEY VALLEY SWCD

APPOINTED

H. Roy Cunningham 1944-1963
Edgar Weston..... 1963-
L. A. Statham..... 1944-1952
Walter Sears 1952-1970*
C. C. Tate..... 1970-1971
Dr. Wm. M. Aldredge 1971-1976
John M. Prentice 1976

ELECTED

B. H. Jeter..... 1944-1950
J. Grindle..... 1944-1946
C. H Carpenter 1944-1948
C. C. Matthews..... 1947-1948
O. A. Patridge..... 1948-1951
Walter Sears 1948-1952*
David Murray..... 1950-1957
Wade Scudder..... 1952-1956
Roy Hayden 1952-1956
Morris Montgomery 1956-1959
James Wolfe 1956-
Richard Bennett..... 1957-1959
Mrs. A. H. Riney 1959-
Jack Hollingsworth..... 1960-1962
Wilbur Hadley 1963-1968
Chester Burrows 1968-1977
Stanley J. Orloski 1977-

CENTRAL NORTH CANADIAN SWCD

APPOINTED

L. E. Lyon 1938-1945
Chester Grass..... 1945-1970
Harry Newer..... 1938-1968
Everett Feddersen..... 1968-1976
William Leck..... 1976
LeeRoy Jameson 1970

ELECTED

H. R. Robinson..... 1938-1950
J. R. Hankla 1938-1945
J. H. Geeslin 1938-1958
J. F. Geeslin..... 1958-1965
Ralph McClung 1945-1948
Paul Lyon 1948-1954
C. J. Hansen 1950-1953
Rufus Meschberger..... 1953-1971
Harvey Base..... 1954-
Lloyd Walker 1965-1974
Robert Till..... 1974
Robert Leck..... 1971-1976
J. C. Roberts..... 1976

CHECOTAH SWCD

APPOINTED

E. J. Kloeckler 1938-1952
Forrest Kloeckler..... 1952- 1980
Walter Williams 1938-1944*
I. A. D. Allen..... 1944-1953
B. G. Bogard, Jr. 1953-1956
R. J. Koch, Jr..... 1956-1965
Lee Stidham 1965-1970
O. C. Lynn 1970- 1981

ELECTED

Eugene Greenlee 1938-1976
J. W. Barber 1938-1945
J. D. Day 1938-1946
R. I. West..... 1945-1950
Walter Williams 1946-1962*
A. V. Ellis..... 1950-1970
David Ogden..... 1962-1976
Earl E. Myers..... 1970-1976
Jerry Williams 1976
Clifton Abbott 1976
Jay Matthews..... 1976-1978

CHEROKEE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Ben Witt 1940-1941
Lee Dickens..... 1941-1946
J. L. LaFever..... 1946-1947
Webb Herron 1947-1960
Henry Box..... 1960-1962
Burl Wilcox..... 1963-1966
Alton Williams..... 1966-1968
F. M. Guinn..... 1968-1974
George Stratton..... 1940-1948
Howard Stratton..... 1948-1951
L. B. Rainey..... 1951-1954
John Gladney 1954-1965
Charley Kirk..... 1965-1975
John L. Hopkins..... 1974
D. L. Page 1975- 1981

ELECTED

Tom Clark 1940-1944
H. W. Goodall..... 1940-1949
Eph A. Hamilton 1940-1947
A. H. James..... 1944-1947
Douglas Woodall 1947-1949
R. B. French 1947-1949
Raleigh C. Eastham..... 1949-1951
Jesse Thompson..... 1949-1951
Robert Ashbrook..... 1949-1953
Ellis Applegate..... 1951-1953
Dewey Young 1951-1954
Louis Griffin 1953-1963
Harvey Chase, Jr. ..... 1954-1963)
1964-1967)
John Barton 1953-1956
Forrest Leech ..... 1956-1963)
1968-1971)
Thurmon Gordon..... 1963-1964
R. J. Rutheford..... 1963-1964
Burnis Bryant..... 1963-1964
Clevel Smith 1964-1969
W. C. Moss..... 1964-1979
Tom Tate 1969-1970
Gene Colburn 1971-1974
Bob Adrain 1974-1975
H. L. Goodwin..... 1971
Charles Forrest..... 1975

CIMARRON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Roy Hanes..... 1948-1973
E. D. Phillips..... 1948-1956
Aubrey Foreman 1956-1975
James M. Belford..... 1973-1977
Eddie Allen 1975-
Clyde Adams..... 1977

ELECTED

J. C. Stewart 1949-1951
Burton Ikard..... 1949-1954
Lewis Alexander 1949-1966
Roy Nall..... 1954-
Aaron Parker 1951-1957
R. P. Crabtree..... 1957-1959
Truman Tucker 1959-1965
Billy Ray Gowdy 1965-1971
Frank Clark..... 1966-
Jerrie Thrash 1971-1974
Billy J. Cox 1974

CIMARRON VALLEY SWCD

APPOINTED

F. J. Boeckman..... 1944-1973
Pete Adams..... 1944-1966
Weldon Leisher..... 1966-
Robert C. Bisel 1974

ELECTED

Emmit Wray..... 1944-1953
H. H. Winters..... 1944-1946
Frank Johnson..... 1944-1976
Dick York..... 1946-1977
Edwin Groenewold 1953-1973
Arlynd Wilson 1973
Larry Church 1976
Daniel Geis 1977-

CLEVELAND COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

John T. Gallgher 1939-1944
A. G. Hudspeth 1944-1954
C. O. Threlkeld 1954-1959
W. N. Walton 1959-1972
P. R. Lessly 1939-1945
King G. Price 1945-1947
Walter I. Williamson 1947-
Charles Hogan 1972

ELECTED

D. H. Brown 1940-1952
E. D. Fox 1940-1943
Carl Jarboe 1940-1946
George T. Sims 1945-1948
E. W. Harris 1943-1945
Walter Northcutt 1946-1964
O. S. Boyd 1948-
Charles Haynes 1952-
Roy Calvert 1964-

COAL COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

R. D. Cody 1938-1947
Harvey Carter 1947-
E. L. Patterson 1938-1946
Claude V. Thompson ..... 1946-1951)
(Served Pontotoc County .. 1951-1956)
J. Frank King 1952-1966*
Floyd King 1966-1970
Robert Brashears 1970-1974
Bob Cody 1974

ELECTED

Z. K. McCoy ..... 1938-1951)
(Served Pontotoc County .. 1951-1957)
E. P. Kite 1938-1946
Ben F. Payne 1946-1947
Frank King 1947-1952*
George Harris 1947-1952
Loyd Daniels 1952-1956
Jack Staggs 1952-1954
A. D. Cody 1952-1964
S. B. Branom 1954-
Tuss Bond ..... 1956-1966)
(Served Arbuckle SWCD .. 1948-1952)
Norman Mowdy 1964-1971
Bob Thomas 1966-
Ross Reed 1971

COMANCHE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

John Storer 1944-1955
Giles Spencer 1955-1971
Earl Wilkerson 1944-1958
Elbert Wolf 1958-1972
J. T. Neal 1972-1976
Harold Wilson 1971-1975
Mike Gordon 1976
Henry Renschen 1975

ELECTED

Ray Keegan 1944-1961
John Ryan 1944-1947
Fred Anderson 1944-1952
Don Hooper 1947-
Rudolph Buchwald 1952-1971
G. C. White 1961-1969
Harry Abbott 1969-1975
R. L. Mallow 1971-1974
Jack E. Hawkins 1974-1977
Leva Joy Brantley 1975
William Stephen II 1977

COTTON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Tab Dowlen 1948-1953
Bob Mayes 1953-1955
William McCoy 1955-1971
J. W. Holt 1948-1954
Loide English 1954-1976
Richard A. Walker, Jr. 1971
Jack Hudman ..... 1976- *

ELECTED

Walton Manley 1949-1955
A. R. Jarrett 1949-1953
A. J. Grimes 1949-1951
Max W. Scherler 1951-1955
Amiel Miller 1955-1962
M. G. Bessemer 1955-1960
Paul Adams 1955-1972
Jack Hudman 1961-1976*
Robert McCullough 1962-
Ralph White 1972
Jimmy Ray Stover 1976

CRAIG COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. W. Bashore 1940-1945
George Reeves 1945-1962
Jack Douglas 1962-1977
George Costley 1940-1941
Henry Hill 1941-1950
Luther Gregory 1950-
Lowell Hatcher 1977

ELECTED

Eugene Rogers 1941-1947
Howard Tyler 1941-1971
Wendell Emmons 1941-1944
John Schenk 1944-1955
A. W. Kennedy 1947-1964
Robert Hartley 1955-1966
Bearl Jenkins 1964-1966
O. J. Martin 1966-
Max Crouch 1966-
K. R. Mullican 1971-

CREEK COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

L. A. Lashley 1938-1941
Roy Whitehead 1941-1971
Amil Strella 1938-1940
W. A. Judeman 1940-1977
Seba Whitehead 1971
R. K. Homes 1977

ELECTED

Jack Carman 1938-1973
W. Marion Baker 1938-1944
Frank Bollinger 1938-1961
J. W. Beets 1944-1945
R. K. Holmes 1945-1977*
Fred Whitmore 1961-1966
Hugh V. Kinney 1973
Melvin Neeley 1970-1976
Ivan Reeder 1976
Melvin Neeley 1977

CUSTER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Bill E. Struck** 1973-
Clifford Weichel** 1973-1974
Craig Meacham 1974

ELECTED

Roger Snider 1973
Ronald J. Grubb 1973-1974
Griffie Klein 1974
Ray G. Stucker** 1973-

**Formerly served on Upper Washita SWCD

DEER CREEK SWCD

APPOINTED

Clair Kippenberger 1944-1976
W. L. Haynes 1944-1969
Stony Lockstone 1969-
Amos Miller 1976

ELECTED

Ralph Crall 1945-
Raymond Finkenbinder 1945-1948
James Mannering 1945-1965
Buel Lasley 1948-1976
Clarence Duncan 1965-
George Duane Vogt 1976

DELAWARE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Everett Lee 1941-1948
Joe Chamberlain 1948-1970
A. F. Houston 1941-1958
Marshall Houck 1958-
Leroy Chamberlain 1971

ELECTED

A. G. Nicks 1941-1958
Grady Teel 1941-1958
Jim Edmondson 1941-1950
D. J. Wofford 1950-
Max Manning 1958-1963
Quinton Stump 1958-1960
James Brewster 1960-1973
C. M. Lefler 1963-1972
Harold M. Lee 1972
Nick Nichols 1973

DEWEY COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

H. C. Gaden 1941-1958
Mervin Lawver 1958-1971
A. M. Kunc 1941-1972
R. F. Shaw 1972
Dean R. Gaden 1971

ELECTED

Jess Keller 1942-1974
Charles Blackburn 1942-1945
Medlin Fariss 1942-1948
F. T. Snyder 1945-1948
W. U. Barnes 1948-1956
C. W. Hall 1948-1964
Myron Arthaud 1956-1974
Kenneth Cline 1964-
Vernon Ferguson 1974-1976
Max Oakes 1976
Howard Stephenson 1975

EAST CANADIAN COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Steve Lucas 1940-1949
Ralph Dobbs 1949-1963
W Leon Evans 1963-1973
W. C. Ebeling 1940-1942
C. R. Spitler 1942-1952
W. C. Boevers 1952-1970
Ted J. Waggoner 1970-
Robert Renbarger 1971

ELECTED

William Dolezal 1940-1951
R. A. Patzack 1940-1949
J. W. Stout 1940-1949
Albert Krshka 1949-
Fred Kimball 1949-1970
Wesley H. Meinders 1951-1953
Louis Grellner 1953-1976
Leo A. Demmer, Jr. 1970-
Howard Bohlmann 1976

EAST WOODS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. B. Kelsey 1948-1960
Perry McOsker 1960-1974
Charles Lee 1948-1971
Orlie Schwerdtfeger 1971-
Warren Little 1974

ELECTED

Frank English 1949-1952
C. C. McCray 1949-1951
Vernon McNally 1949-
Clinton McOsker 1951-1954
M. F. English 1952-1953
C. S. Wyman 1953-1963
Lyford Kendall 1956-1956
Clifford Thurman 1956-1960
Miles Olson 1961-1973
A. A. Raub, Jr. 1963-1971
Glen Cruisinbery 1974
Harold Dean Honer 1971

ELLIS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Henry Adams 1941-1944
J. R. McClure 1944-1949
J. H. Lahann 1949-1959
Maxie Harvey 1959-
Jess Kennon 1941-1947
J. P. Fox 1947-1952
Victor Klein 1952-1957
Darrel Bruton 1957-1968
Homer Yoder 1968-1973
Mac Suthers 1973

ELECTED

Charles White 1941-1971
W. K. Suthers 1941-1945
G. L. Gibbs 1941-1976
R. J. Schneider 1945-1949
Lester Berry 1949-1951
C. V. Word 1951-1957
Kenneth Davis 1957-
Carl O'Hair 1971
Robert W. Dearing 1976

GARFIELD COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

C. L. Thompson 1939-1956
Jessie Roberts 1956-1962
L. L. Long 1962-1975
R. R. Stebbins 1939-1957
Ted Hodgden 1957-1971
Harold Westfahl 1971
Paul Schnaithman 1975

ELECTED

Harry Magill 1940-1957
August Simmering 1940-1966
Emil Totusek 1940-1946
Dellis Nelson 1946-
H. E. Peters 1957-
P. F. Bolenbaugh 1966-

GARVIN SWCD

APPOINTED

G. C. Frier 1938-1945
R. C. Longmire 1938-
W. A. Donaghe 1945-1950
Served Murray County 1950-to present
A. E. Wigley 1950-1973
Jack L. Grimmett ..... 1975- *

ELECTED

Ross Smith ..... 1938-1950)
(Served Murray County ... 1950-1959)
W. T. Pharoah 1938-1942
Lowell Caskey ..... 1938-1939)
1948-1961)
A. L. Wood 1939-1942
C. C. Ashby 1942-1945
Walter Caudill 1942-1948
C. S. Pratt 1945-1965
Lee Brewer 1950-1973
Willie Watts 1962-1977
Ray Duncan 1966-
Jack L. Grimmett 1973-1975*
Merlin Diller 1975-1976
Opal Watts 1977
Gains Huitt 1977

GRADY COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. W. Tims 1939-1947
D. B. Patterson 1947-1965
G. T. Parks 1965-
Theodore Stover 1939-1949
Carl Heath 1949-1953
Melvin Heath 1953-

ELECTED

P. R. Baker 1939-1948
Joe Cochran 1939-1945
R. B. Holder 1939-1945
S. N. Lowry 1945-1948
W. H. Walker 1945-1948
A. J. Spurlin 1948-1980
E. E. Hatcher 1948-1964
H. U. Goltry 1948-1963
George McNeff 1963-1975
Robert Wynns 1964-1971
Maurice Miller 1971
John Paxton 1975

GRANT COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Floyd Dowell 1945-1952
Harold Kuehney 1952-
A. E. Green 1945-1959
Arthur E. Green 1959-

ELECTED

C. J. Brown 1946-1950
Cecil Barclay 1946-1953
Andrew Swanson 1946-
P. M. Combs 1950-1953
Harry Kugel 1953-
James Dark 1953-1955
Walter Skaggs 1955-1957
Wilford Burchfiel 1957-1974
William Burchfiel 1974

GREER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

E. E. Sappington 1941-1946
E. A. Smith 1946-1952
E. F. Kopecek 1952-1973
Lon Singley 1941-1952
Norman Meadows 1952-1959
John Birdwell 1959-
Leonard Graumann 1962-

ELECTED

Etherage A. Smith 1941-1945
J. Palmer Foster 1941-1948
Alvin Peevey 1941-1943
Bradley Pigg 1943-1950
B. B. Holley 1945-1950
Harmon Windle 1948-1952
O. H. Raby 1950-1969
Fred Lippard 1950-1968
Bert Williams 1952-1959
Meredith Lauer ..... 1958-1963)
1968-)
Leonard Graumann 1962-1973
Milton Vaughan 1969-
E. F. Kopecek 1952-1976
Wayne Smith 1977-

HARMON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Claude Ingram 1938-1971
A. D. Cleere 1938-1947
A. L. Gamble 1947-1953
R. C. Kellison 1953-1955
J. D. Luck 1955-1957
Charlie Grimes 1957-1961
W. C. Williams, Jr. 1961-
D. J. Shelby 1971-1974
Lee Roy Crawford 1974

ELECTED

Paul Bible 1938-1942
C. A. Scott 1938-1942
A. R. Welch 1938-1941
Joe Fuchs 1941-1945
J. C. Treadway 1942-1949
H. W. Payne 1942-1949
W. E. Skaggs 1945-1949
L. J. Tillman 1949-1971
Robert Wilson 1949-1955
Floyd Roberts 1949-1958
Marvin Williams 1958-
Osa Black 1958-
Wm. Sherrill 1971

HARPER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Laurence Drake 1938-
Clyde Appleton 1938-1944
Ples Barnett 1944-1947
Joe A. Brown 1947-1951
Edward Rohrer, Jr. 1951-

ELECTED

J. C. Holmes 1939-1966
Floyd Cosby 1939-1954
Homer B. Aitken 1939-1948
Gail Johnson 1948-1973
Walter A. Shuman 1954-1974
George Crawford 1966-1972
Raymond Bentley 1972
C. R. "Chuck" Smith 1973
Max Barth, Jr. 1974

HASKELL COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

L. J. Lantz 1950-1957
Burl Prentice 1957-
(Served LeFlore County ... 1941-1944)
Joe T. Courts 1950-1950
Fay King 1950-

ELECTED

Harry Ward 1950-1954
Marion Roye 1950-1960
Cruce T. Carkiker 1950-1957
H. B. Solesbee 1954-1956
D. A. Tate 1956-1964
F. E. Butler 1958-1975
James Ward 1961-1966
Jim Hall, Jr. 1966-
Hugh Solesbee 1964-
Dwight Blankenship 1975-

HUGHES COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

John W. McKee 1938-1948
Gilbert A. Priest 1938-1950
Floyd C. Daniel 1950-1953
Hays Stafford 1953-1957
Tony Lyons 1957-1958
Kermit Love 1958-1959
W. H. Anderson, Jr. 1959-1964
John Moeller 1965-1974
John F. Wolf 1938-1950
Glen D. Edwards 1950-
James Sexton 1974

ELECTED

George O. Monroe 1939-1942
J. W. Nicks 1939-1945
Elmer Jenkins 1939-1942
Chester Horne 1942-1945
John Bunte 1942-1944
Earl McFarland 1944-1949
Harry Diamond 1945-1947
Herschel Wilbanks 1945-1947
L. J. Shepherd 1947-1949
Lloyd Meadors 1949-1953
Ernest White 1949-1966
W. S. Gaddy 1949-1963
Paul Sparks ..... 1953-1961)
1963-1966)
Robert C. Bray, Jr. 1961-1963
J. C. Merriman 1963-1975
Bill Biddle 1966-
Tommy L. Wilson 1967-
Jessie L. Russell 1975-

JACKSON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Ward Perryman 1938-
Carl McDowell 1938-1942
H. L. Montgomery 1942-1957
John Collins 1957-1976
John Mock 1976

ELECTED

Robert McAskill ..... 1938-1942)
1945-)
L. F. Drury 1938-1950
Lewin Peevey 1938-1942
B. F. Murphy 1942-1945
C. W. West 1942-1950
John Collins 1950-1957
L. A. Fessenden 1950-1953
D. H. Shumaker 1953-1968
Wayne Q. Winsett 1957-1968
Robert M. Kerr 1968-1971
Milton Shumaker 1968-1976
Eaco Roberson 1971
Charley Abernathy 1976

JEFFERSON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

R. V. Howard 1944-
John Trout 1944-1961
Otto Frazier ..... 1961- *

ELECTED

J. M. Gabriel 1944-1961
Wilton Howard 1944-1948
W. B. Doyle 1947-1953
L. L. Weatherly 1944-1947
J. D. Hanna 1948-1953
Otto Frazier 1953-1961*
James Smith 1953-1958
L. N. Roberts 1958-1965
Lambuth Hillery 1961-1977
Gill Bond 1961-
Robert Price 1965-1971
Ted Tripp 1971-1973
James H. Stewart 1974

JOHNSTON COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Norris Lester 1951-1953
W. D. Thompson 1953-1956
C. O. Keller 1956-1960
C. B. Walls 1960-1961
H. B. Duncan 1961-1965
A. B. Elrod 1965-1969***
Tom Caldwell 1969-1969
G. O. Jackson 1951-1951
W. Tom Ferris 1952-1958
W. C. Warden, Jr. 1958-1972
J. C. Bennett, Jr. 1969-1975
Joe Harbert 1972-1974
Wm. H. Pogue 1974
W. E. Pexton 1975

ELECTED

Earl Brashier 1951-1953
Harliss Hodge 1951-1952
W. E. Olive 1951-1958
Victor Herron 1952-1974
Bill Copeland 1953-1955
Murray Corbin 1955-1972
Paul Hardison 1958-1973
Bill Corbin 1972
Joe Caskey 1973-1975
W. T. Franklin 1974-1976
Luther Edwards 1976
A. B. Elrod ..... 1975- ***

***Served Previously

KIAMICHI SWCD

APPOINTED

R. L. Cook 1938-1954
Henry Montgomery 1954-
C. E. Barnhill 1938-1952
W. D. Hank Wyatt, Jr. 1953-1957
Walter Hall 1957-1976
John Bodine 1977-

ELECTED

H. A. Barnett 1938-1956
P. D. Wilson 1938-1947
Clarence Adams 1938-1954
B. L. Joiner 1947-1954
J. D. Stokes 1954-1957
W. A. Morrison 1954-1960
Jimmie Campbell 1958-1960
H. D. Wright 1958-
Carl McDonel 1960-1963
Donald Leslie 1961-1966
Charles G. Shull, Jr. 1963-1974
Jackie Norris 1966-
Jack Ferguson 1974

KINGFISHER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

R. O. Murphy 1956-1959
Duane Croka 1959-1965
James Murphy 1965-1973
David Foster 1956-1974
Ben W. Musick 1975-1975
Marion O. Caldwell 1973
Norman Smith 1976

ELECTED

Vincent J. Jirik 1956-1973
Glenn Gilmour 1956-1974
Don Grimes 1956-1957
Raymon Haymaker 1957-1975
Cecil Tharp 1973
Don Haymaker 1975-1976
Lee Charles Stewart 1976
Lawrence Alig 1975

KIOWA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. Bryan Gentry 1946-
H. D. Powell 1946-1947
V. H. Culvahouse 1947-1954
Aaron C. Jackson 1954-1969
Clarence Baden 1969-

ELECTED

Henry Dugan 1946-1957
Ralph Crumpton 1946-1951
W. S. Woodrow 1946-1959
J. M. Richardson 1951-1958
Elmer Tepe 1957-
Truman Jones, Sr. 1958-1976
Douglas Sears 1959-
Truman Jones, Jr. 1976

KONAWA SWCD

APPOINTED

Raymond Walker 1938-1950
Otis Thorn 1950-1955
Ray Sharp 1955
W. R. Slaughter 1938-1956
L. D. Freeman 1956-

ELECTED

S. W. Bates 1938-1943
I. R. Gilmore 1938-1939
Glen Kirk 1938-1944
W. F. Marshall 1938-1941
Virgil Hunt 1941-1944
John Neal 1944-1950
Virgil Lovelace 1944-1960
O. T. Damron 1944-1965
Charlie Fundis (C.E.) 1950-1976
Tony Fankhouser 1962-1962
Reuben Rodell 1962-1971
Earl Watts 1965-
Evert Kennedy 1971
Loyd Fisher 1976

LATIMER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. E. Butler 1951-1967
Guinn Hood ..... 1960-1961)
1967-1972)
H. H. Coussens 1951-1952
(Served Talihina SWCD ... 1965-1970)
Roy Cooley 1952-1958
Frank Chiles 1958-1959
Lester Leather 1959-1960
D. E. Arnold 1961-
Ted Ewing 1972

ELECTED

John Sokolosky 1951-
Roy Tate 1951-1962
C. C. Gillispie, Jr. 1951-1953
Dr. Lloyd Church 1953-
(Served Upper Washita SWCD .. 1944-1953)
H. A. McLaughlin 1962-

LEFLORE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Ralph W. Kelly 1938-1939
W. R. Anderson 1939-1943
H. S. Farris 1943-1945
Perry Chaffin 1945-1973
Joe Sattersfield 1938-1943
Claude Cason 1943-1947
L. A. Frazier 1947-1950
Leslie McKee 1950-1951
Spencer Littlefield 1951-1958
Herbert Sharp 1958-1974
Charles L. Basham 1974
Jack Maxwell 1974-1977
L. D. Roller 1977

ELECTED

Clyde Foster 1938-1940
G. D. Gowin 1938-1941
Brady Goodwin 1938-1940
W. E. Johnston 1940-1943
N. V. Hilburn 1940-1945
Burl Prentice 1941-1945
(Served Haskell County 1957
C. C. Garrett 1943-1945
Frank Huddleston 1945-1950
L. J. Lantz 1945-1950
C. C. Dunlap 1945-1948
Logan Danel 1948-1952
Robert L. Borden 1950-1976
Leo Best 1950-1956
Andrew Costner 1953-1955
J. O. Henson 1955-1963
C. F. Allen 1956-1969
A. J. Rabourn 1963-
Fox Wood III 1969-
Hillard Akers 1976

LINCOLN COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Henry Vobornik 1940-1956
Erl Deacon 1956-1957*
Cecil Ford 1957-
Roy Dawson 1940-1954
E. C. Love, Jr. 1954-1964
Lawrence Wornom 1964-

ELECTED

G. B. Young 1940-1951
Ralph Hemphill 1940-1945
Claude Smith 1940-1957
Johnnie Tomlinson 1945-1951
Erl Deacon 1951-1953
H. W. Goggin 1951-1957
William Stroup 1953-1964
Dennis English 1957-1959
Adrian Legako 1957-
William Pospisil 1959-1970
Franklin Shaw 1964-1966
Delbert Hubbel 1966-
Lloyd Bateson 1970-1976
Henry S. Jordan 1976

LITTLE RIVER SWCD

APPOINTED

H. C. Walker 1939-1965
Dick Piner 1965-1973*
Robert Stiles 1939-1939
H. F. Marshall 1939-1962
Malcolm Butler 1962-
Earl J. Hayes 1974

ELECTED

V. A. Farmer 1939-1946
Emmet Willis 1939-1943
Clarence Lane 1939-1940
C. J. Huelsenkamp 1940-1943
Oscar Coleman 1944-1949
Otto F. Kupke 1944-1949
G. L. Kirk 1947-1951
Luther DeBerry 1949-1960
C. F. Cornelius 1949-1953
Allen Rone 1951-1953
Dick Piner 1953-1961*
Barney Ward 1953-1955
Ray Griffin 1961-1964
Dudley Goolsby 1964-
S. L. Clifton 1969-1972
A. E. Warmack 1955-1971
L. M. Griffin 1950-1969
Drew Huffman 1973-1975
L. M. Griffin 1971
Clement Harkey 1975

LOGAN COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

L. R. Franks 1938-1943
Delmer Pearson 1943-1949
J. W. Myers 1949-
Howard Smith 1938-1943
A. C. Berk 1943-1951
Harvie Nivens 1951-1963
Otto Flasch 1963-1967
Elmer Downey 1967-

ELECTED

Loren Briscoe 1938-
W. C. Cooley 1938-1941
James McPherren 1938-1941
E. S. Haws 1941-1951
Hugh O'Neill 1941-1945
John O'Neill 1945-1962
Richard Fent 1951-
Raymond Waswo 1962-1965
Wallace Denny 1965-

LOVE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Frank Shellenberger 1939-1961
Charles J. Sykora ..... 1961- *
John Scott 1939-1945
Raymond E. Austin 1945-1948
W. B. Looney 1948-1957
D. O. Day 1957-1961
Claude Brannan ..... 1961- *

ELECTED

Stanley Forbes 1939-1957
Earl Freeman 1939-1948
O. Fricke 1939-1943
Gus Culwell 1943-1950
Claude Brannan 1948-1961*
Grover McMakin 1950-1957
Vernon Bond 1957-1960
Charles Sykora 1957-1961*
G. D. Pearman 1960-1963
Thurmon Vinson 1961-1970
John Yarbrough 1961-1969
Lonnie Koonce 1963-1964
Fred Greenwood 1964-1972
Jim Locke 1969-1970
Joe Whittington 1970-
James Steele 1970-
H. G. Spivey 1972-1977
Anna Ruth Milor 1977

MAJOR COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Floyd Carlson ..... 1944-1948)
1954-1961)
Earl Nelson 1948-1952
Charlie Crites 1952-1954
Jack Foster 1962-1968
Bill Carlson 1968-1969
W. Myrle Case 1944-1951
Lloyd Dyche 1951-1955
Lester Boatright 1955-1957
Lyle Conner 1957-
Clarence Lingo 1970-

ELECTED

Leroy Meek 1944-1952
Jake Geis 1944-1948
D. M. Davis 1944-1948
J. O. Emmons 1948-1954
Andrew Sproul 1948-1953
Ernest Voth 1952-1964
Ira Marlatt 1954-
Fred Detrick 1955-
Harold Fast 1965-1968
Harrison Martens 1968-1969
Herb Heinrichs 1969-1973
Rodger Case 1973

MARSHALL COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

H. Frank Easley ..... 1941-1942)
1954-1955)
A. W. Huebsch 1942-1952
W. L. Hansford ..... 1952-1957)
1962-1976)
Tom Morgan Nelson 1947-1971
J. E. Owens 1941-1954
Walter Knisel 1955-1962
T. E. Brooks 1971-1975
Scott Landgraf 1976
Sam Goodwin 1975

ELECTED

Reuel Little 1941-1943
John Durham 1941-1943
J. L. Barentine 1941-1965
C. B. Nance 1943-1955
M. S. Griffen 1943-1958
J. E. Johnston 1955-1972
Alfred Arnold 1958-1966
Allen French 1967-1976
Harry J. Thompson 1966-1969
Lynn T. Boomer 1969-1973
Hal H. Courtney 1973
Lawrence Henry 1973
Dwain Rushing 1976

MAYES COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Brooks Ledbetter 1939-1944*
T. C. Bowling 1944-1951
John T. Cordell 1951-1960
Roy C. Lawson 1960-1964
David H. Mitchell 1964-
Carl Renfro 1939-1942
Ray Winters 1942-

ELECTED

J. C. Wilkerson 1940-1943
H. D. Floyd 1940-1943
Ed Cann 1940-1944
Clarence Kinion 1943-1950
Ralph Jackson 1943-1946
Roy Haden 1944-1950
Homer Grubb 1946-1948
Brooks Ledbetter ..... 1948- *
Alfred Jensen 1950-
Russell Hamill 1950-

MCCLAIN COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

T. J. Calvert 1938-1941
W. M. Acree 1941-1945
J. H. Redman 1945-1972
P. A. Newbern 1938-1943
Cassie Thompson 1943-1960
Marvin Guinn 1960-1961*
Ted Clark 1961-1965
Ual Baker 1965-
Warren Thompson 1972

ELECTED

S. L. Barefoot 1938-1941
C. W. Moorehead 1938-1941
Frank H. Chassot 1938-1944
Lloyd Ratliff 1941-1956
Ralph Shaver 1941-1948
Roy O. Rockwood 1945-1948
Marvin Guinn 1948-1960*
J. A. Baker 1950-1965
W. R. Griffith 1956-1961
Leonard Wyatt 1960-1962
Earl Sherman 1961-1964
Dave S. Williams 1962-1973
Roy Dunning 1962-
Bill Harrison 1965-1974
Hoyt W. Burns 1974
Perry L. Nemecek 1973

MCINTOSH COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

W. M. Hopkins 1938-1939
W. M. Hopkins, Jr. 1939-1958
William R. Carey 1958-1963
Harold W. Burdine 1963-1968
Walter Butenschoen 1938-1943
J. J. Williams 1943-1944
R. L. Simpson, Sr. 1944-1961
R. L. Simpson, Jr. 1961-1969
Leonard Sims 1969-
Boyd Knight 1968-1972
James Ballinger 1950-1967
Claude Bess 1958-

ELECTED

J. R. Capps 1938-1941
Claude Popejoy 1938-1940
L. O. Cherry 1938-1941
George Ballinger 1941-1945
Lon W. Popejoy 1940-1948***
Fed Pratt 1941-1945
L. D. Ogden 1945-1945
Edgar Grose 1945-1950
J. B. Workman 1945-1948
Cecil James 1948-1950
James Ballinger 1950-1967
R. E. Lynn 1950-1957
George Butenschoen 1950-1961
Roy Fisher 1961-1964
Zack Spear 1962-1971
Evert Grose 1964-1966
Ray Masengale 1967-
Mark Ogden 1966-1974
James Dunford 1974
Arvel Bailey 1971-1975
Lon Popejoy ..... 1975 ***

***Served Previously

MOUNTAIN VIEW SWCD

APPOINTED

Ben Stinson 1940-1960
A. C. Taylor 1960-1964
W. M. Nikkel 1964-
Amos Kobs 1940-1945
Earl Ferris 1945-1947
W. Gleason Dudgeon 1947-1949
Charles V. Payne 1949-1950
C. C. Faulkner 1950-1956
Edward Dietrich 1956-

ELECTED

J. H. Pierce 1940-1955
J. K. Haley 1940-1969
Orval Meek 1940-1947
B. G. Haxton 1947-1952
Clay Johnson 1952-
S. S. Coon 1955-1965
William Hancock ..... 1965-1968)
1969-)
Darrell Laufer 1968-

MURRAY COUNTRY SWCD

APPOINTED

W. A. Donaghe 1950-
(Served Garvin-Murray .... 1945-1950)
Ross Smith 1950-1959
(Served Garvin-Murray .... 1938-1950)
Roger Jameson..... 1959-

ELECTED

Leonard Summers, Jr. 1950-1952
Paul Thompson 1950-
Richard Morton 1950-
S. F. Howe..... 1952-1968
Jack Penner..... 1968-

MUSKOGEE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Charles T. Cameron..... 1938-1945
S. E. Gray 1945-1948
L. W. Osborn..... 1948-1951
Virgil Cole 1951-1973
Bert R. Allen..... 1938-1941
G. W. Sartin 1941-1944
Rollo Fewel 1944-1971
Enos Vann..... 1971
Joy Sullens 1973-1976
Willis Denney 1976

ELECTED

J. B. Cole 1938-1941
A. J. Shepphard 1938-1941
R. M. Mountcastle..... 1938-1940
W. N. Scott 1940-1941
Vester Young 1941-1945
C. E. Lackey 1941-1943
L. L. Marlow 1941-1943
L. W. Osborn..... 1943-1947
Clyde W. Fish..... 1943-1947
Pat Lawrence (A.J.)..... 1945-1957
Robert Miller..... 1947-1949
Maurice Finklea..... 1949-1968
R. C. Borum..... 1949-1969
Harry Whitaker..... 1957-1962
Arthur Seward..... 1962-1967
James Seward..... 1967-1968
Ernest Wise..... 1968-1968
Robert Ross..... 1968-
Werner Kaps..... 1968-
Waymon Calavan..... 1969-

NOBLE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

E. C. Seegers..... 1943-1954
Dale Dupy 1954-1958
Perry Mason 1958-1968
Mrs. Barbara Mason..... 1968-
Charlie VanArsdell 1943-1954
George C. Will..... 1954-1976
Walter Freese 1977-

ELECTED

Joe Albers 1944-1944
John Braden 1944-1956
M. D. Groom 1944-1955
H. B. Johnson..... 1944-1945
W. E. Rice 1945-1953
Ivil Sanders..... 1953-1974
Elmer Waltermire 1955-1958
Raymond Curtis..... 1956-1972
Edward Johnson 1958-
James E. William ..... 1972 **
H. A. Waters..... 1974

**Served Payne County 1966-1972

NORTH CADDO COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Harold Eakins 1941-1949
C. D. Cox 1949-1966
L. B. Wyatt..... 1966-
M. G. Armstrong..... 1941-1957
Allie Ramming 1957-1958
Alfred Dorsey..... 1958-1961
Billy Slanaker..... 1961-

ELECTED

O. T. Weathers 1941-1958
Ralph Ottinger..... 1941-1958
John May..... 1941-1958
Terrell Nowka..... 1958-1966
J. R. Hollis..... 1958-1976
French Hickman ..... 1958-1962)
1967-1972)
Kenneth Earles..... 1963-1967
Jean Epperly..... 1966-
Virgil McCart..... 1972
Robert Ramming..... 1976

NORTH FORK RED RIVER SWCD

APPOINTED

Tom Lucas..... 1938-1974
C. S. Borin 1938-1953
C. T. Carpenter..... 1953-1977
W. A. Kennemer..... 1974
Dale Carpenter..... 1977

ELECTED

J. A. Oren..... 1938-1951
Rush C. Hare..... 1938-1941
L. A. Taylor..... 1938-1945
George Huckaby 1941-
J. C. MacKenzie..... 1945-1956
Sam Holmberg 1951-
S. G. McLaury 1956-1958
Charlie Kidd 1958-1976
Burton Connally..... 1976

NOWATA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Preston Majors.....1945-1946
Henry Pahmeyer.....1946-1948
C. R. Scott.....1948-1956
Charles Early.....1956-
M. M. Stewart.....1945-1964
Don Blackwell.....1964-

ELECTED

J. A. Heidebrecht.....1946-1947
Lee Milligan.....1946-1948
R. H. Simpson.....1946-1961
W. W. Warner.....1947-1949
R. N. Anglin.....1948-1950
Herbert Couch, Jr.....1949-1955
A. D. Young.....1950-1953
Harry Lynn.....1955-1977
Verne Wickham.....1955-1966
Harvey Orndorff.....1961-1965
John Allsup.....1965-
M. M. Stewart, Jr.....1966-
Scotty Herriman.....1977

OKFUSKEE SWCD

APPOINTED

C. E. Gragg.....1939-1954
Joe Holman.....1954-
Glen E. Dill.....1939-1954
O. L. Hamilton.....1955-1955
Leroy Lambeth.....1956-1957
Jerry E. Rempe.....1957-

ELECTED

Frank Lee.....1939-1942
C. W. Ingram.....1939-1946
E. M. Unterkircher.....1939-1957
Dewey Smith.....1942-1955
D. W. Johnson.....1946-1948
Perry Cleaver.....1948-1951
Arvin Johnson.....1951-1952
Howard Williams.....1952-1956
M. J. Hughey.....1955-1959
Donald Bean.....1957-
Floyd West.....1957-1962
Eugene Franks.....1961-1963
Cecil Dawson.....1962-1976
Paul Hayden.....1963-1973
Jerry Foreman.....1973
W. D. Partridge.....1976

OKLAHOMA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

W. H. Odor.....1941-1946
Orville Roberts.....1946-1955
Jesse Wayne Stone.....1955-1956
Howard C. Holmes.....1956-
J. H. Johnston.....1941-1944
Allen Booher.....1944-1951
J. F. Johnston.....1951-1955
C. H. Wigger.....1955-1965
William Lott.....1965- *

ELECTED

R. O. Baxter.....1941-1947
Ed Loop.....1941-1943
B. F. Morava.....1941-1964
F. C. Dunaway.....1943-1956
Ray Cook.....1947-1952
Art B. Chase.....1952-1956
C. A. Jones.....1956-1960
Ralph Wilson.....1956-1960
David Dooley.....1960-1963
Charley Wilson.....1962-1965
Ray Ward.....1963-1964
Albert Briscoe.....1965-1975
William F. Lott.....1964-1965*
Ronald Pond.....1964-1970
Roy Stewart.....1965-
Allan D. Williams.....1971
Theron Booher.....1975

OKMULGEE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Homer Chancey.....1940-1956
G. Y. McKinney.....1956-1958
Dale Rainey.....1958-1966)
1968-1972)
A. N. Boatman.....1966-1966
David Frith.....1966-1968
M. N. Daniels.....1940-1957
A. B. Blackburn.....1957-1975
William Dillsaver.....1972
Homer Saunders.....1975- *

ELECTED

Porter Lee.....1940-1948
Walter Prophet.....1940-1956
L. H. Prevett.....1940-1943
L. F. Jones.....1943-1946
O. L. McCart.....1946-1958
Fred Wilson.....1948-1953
Ed Bright.....1953-1956
Stewart Martin.....1956-1958
M. G. Thompson.....1956-1971
Homer Saunders.....1958-1975*
Raymond King.....1958-1969
Russell Miller.....1969-
Jack Lawson.....1971
Robert Miller.....1975

OSAGE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Robert L. Donelson 1945-1948
Frank Shaw 1948-1955
Y. T. Park 1955-
Fred Drummond 1945-1975
Arthur Jacques 1975

ELECTED

Ted Plummer 1945-1946
George McKinley 1945-1966
George Smith 1945-1964
Ed Archer 1946-1948
J. B. Smith 1948-1970
Garland P. Evatt 1964-
Billy Culver 1966-
Jim Olsen 1970-

OTTAWA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

C. B. Roberts 1946-1950
C. M. Demo 1950-1953
Forrest Olds 1953-1974
Fred DeMier, Jr. 1946-1953
J. E. (Edd) McGuirk 1953-1962
Arthur Martin 1962-1963
H. E. Mason 1964-1970
Jack W. Robinson 1975
Joseph J. Smith 1971-80
John Weig

ELECTED

J. Y. Victor 1946-1953
E. C. Thompson 1946-1957
Toney Zebert 1946-1948
Joe Newberry 1948-1951
Joe Hill 1951-
Lewis Cheek 1953-
John L. Williams 1957-1974
Jerry L. McFerron 1974-1975
Larry E. Davis 1976

PAWNEE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

E. W. Pogue 1946-1955
Albert Findley ..... 1955-1964)
1965-)
Mrs. Albert Findley 1964-1965
Oma Price 1946-1948
Glenn Cook 1948-1954
Nelson Brensing 1954-1967
Mrs. Nelson Brensing 1967-

ELECTED

A. L. Privett ..... 1947-1949)
1955-1959)
M. E. Way 1947-1949
J. L. Rice 1947-1949
Wayne Tansey 1949-1950
Arthur Barnes 1949-1969
Harold Laird 1949-1955
Chester Lentz 1950-1953
Clayton Wood 1953-1955
Fred Meyerdirk 1955-
H. E. Kramer 1959-
N. W. Skidgel, Jr. 1969-

PAYNE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

G. W. Dowell 1941-1963
Howard Carleton, Jr. 1963-1968*
J. G. Williams ..... 1968- *
C. O. Kinzie 1941-1951
A. B. Newport 1951-1965
Lee Ray Stiles 1966-

ELECTED

Cleo Boyd 1941-1944
W. M. Eaton 1941-1961
J. G. Williams 1941-1968*
Clarence McGinty 1944-1946
John Porter 1946-1950
Howard Carleton, Jr. 1950-1963*
Verlin Hesser 1963-1965
Gerald Bilyeu 1964-1966
James Kuhn 1965-1976
James E. Williams 1966-1972**
Myron Denny 1969-
Margaret Swank 1976
Lawrence Ham 1972

**Moved to Noble County

PITTSBURG COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

W. H. Skidmore 1938-1947
Jim Henderson 1947-1951
C. L. Willis 1951-1952
William E. Young 1952-
Frank James 1938-1942
Harry Stiers 1942-1948
J. E. Butler 1948-1951
Mart Lee 1951-

ELECTED

Ira Young 1938-1941
G. L. Coffee 1938-1941
J. B. Jones 1938-1941
J. M. Pate 1941-1943
Otis Duran 1941-1943
Alex Staples 1941-1945
Freddie Brown 1943-1945
Lee Davis 1943-1945
M. R. Collins 1945-1950
James McAlester 1945-1948
F. H. Schumacher 1948-1952
J. W. Nolen 1948-
J. T. Hall 1950-1960
E. Boyd Perkins 1951-1952
Martin Coblentz 1952-
E. F. Coker 1960-

PONTOTOC COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Claude Thompson ..... 1951-1956)
(Served Blue & Boggy SCD)
(now Coal County SWCD .. 1946-1951)
Willard Rhynes..... 1956-1961
Walter Woolley, Jr..... 1961-
Z. K. McKoy ..... 1951-1957)
(Served Blue & Boggy SCD)
(now Coal County SWCD .. 1938-1951)
Uel Bumpers..... 1958

ELECTED

Carlton Corbin 1952-1958
Harvey Lambert 1952-1953
Sam Rankin..... 1952-1952
Harold Davis..... 1953-1958
Andrew Bryant 1954-1955
Harral Allen 1955-1958
Drexel Sales 1958-1964
Jimmie Thomas 1958-1962
C. C. Buxton, Jr..... 1958-1975
Dr. Harvey Price 1962-1971
Robert W. Stallings..... 1964-1966
B. M. Stephens..... 1966-
Wayne Gray 1971-
Larry Heard 1975

PUSHMATAHA SWCD

APPOINTED

W. C. Scott 1940-1944
R. L. Sherrer 1944-1948
Ernest M. Hilyard..... 1948-1950
W. A. Obuch 1950-1971
H. A. Cothran..... 1940-1945
Walter Adair..... 1945-1948
Gordon Frederick..... 1948-1950
Fred Johnson 1950-1959
Russell McCants..... 1959-
Bernie F. Moyer 1971-1975*
D. J. Cobb 1975

ELECTED

John Lee..... 1941-1946
L. B. Anderson..... 1941-1943
T. J. Wilkins 1940-1943
A. S. McIntosh..... 1943-1948
T. L. Wilkins..... 1943-1946
C. L. Standefer..... 1946-1950
Billy Farr..... 1947-1948
Lem Simpson 1948-1950
Lurtis Scott..... 1948-1952
J. L. Ward 1940-1955
Ed Taylor..... 1950-1952
Ozzie Cobb..... 1952-1958
Carl Skinner ..... 1952-1954)
1955-1960)
Bernie Moyer 1954-1971*
William Finley 1958-1965
Jim Matthews..... 1960-1971
J. M. Goin 1966-
L. O. Wade..... 1972
E. F. Bex 1971

ROGERS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

H. C. Ruppel 1941-1944
J. W. Fleming 1944-1952
Luther Adams 1952-1956
W. T. Funk..... 1956-
Henry Williams 1941-1944
C. B. Holzendorff..... 1944-1949
Ed Hausenfluck..... 1949-1958
Clyde Fraley 1958-1975*
George Fraley..... 1975

ELECTED

P. T. Richardson..... 1941-1948
C. J. Fraley 1941-1958*
Roy Nicholson 1941-1950
Oscar Vest..... 1948-1951
Merle Intermann 1950-1958
A. C. Hanes 1951-1958
John Corlett 1958-
Charlie Flint 1958-1960
Silas Baughman..... 1958-1966
Lyle R. Wells..... 1960-1971
Clarence Rodden 1966-1972
Oscar Hibbs 1972
R. E. Linihan..... 1971-1977
Kenneth Wagner 1977-

SEMINOLE COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. A. Patterson..... 1939-1946
V. L. Kiker..... 1946-1950
J. D. Butner 1950-1956
James Harrod..... 1956-1965
Clay H. Foresee 1965-
Dr. W. E. Grisso..... 1939-1953
G. P. Merrill 1953-1956
Carl F. Jackson..... 1956-

ELECTED

W. R. Black, Jr..... 1939-1943
R. H. Harber..... 1939-1943
W. C. Jackson..... 1939-1946
Carl Smith..... 1943-1953
Chester Gates..... 1943-1970
A. A. Criswell..... 1946-1947
Sam Dougan..... 1947-1950
Allen G. Nichols..... 1950-1953
H. H. Bevelhymer 1953-
J. W. McQueen..... 1953-1973
David Carruth 1970-1971
Wayne Neel..... 1971
K. W. Wingate 1973

SEQUOYAH COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

O. W. Efurd 1940-1952
Walton Howell 1952-1955
Ralph Lewis 1955-
Foreman Carlile ..... 1940-1944)
1946-1958)
J. W. Moody 1944-1946
Frank Larson 1958-1959
O. H. Foy 1959-1962
John Y. Bane 1962-1972
Tim Hinds 1972

ELECTED

Joe Sparkman 1940-1943
Earl Phillips 1940-1945
Cleveland Rowland 1940-1961
F. L. Brite 1943-1946
Dr. J. A. Cheek 1945-1948
S. W. Armstrong 1946-1951
Russell Meyers 1948-1953
Richard Cosner, Jr. 1953-
C. D. Robbins 1953-1954
W. R. Armand 1954-1955
Calvin Cassady 1955-1960
Lewis Cook 1960-1963
Ivan Rogers 1961-1970
Dan Pruitt 1963-1966
Lawrence Gossett 1966-1972
G. B. Trotter 1972
Charles Pates 1970

SHAWNEE SWCD

APPOINTED

B. J. Slate 1939-1943
Walter White 1944-1952
W. Henley Williams 1952-1955
Carl Tabor 1955-1958
Warren Fawcett 1958-
W. B. Ingram 1939-1943
A. J. Ownby 1944-1944
Dr. J. A. Wells 1944-1948
E. E. Stubblefield 1949-1955
Glen D. White 1955-1971
LeRoy Bryan ..... 1971- *

ELECTED

Roy Fawcett 1940-1946
G. E. Yarbrough 1940-1944
C. A. McMakin 1940-1946
William A. Barton 1944-1950
I. B. Ingram 1946-1948
Eddie Logan 1946-1951
Clyde Pults 1948-1951
Vernon Pearson 1950-1961
Frank Fox 1951-1961
Terrell Hayes ..... 1951-1957)
1961-1964)
Harvey Bowen 1957-1963
Donald C. Ouart 1962-
Leroy Bryan 1963-1971*
Hugh Ownby 1964-1969
Jack Hayes 1969-1976
Jim White 1971
Charles McMakin 1975

SOUTH CADDO COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Otto Wray 1942-1949
M. A. Caruso 1949-
E. H. Melencamp 1942-1961
Fred Wunderlich 1961-

ELECTED

Louis Clay 1942-1947
Karl Douglas 1942-1952
W. P. Wamsley 1942-1945
Curtis Optiz 1945-
Lewis Swanda 1947-
E. H. Mannschreck 1952-

STEPHENS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Nolen J. Fuqua 1938-
C. E. Martin 1938-1947
Wade Littrell 1947-1953*
Clyde Stanton 1953-1963
Clyde Qualls 1963-1973
Gerold Earnhart 1973

ELECTED

A. N. Harley 1938-1946
C. C. Ball 1938-1946
John Adams 1938-1946
Vance Mershon 1946-1947
Frank Cain 1946-1970
James Brabits 1946-1954
Leonard Ketchum 1947-
Wade Littrell 1954-1967*
Graves Littleton 1967-1977
Bill Watts 1970-1972
Jack D. Bethany 1972
Edward Sutton 1977-

TALIHINA SWCD

APPOINTED

David W. Robinson 1946-1965
Wheeler Lee 1965-1974*
Charles Knebel 1946-1962
Neal Clary 1962-1971
James L. Koopman 1974-1976
W. C. Hunter 1971
I. H. Mutt Standefer 1976

ELECTED

Ira Humphrys 1946-1948
James P. Bennett 1946-1947
J. E. Wright 1946-1950
Clyde Scott 1948-1952
J. E. Fisher 1947-1948
G. S. Winton 1947-1948
L. Manley 1948-1960
Arthur Wilmouth 1950-1952
Lonnie Murray 1952-1954
George Lockard 1952-1961
Jim Dresser 1954-1970
Wheeler Lee 1961-1965*
Arthur Deal 1962-1974
Herman Coussens 1965-
(Served Latimer County ... 1951-1952)
Clay Pennington 1970-1973
Harold Wright 1970
John D. Williams 1974-1976
Tony Bruce 1977-

TEXAS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

E. L. Brewer 1941-1949
F. C. Shubert 1949-
A. P. Atkins 1941-1960
Worth Jeffus 1960-

ELECTED

Clifford Blevins 1941-1946
Carl Muller 1941-1950
Pete Shubert 1941-1946
Glen Teel 1946-1959
G. I. Gilmore 1946-1954
Elmo Jones 1950-
Robert Lee 1954-
Glen Briles 1960-

TILLMAN COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Frank E. Moss 1939-1958
John A. DeYong 1958-1970
Henry L. Payne 1939-1957
W. L. Bohannon 1957-1969
Billy Roy Kinder 1969-1974
Calvin Stoll 1974
Lynn Pinson 1970

ELECTED

Walter A. Elsner 1939-1943
Lewis H. Campbell 1939-1943
Loyd Hasenmyer 1939-1946
Will G. Weaver 1943-1950
Bramlett Johnson 1943-1957
Paul Ille 1946-1966
Jim Jack Loftis 1950-
Conrad Stoll 1957-1971
Richard Morton 1966-
Lloyd Patton 1971

TULSA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

C. W. Wolcott 1938-1949
O. H. Holman 1949-1951
J. Foster Smith 1951-1953
Ralph A. Tyler 1953-1958
Ernest J. Liggett 1958-1959
Glen Hudson 1959-1961
G. E. Canaday 1961-1965
Clair Fickett ..... 1965- *
F. S. Hurd 1938-1959
Nick Robson ..... 1963- *
Bobbie Richards 1960-1962

ELECTED

J. W. Henderson 1938-1959
Ben H. Phenis 1938-1944
Herbert Moody 1938-1945
C. A. Border 1944-1948
Tracey Hunsecker, Jr. 1946-1954
E. P. Hewitt 1946-1948
Sam Denison 1948-1950
Rhinie Wagoner 1948-1952
M. E. Joyce 1950-1957
J. R. Sharp 1952-1957
W. G. Burgess 1954-1957
Clair Fickett 1957-1964*
Nick Robson 1957-1962*
Joe Neas 1957-1964
J. O. Holman 1962-
C. L. Boles 1960-1969
Frank Turinsky 1964-1973
Bert L. Boles 1969-
J. E. Cumbey 1973

UPPER WASHITA SWCD

APPOINTED

John H. Peterson 1938-1944
L. L. Males ..... 1944- *
Jess Dewees 1938-1967
Bill Struck 1967-1972**
C. W. Lester ..... 1973- *
Clifford Weichel 1972-1973**

** Moved to Custer County

ELECTED

E. B. Savage 1938-1950
C. J. Long 1938-1941
J. W. Hall 1938-1941
L. L. Males 1941-1944*
Curtis Murphy ..... 1941-1944)
1953-1964)
Charles Lippincott 1944-1948
Lloyd Church 1944-1953
(Served Latimer County 1953-Present)
Frank Kliewer 1948-1954
W. S. Hiatt 1950-1969
C. W. Lester 1954-1973*
Ray Stucker 1964-1972**
Lee Gates 1969-1970
Eugene Blackketter 1970-1973
Floyd Drinnon 1973
B. E. Clift 1973
Bud Lippencott 1973

** Moved to Custer County

VALLIANT SWCD

APPOINTED

Joe Prince 1940-1946
John Hamilton 1946-1967
Leonard Wooten 1967-
W. E. Clarkson 1940-1967
J. C. James, Jr. 1967-1969
L. L. Harry 1969-

ELECTED

C. A. Sledge 1940-1943
Archie Gaines 1940-1943
R. C. Denson 1940-1943
Jim Cantrell 1943-1945
S. V. Hackworth 1943-1959
Sam Merritt 1943-1953
W. D. Fleming 1945-1955
Sam Johnston 1955-1970
Vernon Bain 1955-1976
Dave Wilhite 1961-1971
Dick Johnson 1953-1955
Marvin McDougal 1971
U. H. Still 1971
Billy Bain 1976

WAGONER COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

J. E. Chandler 1938-1939
Euel Lancaster 1938
Perry Cunningham 1938-1962
J. Walker Jones 1962-1969*
Floyd Young 1969-

ELECTED

Frank Strebel 1939-1940
John F. Cocke 1939-1942
J. S. Hardin 1939-1942
V. C. Crow 1940-1945
Fred Combitt 1942-1945
Marion Cunningham 1942-1950
Lonnie E. Blair 1945-1952
J. D. Feeney 1948-1950
Sam Denison 1950-1960
H. A. Trower 1952-1972
Walker Jones 1950-1962*
Roy Gillin 1960-1976
John Lamon 1962-1973
Mark Bethell 1973
George Stunkard 1972
Bruce McCollough 1977

WASHITA COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Frank Kliewer 1953-1954
Augie Sewell 1954-
Eldred Sasseen 1953-

ELECTED

Troy Phillips 1953-1961
W. G. Nash 1953-1976
Edward Bose 1953-
Maurice Huls 1961-
Elwin Cook 1976

WESTERN KAY COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

George Tarpenning 1945-1965
Jack Savage 1965-
Charles Hollopeter..... 1945-1960
Jacob Ronek 1960-1966
James Schiltz 1966-1976
Donald Caughlin 1976

ELECTED

George W. Schatz 1946-1956
W. H. Kelle 1946-1958
Paul Fauchier 1946-1956
E. K. Heady..... 1956-1972
Foster Tripp 1956-1968
Harry Moore..... 1958-1967
Robert Yunker 1967-1970
Wayne Adams 1968-1974
John W. McKenzie..... 1970-
Loris McMillen..... 1972
Harold Wooderson 1974-1977
Charles Boesch..... 1977-

WOODS COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

Frank Nicholson (Nickelson) 1945-1948*
Lewis Kamas..... 1948-1966
Crozier Bush 1966-1973*
J. G. Powers 1945-1955
Alfred Bliss..... 1955-1959
Ernest Parker..... 1959-
Gene Earnest ..... 1973- 77 *

ELECTED

Dick Wilson..... 1946-1947
Gene Earnest ..... 1946-1962)
1963-1973*
Crozier Bush 1946-1966*
C. E. Hackney..... 1947-1951
Frank Nicholson 1951-1957*
R. E. Hill 1957-1959
Darrel Eden..... 1959-1963
Lynton Gerloff..... 1962- 1981
W. A. French..... 1966- 1979
Verle Brady..... 1973- 1980

WOODWARD COUNTY SWCD

APPOINTED

S. T. Phillips 1942-1952
Tom Wright..... 1952-
Martin Ruttman..... 1942-1955
Victor Morris 1955-1961
Carl Peoples 1961-

ELECTED

John Grunewald..... 1943-1956
Robert Litton 1943-1962
Otto Roberts..... 1943-1954
Howard DeBock..... 1954-
Rueben Wyman 1956-1962
Harold Hilbig 1962-1964
Dale Gruenwald 1962-
Elmer Maddux 1964-