SOIL CONSERVATION AND THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The County Agent's Office has always devoted considerable time to problems of erosion and soil fertility depletion and has conducted demonstrations and distributed information on proper land use.

Since the creation of the Dane County Soil Conservation District two years ago, we have joined our efforts with those of personnel working in the Dane County Soil Conservation District. The County Agricultural Committee is the supervisory board in charge of the District. The County Agents are responsible for educational work whereas technical assistance to farmers and field operations are the functions of the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

B. D. Blakely, Madison, is District Conservationist and working with him are five other technicians, all U.S. Department of Agriculture employees, but responsible to the Supervisors of the District for carrying out the program of work.

Dane was the 13th county in Wisconsin to become a soil conservation district. Since that time, other County Boards have taken similar action until there are now 30 districts in the State.

Genuine progress has been made in assisting farmers with erosion problems under the District Organization. In brief, here are a few of the accomplishments of the District:

No. of agreements (To November 1, 1942) 227
Total acres 29,169
No. of trees planted (259 acres) 25,900
Acres of conservation surveys 131,100
Miles of terracing (approximate) 5
Acres of pasture improvement 2,400
Drainage surveys 10 farms
Acres strip cropped 3,100
Approximate number of farmers assisted by District personnel 550

The District enables land owners and farm operators to undertake community and county-wide problems of erosion control. It also
makes State and Federal assistance available to individual farmers in solving their individual erosion problems.

Farmers may secure the following service and assistance from district personnel:

1. The District will provide detailed soil surveys of farms showing various land classifications and recommendations.

2. The District personnel will assist in planning erosion control programs on individual farms.

3. The District personnel will assist communities in developing control programs which demand community action.

4. The District personnel will assist farmers and actually put erosion control plans in operation.

5. The District personnel will assist farmers with special erosion problems even though they have entered into no agreement with the District.
Dear: ____________________________

August 3, 1942

Perhaps you know it and perhaps you don't, but a neighbor of yours is carrying on one of the most interesting experiments in control of soil washing (erosion) in Dane County.

We join this neighbor of yours in inviting you to attend a TWILIGHT MEETING to be held

When: Tuesday, August 11
Where: Magdalena Meinholz farm in Springfield Township
       (3 miles West of Ashton on Town Road)
Time: 7:30 P.M.

Here's what you'll see and hear:

1. At 7:30 P.M., we leave the Meinholz farm to view terracing, pasture renovation, and strip cropping.

2. The various types of erosion control work will be explained by Mr. Meinholz, Prof. Zeasman, and a Soils Technician.

3. Reassemble in Meinholz yard for a little neighborly "talkfest" at 8:30.

4. Talking movies on soil practices and special war pictures will be shown in the Meinholz yard. These will interest women as well as men.

We'll be seeing you at the Magdalena Meinholz farm, Tuesday, August 11, at 7:30 P.M.  Save Tires -- Bring a Neighbor!

Very truly yours,

B. D. Blakely
Dist. Soil Conservationist

J. W. Clark,
Ass't. County Agent

JWC:AS
INVITATION TO

Monday, March 9th, will be a lucky day for you providing you accept our invitation and attend a special meeting to be held at RUSTE SCHOOL MONDAY MARCH 9 AT 8 P.M.

This letter is your invitation. Only those farmers from Blue Mounds Township receiving invitations should attend. The list of those invited has been prepared by Harlan Barton, Carl Kahl, and others.

NOW HERE'S WHY your special committee believes you are lucky to get this invitation: -- At this meeting you will receive FREE OF CHARGE an AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH OF YOUR FARM showing -- the various types of soil -- the slope of each field on your farm -- and the degree of erosion on each field. Your map was prepared last summer by the Dane County Soil Conservation District.

Be certain to attend. You will not only be presented with the map free of charge, but an interesting program has been arranged.

Very truly yours,

Al. J. Wojta, Dist. Conservationist J. W. Clark, Ass’ t. Co. Agent

FARMER COMMITTEE MAN

JWC: LJ