

## SOIL CONSERVATION AND THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The County Agents' 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.