

III. CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

During 1958, Date township voted in an SCS district. Andy Stoops of Arroll was elected chairman of the board of supervisors and the county agent served as secretary.

1958 was one of the greatest years yet for the planting of trees. Fifty farmers planted 181,070 trees and multiflora rose. Inspection has shown a very high rate of survival. On the Luther Anderson farm over 90% of the pine planted in an abandoned field were growing this fall. A large number of the folks planting trees were doing so strickly as an investment. At least 40% planting were over fifty years of age.

The remainder of Texas County came under a fire protection district in 1958. This was very encouraging to the farmers in the west part of the county who have been doing timber stand improvement work.

The Houston 4-H Club, under the guidance of Mrs. Glen Romines, began a new conservation project in 1958. Some 1,500 Scotch pine seedlings were planted on the Harry Smith farm. Mr. John Plummer, Farm Forester, and Doyle Jones, Associate County Agent, cooperated in operation of the tree planting machine. Mr. Smith donated a 2½ acre tract which is to be used by the Houston Club and the County 4-H Council as a tract for the production of Christmas trees. These trees are to be cared for by the clubs and funds from the sale of these trees will be returned to the participating club.

For many years farmers have faced the problem of controlling filamentous algae in farm ponds which were to be used for recreation purposes. During 1958, Associate Agent Jones was able to help several Texas County farmers with this problem. The Ansel Coats farm pond was one such problem. The pond was constructed in 1955 and in early 1956 was stocked with blue gill and bass. By spring of 1958, these fish had grown large enough to provide recreation and food for the Coats' family. However, due to a severe covering of filamentous algae, very poor catches of fish were made. The possibility of removing the algae by using copper sulphate was suggested to Mr. Coats and permission was granted totreat the pond. The pond was treated and in two weeks time all algae was gone and has not returned throughout 1958. The cost of the treatment was \$1.00.

VI. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Most of the youth work in Texas County centered around the 4-H program. A boost to the new year's program is felt in the 4-H Recognition Meeting of the previous year's activities. This is the second year with a dinner meeting. Two hundred persons attended and interest was good. The program included Prosecuting Attorney, Wm. E. Gladden, who gave a talk on "Loyalty" and used the 4-H Pledge as the network for his speech; a 4-H girl, Lunita Lowrie, a 4 year club member of Howell County gave a talk that she had prepared, entered and received a blue ribbon on in the 1957 District Public Speaking Contest for Junior Leaders; C. C. Keller, Extension Information Agent, gave a talk on the "Three D's - Desire, Discipline and Decision."

The following 4-H members received pins and certificates for completion of their projects: 1st year pin - 50; 2nd year certificate - 28; 3rd year pin - 10; 4th year certificates - 6; 5th year pins - 7; 6th year certificates - 6; 7th year pins - 4; 8th year certificates - 3; 10th year pins - 2.

Awards received were as follows:

COUNTY MEDALS:

Achievement:

Richard Hicks, Hightown Club
Elaine Metsker, Houston Club
Ann Romines, Houston Club
Blanche Scheets, Hightown Club

Boy's Agricultural:

Richard Hicks, Hightown Club
Tommy Sherrill, Sherrill Club

Bread Demonstration:

Rita Hicks, Hightown Club

Clothing:

Georgia Ann Murfin, Houston Club
Elaine Metsker, Houston Club
Gayla Kay Romines, Houston Club
Carol Sue Coats, Hightown Club

Dairy Foods Demonstrations:

Ann Romines, Houston Club
Sharon Bennett, Houston Club

Dress Revues:

Helen Marie Scheets, Houston
Gayla Kay Romines, Houston
Connie Kirkman, Houston
Lou Gladden, Ragsdale
Nancy Anika, Hightown
Elaine Metsker, Houston

Leadership:

Blanche Scheets, Hightown
Tommy Sherrill, Sherrill

Home Economics:

Blanche Scheets, Hightown
Elaine Metsker, Houston
Bessie Marie Brown, Sherrill
Janet Stilley, White Rock

THE DANFORTH FOUNDATION AWARDS:

Book "I Dare You" - Sue Douglas, Hightown Club
Book "I Dare You" - Tommy Sherrill, Sherrill Club

The 4-H Council met and outlined plans for the year. It was suggested that the Texas County Pig Chain program be stimulated into action by some means.

TEXAS COUNTY 4-H CLUBS - 1958

<u>NAME OF CLUB</u>	<u>COMMUNITY LEADER</u>
Coffey	J. E. Ragain, Bucyrus,
Hartshorn	George Crites, Hartshorn,
Hightown	Mrs. Stanley Hicks, Clara,
Houston	Mrs. Glen Romines, Houston,
Liberty Bell	Mrs. Leslie Spacek, Summersville,
Plato	Mrs. Gailing Madison, Plato,
Ragsdale	Mrs. Rhea Lybyer, Huggins,
Sunset Valley	William I. Watkins, Jr., Willow Springs,
White Rock	Leland R. Douglas, Bucyrus,

4-H COUNCIL OFFICERS

Second Year

President - Mrs. Glen Romines, Houston, (Houston Club)

First Year

Vice-President - Mrs. Roy Troutman, Houston (Houston Club)

Second Year

Secretary-Treasurer - Rita Hicks, Clara, (Hightown Club)

First Year

Historian - Mrs. Chris Padberg, Liberty Bell Club, Summersville