

Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

JANUARY, 1965

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

Soil & Water Conservation District

of SUSSEX COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Vice-Chm. - CASHAR EVANS, Selbyville
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District Conservationist - LARRY IRELAN, Georgetown
Member of Board - R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

Your Board Members speak.....

This is the first of what we hope will be a bi-monthly Newsletter. We plan, in this way, to bring to your attention, timely information about your District Program.

Read this and future letters when you receive them. In this way we can, together, build a better District Program which will serve the interests of conservation more fully and effectively.

We invite your comments and suggestions about how to make this Newsletter of greater value to you.

Your Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 8:00 p.m., in the District Office. All meetings are open to the public. We hope you will attend a meeting of the Board soon and see, firsthand, how the business of YOUR District is handled.

* * * * *

"MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR"



Recreation is a new cash crop at Lowe's Lakeview Farm. Carlton W. Lowe has been farming near Chipman's Pond for the past 25 years raising corn, soybeans, truck crops and chickens. Recently, Mr. Lowe has incorporated trailers, camping, and fishing into his enterprise. Mr. Lowe presently has a dozen trailer sites near Chipman's Pond, several cabins and many campsites. All the guests have the facilities of the area including boating, swimming, fishing, hiking or just leisure living. Many of the guests stay at the Lakeview Farm at night and have the advantages of the Farm at night and make day trips to the seashore.

Another benefit to Mr. Lowe is an outlet for his farm produce. By keeping a refrigerated trailer handy, Mr. Lowe sells to the campers fresh eggs and vegetables. Many guests prefer to pick their own strawberries, blackberries and other produce from the field which provides them with enjoyment as well as fresh produce. This also provides Mr. Lowe with a retail outlet for his goods.

All of the development work done on Mr. Lowe's Farm has taken place on land that previously was useless to him. This land, on which taxes were paid but no income was received, has been improved with the help of your Soil Conservation District. Now this land not only pays its own way, but provides additional income as well.

"Recreation is just another crop to me," says Mr. Lowe. "Unfavorable weather or other unusual conditions could ruin this crop just as easily as it could the corn crop."

"FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST"

You, the farmers of Sussex County, have much to be proud of in your Soil and Water District. You have a program which recognizes the conservation problems as they exist and promotes answers which are sound and practical. Your District, under the leadership of the Supervisors you elect, has moved ahead in the field of conservation to the point where it is one of the outstanding Districts in the country.

Your equipment program has been a success to the point that it answers the local need. You have promoted conservation in our educational institutions throughout the state. You have initiated research in badly needed areas such as water management and ditch maintenance. You have assisted the Delaware State Soil and Water Commission in administering the Tax Ditch Program in this county. You have assisted in the Watershed Program in the county which includes the Bear Hole, Upper Nanticoke River and Marshy Hope Watersheds. You have assisted in the beach stabilization work along the seashore.

The list of accomplishments could continue indefinitely. We of the SCS are happy to work with you and to provide assistance to you in carrying out your program. We shall discuss this further with you in future Newsletters.

"YOUR EQUIPMENT IN ACTION"

During past years many of you had no way of knowing where your Soil Conservation District's equipment was working unless it was in your immediate area. You also had no idea of priority schedules for the machinery or the thoughts and reasoning leading to the scheduling. In the future we will try to keep you up-to-date on where the machines have been working and where we hope they will be working through this Newsletter.

At present, as some of you already know, your District is engaged in constructing drainage channels and ditches in the Nanticoke Watershed. Five of the draglines are being occupied on this project in the Bridgeville and Greenwood areas. Two bulldozers are kept busy full time, clearing ahead of and leveling spoil in back of these draglines.

The other three draglines have been working on farm ditches and ponds during the summer. The Herring Run Tax Ditch near Atlanta and Seaford has been under construction since August and should be completed this month.

The Thompsons Branch Tax Ditch near Pepper-Box was constructed during the past year and we hope to finish the spoil leveling by December, 1964.

We also plan to do a maintenance job on the following tax ditches during the winter and spring of 1965, and have them completed by crop time.

Bear Hole - Roxana
Highland Acres - Lewes
Bacon Kenney - Delmar
Banks-Bennett - Millville

Of course, we will continue to schedule your farm drainage jobs along with the others.

We hope that this Newsletter will provide a good means of communication and information about your Soil Conservation District's goals.

COOPERATORS' ANNUAL DINNER MEETING

The Annual District Cooperators' Dinner Meeting will be held in the Grace Church Hall, Georgetown, on Wednesday, January 20th, at 7:00 p.m.

The program will feature reports on the establishment of conservation practices on the farms of District Cooperators and an illustrated slide talk by Wm. R. Ratledge, State Conservationist.

Tickets are available from any of the following:

Oscar Draper, Greenwood
Earl White, Bridgeville
Joseph N. Elliott, Laurel
Frank Bonsall, Delmar
Elwood Tucker, Ellendale

Hylon C. Smith, Lewes
Alden Short, Georgetown
Raymond Townsend, Dagsboro
Cashar Evans, Selbyville.

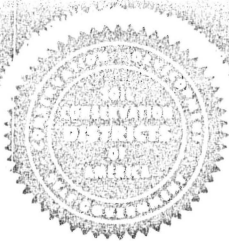
Everything points to a delicious dinner, an informative program and a pleasant evening of fellowship. Be sure and bring your wife.

Get your tickets by January 18th.

Sincerely,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

SUSSEX COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware
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Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS of the Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

MARCH, 1965

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Levy Court Member - RAYMOND TOWNSEND, Dagsboro
District Conservationist - LARRY IRELAN, Georgetown
Member of Board - R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

Your Board Members speak.....

Conservation, as we think of it in our District Program, refers to the Wise Use of the soil and water resources of our county. Since the District was organized on February 16, 1944, its aim has been to encourage and help people to put every acre to its best use and treat every acre according to its needs.

Many people have helped the District to carry out its work. Included among these are:

The Soil Conservation Service. This agency of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has provided technically trained men to conduct surveys, prepare farm plans and advise on the installation of conservation measures.

The Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee has provided funds to assist landowners in paying the cost of performing conservation practices such as drainage, pond construction, seeding cover crops and applying lime.

The Levy Court has provided funds to help pay for District personnel and provided matching funds for assisting landowners to pay 1/4 of the cost of installing tax ditches.

The State of Delaware has provided money for paying another 1/4 of the cost of constructing these tax ditches. The State has also provided money on a loan basis for the purchase of equipment to be used by the District in its drainage work.

Other groups that have helped the District with its program are the Farmers Home Administration; The State Forestry Department; The Game and Fish Commission; The Agricultural Extension Service; The Delaware State Highway Department; The Diamond State Telephone Co.; The Delaware Power and Light Co.; The Eastern Shore Public Service; and The Delaware Electric Cooperative Inc.

Truly, the District Program has been a team effort and your Board of Supervisors wishes to say thanks to all who have helped make it possible.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR



Halsey G. Knapp H. E. Meyers, Jr.

The Goodyear Conservation Farm of the Year Award is being presented to Halsey G. Knapp by Mr. H. E. Myers, Jr., of the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. This award was made at the Annual Delaware State Association of Soil Conservation Districts Meeting held in Dover. This award was given to Mr. Knapp for outstanding accomplishments in the field of conservation on his own land as well as in the community.

"Good conservation pays", says Halsey Knapp of Nassau. Halsey and his father, Leslie, employ good conservation in operating their 200-acre "Nassau Orchards".

Through cover cropping, crop residue management, and good water management by drainage and irrigation, the Knapps grow excellent quality fruits and vegetables.

The primary outlets for their produce are two roadside stands. These stands are located along two primary roads leading to Rehoboth Beach. By selling a superior product, the Knapps keep the same customers returning time and time again.

Halsey also grows and sells American Beachgrass. This grass has been used very effectively in dune stabilization and the demand for it is increasing annually. The Knapps were eager to experiment with some Beachgrass when the demand for it increased following the storms of 1962. They have worked closely with Conservationists on both an experimental as well as a production basis.

Since the roadside stands are his primary outlet for farm products, the farm enterprise is geared to what will easily sell at these stands. "A nice looking product of good quality is what will sell in roadside stands", said Halsey. "The way to get this quality is to use the best farming techniques we have at our disposal. Conservation is one of these very important techniques."

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATION BOARD

Natural resource conservation Districts have been set up in areas all over the world. Here in Delaware we have a law which permits the formation of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Your Sussex Soil and Water Conservation District boundaries coincide with those of the county.

The Supervisors of your District request technical assistance from the Soil Conservation Service in fulfilling the conservation needs of the District. Through this agreement, we of the Soil Conservation Service are available to work on your lands.

The main objective of your District is the conservation of natural resources with primary emphasis placed on soil, water, woodland and wildlife.

This work is done through a conservation program of assisting landowners and operators to plan, apply and maintain sound conservation practices. Just what practice to apply and to what extent is entirely up to the landowners. Technical information is available, however, the decision is yours.

Soils information; through the National Cooperative Soil Survey is available to landowners along with specific interpretations as to capability. Soil capability is determined by a trained technician examining the thickness of each layer of soil; its color; the proportion of sand, silt and clay; acidity; and the content of organic matter.

Engineering assistance is available for conservation purposes. Also woodland and wildlife specialists are available to District Cooperators.

All these facilities are available as needed by Cooperators to help you decide what is needed and to help you apply the conservation measures to your land.

"YOUR EQUIPMENT IN ACTION"

Since the last Newsletter, the weather has remained favorable for construction except for brief periods of frozen ground conditions, which weren't too severe. Because of this, our work has been kept nearly on schedule. Construction in the St. Johnstown and Bridgeville Watershed Projects has progressed and the maintenance cleanout on the other tax ditches in the county is going well. Present intentions are to complete all of the requested maintenance jobs by farming time. I thought it would be a good idea to discuss District machinery that is available for either work on your own farm or on tax ditches which serve your farms as outlets.

At the present, the District is operating six 3/4 yard draglines and one 1-1/2 yard Lima dragline. You have a choice of five bulldozers: one - Caterpillar D-7, standard shift; two - Caterpillar D-7, power shift model; and two - Caterpillar D-8, standard shift. This range allows greater efficiency in fitting the machine to the job to be done. The present prices on these machines are; 3/4 yard dragline - \$11.00 per hour; 1-1/2 yard dragline - \$16.00 per hour; Cat. D-7 standard - \$10.00 w/blade; Cat. D-7 power shift - \$13.00 w/blade; Cat. D-8 standard - \$15.00 w/blade. Dozer prices are increased by \$1.00 per hour when rootrake is attached. A placement charge of \$25.00 for draglines and \$10.00 for bulldozers is charged on each job.

Your District Supervisors always have, and I am sure, will continue to offer you the most modern and efficient machinery at the lowest rates.

COOPERATORS' DINNER MEETING HUGE SUCCESS

The District Cooperators' Dinner meeting held in Georgetown on January 20th., was a huge success. 325 Cooperators and friends of the District were in attendance.

The dinner was delicious; the speakers were excellent; the entertainment was fine and the fellowship most pleasant.

Our thanks to Martin Isaacs, C. C. Allen, Jr., S. H. Showell, Carlton W. Lowe, and Wm. R. Ratledge for their enlightening talks on conservation; to Robert Rider for the fine job as toastmaster and to Paul Yoder and the other members of the quartette for the splendid singing.

Our thanks too, to the members of the attendance committee for the fine job they did in distributing the tickets and arranging for such a fine turnout of Cooperators.

We now turn our attention to Soil and Water Stewardship Week which will be observed during the week of May 23-30.

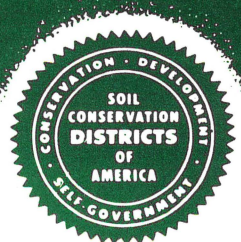
Plans for the observance of this important week will be outlined in our next Newsletter which you will receive about May 15th.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson, Sect.

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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware
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Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS of the Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

MAY, 1965

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Your Board Members speak.....

There has been in recent months a growing interest in water management in our state. Your Board of Supervisors have long been concerned with this important resource and have often discussed its management at our monthly Board meetings.

On April 5th a meeting was held at the Agricultural Substation in cooperation with the State Soil Conservation Commission, the State Drainage Engineer's office, the Soil Conservation Service and the Extension Service for the purpose of discussing water management in some detail.

The discussion included consideration of an over-all Water Management Program, the establishment of rights to use water for irrigation and other purposes, the need for legislation to permit installation of water control structures in drainage ditches and suggestions for more efficient management of water resources in Delaware.

Seventy-five landowners and others interested in this important subject were in attendance and took part in the discussion. As a result of this meeting and discussion some proposals for a water management program will be prepared and another meeting will be called to evaluate these proposals and to develop plans for implementing those that are acceptable.

A sound water management program for our state is important to all of us. Your Board is anxious to do its part in helping to develop such a program and solicits your interest and support in this worthy undertaking.



Ken West with one of his beef cows and newborn calf.



Ken West looks over his new irrigation pond.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

"Beef production has a place in the agriculture of Sussex County" says Kenneth West, manager of Thomas Fook's Fenraeht Farms farm near Georgetown. At present, Fenraeht has 190 head of cattle of which 100 are steers and will be sold soon for beef. The remaining cattle will be kept as breeders. West is constantly culling the less desirable breeders from his herd and adding to the best. "By improving your herd is the only way to stay in business with the cost of taxes, land and labor", says West.

Fenraeht presently has around 275 acres of cropland, a large part of which is in pasture. West currently makes use of soil tests to determine the lime and fertilizer needs and follows the State University recommendations. The remainder of the land which is not in pasture is used for grain production to feed the herd. As soon as the grain is harvested, cover crops are planted.

Recently he has constructed a large conservation irrigation pond from which he will irrigate pasture if the weather is as dry this summer as it was last. "When you have this many cattle to feed, an irrigation pond can be cheap insurance", says West.

"FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST"

In the conservation of natural resources, soil is one of our most important considerations. Four objectives of soil conservation are (1) to control erosion and prevent soil damage; (2) to use the better soils for increased efficiency and greater gain per acre; (3) to use land less suitable for cultivation as pasture, forestry, recreation, wildlife, or other less intensive uses; and (4) to protect and hold in reserve marginal lands not now needed for production, but potentially needed for future generations.

Erosion can and has ruined millions of acres of land. Here in Sussex County we have two types of erosion, wind and water. Both types transport tons of topsoil from our valuable farmlands.

Today's farmer, with his scientific knowledge, is well aware of the efficiency of certain soils with respect to specific crops and always endeavors to use each field for the crop for which it is best suited whether cropland, woodland, wildlife, or whatever.

Marginal land can not stand intensive cropping and should be used only when times require maximum production not maximum efficiency. If in the future the population outgrows our ability to produce on our best farmland, then marginal land will be used. Until then, however, this land is best held out of production.

In short, good conservation of soil means using each parcel of land within its capability thus keeping it productive for generations to come.

YOUR EQUIPMENT IN ACTION

Once again we have reached the time of the year where everyone wants to clear, dig, and level all on the same day, so that they can plant tomorrow.

This year we have been fortunate in keeping up with our construction because of unusually good weather and ground conditions. There are some wet springs however when it is almost impossible to do this without doing more harm than good; and those are the years when the bell on the telephone drives us crazy. Even then we usually manage to finish everyone by crop time.

We are now finishing up on Banks-Bennett T. D. at Ocean View, Swans Gut T. D. near Williamsville and Bear Hole T. D. at Roxanna. Two other tax ditch maintenance jobs were completed - Ennis-Messick at Shortley and Bacon-Kenney near Delmar.

Since our last letter was published your District has lost one of its oldest and best employees. Charles Robinson died in February and will be a hard man to replace, as many of you who admired his ability with a dragline will know.

We are now planning to shift our work load for April and May to farm work on pond construction and drainage ditches. Keep in touch with us on your conservation problems and equipment needs and until the next Newsletter let's all hope for more favorable rainfall this coming crop year.

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK - MAY 23 - 30

Soil and Water Stewardship Week will be observed throughout the nation May 23rd to 30th. Soil and water are God's gifts to mankind, given unto our stewardship, not just for those who legally own the land, but, rather the stewardship of every citizen.

There are many people who have not thought of these natural resources in this way, nor have they considered their responsibility in helping to see that these resources are used wisely and improved for future generations.

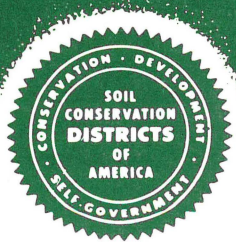
Your Soil Conservation District is sponsoring Soil and Water Stewardship Week in this county this year. In preparation for the observance during the week of May 23rd-30th your District has held four area meetings at which the ministers and lay leaders of the churches were invited. The work of the District was explained, a film entitled the "Good Earth" was shown and information concerning Soil and Water Stewardship was provided to each one present. Each minister and lay leader was asked to take whatever action seemed appropriate in acquainting the people of their church with the idea and purpose of Soil and Water Stewardship Week.

Will you do what you can to help your friends and neighbors better understand the importance of Soil and Water to their welfare and their responsibility as stewards in helping to insure its wise use in the future.

Sincerely yours,
Wm. H. Henderson, Sect.

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Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS of the Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

JULY, 1965

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Your Board Members speak.

The interest in water management is continuing to grow.

As a follow-up to the meeting reported held on April 5, there was another meeting at Bridgeville during May. Representatives of farmer organizations decided at that time to support legislation which would empower the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to impound surface waters and to allocate such waters for beneficial use.

A Bill to accomplish this was drawn up and introduced in the Delaware House of Representatives (HB 209). This Bill passed the House without a vote against it.

In the Senate, however, this Bill has not been considered. Another quite different Bill (SB 155) has been introduced and this has caused some confusion.

Our support, and so far as we know, all farmer organization support, is in back of HB 209. The legislature has now adjourned for several months, but when they return, it is hoped that HB 209 will be promptly enacted.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Jake Richards of Oyster Rock Road in the Milton area grows the kind of crops which make irrigation a must.

Jake and his son own 131 acres of cropland and 40 acres of woods. In addition they rent an additional 120 acres of cropland, and operate a dairy herd of 28 to 30 milkers.

This year in their farming operation, they will grow 110 acres of various types of potatoes, 20 acres of tomatoes and a few acres of cabbage.

The tomatoes and cabbage are handled by local sources, but the potatoes are sold for various uses; some are sold immediately for potato chip production, others for packaged dry processing, while still others are stored for the potato wholesale market.

Their 135 acres of these specialized crops are all under irrigation. To provide a source of water for irrigation they have constructed two large dugout ponds on a tributary of Broadkill Creek. Jake and his son both agree that applying irrigation water should be done by a method that will insure sufficient water at the right time. The photo shows Jake, his son and Wayland Clogg, a Soil Conservation Service Technician, preparing to test the water holding capacity in field of potatoes. This method is discussed more fully in the District Conservationist's column of this issue.



FROM YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER . . .

Another dry spring has caused an increased demand for irrigation and during June and July, most of our farm work load has been concentrated on digging new or enlarging old ponds to meet the farmers needs.

The farm drainage work load has fallen off during this period, which is normal during any crop season and will be resumed after crops are harvested.

The Bucks Branch Tax Ditch organizational meeting was held in June and construction started in early July. This is a large system in the Seaford area, with approx. 19 miles of ditches.

St. Johnstown T.D. at Greenwood was completed in June and Bridgeville Branch is going along on schedule and will be finished by late fall.

Your District's bulldozers have cleared quite a few acres of new ground during May, June and July, as well as piled land that had been cleared previously.

Since our last Newsletter two more of our long-time crane operators have died; Kenneth Card in late May and Dick Taylor in early June. As with Robbie, these men will be hard to replace, but we are trying our best.

Well, with your crops all laid by, like our summer ditching, lay back and take it easy until our next Newsletter in September.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Irrigation pumps have been working for some time now and all farmers, now more than ever, realize the importance of water in growing their crops. During the maximum use period of corn, a single plant uses over 32 quarts of water in one week. Over the entire growing period it has been found that up to 500 pounds of water are used to produce one pound of a dry plant. The depletion of available moisture in corn for a period of four days during the tasseling period can reduce the yields by 50%.

Water, indeed, is a very important factor in our lives and is something that can not be wasted.

Conservation of water in irrigation is essential to all farmers. Farmers can only afford to put on water that is necessary to the growing plants. Excessive irrigation that allows water to run off or to drain through the root zone unused is wasteful and expensive.

The methods of determining when to irrigate and how much to apply vary from kicking the soil to see how much dust is raised, to using delicate instruments costing thousands of dollars to determine available soil moisture.

Locally, we have worked with some farmers on this problem using a method of checking which calculates the amount of moisture held in a certain type of soil, and how much is removed by growing plants and evaporation. This helps to indicate when to irrigate and how much.

If any Cooperator is interested in finding out more about this method of conservation irrigation, we would be happy to discuss it with him.

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Your District is one of over 2,900 Districts throughout the United States that makes up the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This Association, with its main office in League City, Texas, affords your District Board of Supervisors an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas with other Supervisors and Conservation leaders from all parts of the nation. This exchange of ideas on conservation measures enables them to more effectively direct the District program of work so that it will serve you best.

These discussions and exchange of ideas take place through meetings, conferences, committee activities and Newsletters.

Each year a national meeting is held at which time Supervisors from all over the nation gather for three or four days of intensive study and discussion of Soil and Water Conservation Measures.

This year the meeting was held in Portland, Oregon, during February. Three of your District Supervisors, namely, Earl White, Bridgeville; Cashar Evans, Selbyville and Elwood Tucker, Ellendale, attended.

These men have much of interest to tell about their trip. You would find it quite enjoyable and enlightening to invite them to come and speak to you and your neighbors about the things they heard and saw at this meeting.

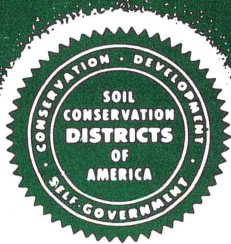
I should be glad to arrange for one or more of them to come and speak to a group in your community. Call or write me at the District Office if you would like such a program.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

SUSSEX COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware
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SEPTEMBER, 1965

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.

The digging of drainage ditches, leveling of spoil, digging of farm ponds or the installation of other conservation measures on the farm does not just happen.

It requires a great deal of planning and scheduling of manpower, equipment and money.

Cooperators are calling on the District for an ever-increasing number of services and for this, your Board is very appreciative.

In order that these services may be provided most effectively by your District and when they are wanted by you, it becomes more and more necessary that longer range planning on the part of the Cooperators be practiced.

Your Board urges you, therefore, to give careful consideration to your Conservation needs, prepare your plans for meeting these needs and if you decide to call upon your District for assistance, do so as far ahead of the date you want this assistance as possible.

Your help in this matter will enable your Board to continue to render the same high quality service that you have been accustomed to receiving over the last twenty years.

"MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR"

Keeping up with the Jones' is hard enough, but keeping up with the New Jersey blueberry producers is harder. This is the general feeling of the Emory McCabes' of Selbyville. The McCabe team, shown in the picture, consisting of three generations, now operate their 225 acres primarily for blueberry production. Any lands that they do not have in blueberries are rented to neighboring farmers.

Twenty years ago their farming operation was an average corn-soybean-broiler operation like most of the farms in the southeastern part of Sussex County.

In 1947, they became District Cooperators to obtain technical assistance to solve some drainage problems. They cooperated in the formation and construction of Sandy Branch Tax Ditch to provide an outlet for their farm drainage and installed over 3 miles of farm ditches on their own lands. This was accomplished over a period of five or six years at a considerable expense to the McCabes'.

In the meantime, a small patch of blueberries did so well that the McCabes' started to expand this phase of their farming operation. The basis for expansion was the use of their land use capability map supplied by the District to determine the fields best suited for blueberry culture. They reached the point where blueberry production and sales required so much of their time that they abandoned the rest of their operation and went exclusively into blueberries.

The ditches which were originally constructed for drainage are now serving a dual purpose. By placing water control structures at the outlet ends, they retain runoff from summer rainfall and serve as irrigation pumping canals for their blueberry fields. A deep well has been dug and water is pumped directly into the main canal and irrigation can be done from any point in the ditch system, saving considerable lengths of pipe.

The picture above shows the McCabes' in a field of blueberries and pickers. At times, the McCabes' have over fifty pickers working in their fields.

To keep abreast of changing improvements in varieties, cultural practices, disease control, labor management and marketing conditions is a big full-time job. The District is proud of the McCabe enterprise and is happy to have been a part of their success.



"FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST"

With summer days drawing to a close, we begin thinking of autumn. This is the time when sportsmen begin to clean their guns, mow rabbit paths, build duck blinds and look for deer trails. It also is the time when most game animals which have been so easily spotted during the summer, begin to disappear. (It's odd they are never around during hunting season.)

Farmers who have practiced good conservation on their farms will have an ample supply of game on their lands.

Wildlife, like people, have four basic requirements to live. They are: (1) food, (2) water, (3) cover and (4) recreation area. If these four essentials are provided, game will survive.

Most upland game as rabbits, quail, pheasants, squirrel and deer, live in the edges of woods. The low growing borders which are found on the edges of the woods provide food and cover. The field and the deeper woods provide the recreation area. Each species of wildlife must have water within their normal daily travel.

Farmers who have planted odd ends of fields to wildlife cover and who have constructed farm ponds and have allowed the borders of their fields and woods to provide dense cover, will have good hunting this fall. Those who have not provided good habitat should seriously consider their conservation plans for next year that they, too, might reap these secondary benefits from agriculture.

"YOUR EQUIPMENT IN ACTION"
Equipment Manager

Finally the rains came. During July, the county received anywhere from 10 inches of rainfall in some sections to a high of 18 inches in the Selbyville-Frankford-Roxanna area.

All crops look good and for the first summer in the last three years, we had to move bulldozers off some jobs because of wet ground conditions.

Naturally, this brought a decrease in the request for irrigation ponds, an increase in the requests for ditches.

During the past two months, your District's machinery has been busy on Bridgeville Branch Tax Ditch and Bucks Branch Tax Ditch in the Seaford area.

At present, we are looking forward to the harvesting of crops so that we can start servicing farmers who have individual farm ditches to dig during the non-crop season.

NORTHEASTERN AREA MEETING HELD IN CONNECTICUT AUGUST 15-18

Each year, District Supervisors from the twelve Northeastern states, namely: West Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, meet for the purpose of discussing problems and plans of District operations.

This year, the meeting was held at the University of Connecticut on August 15, 16, 17 and 18.

Earl and Mrs. White, Mr. & Mrs. E. H. Talbert, Wm. R. Ratledge and your Secretary and his wife attended the meeting along with 200 others from the Northeast interested in Soil and Water Conservation.

The program was devoted to workshops, discussions and tours pertaining to Soil and Water Conservation and how Districts could better serve their Cooperators.

In the last Newsletter, we reported on the National meeting in Portland, Oregon. This is another example of how your District, through its Board of Supervisors, is continually striving to prepare itself in order that it may serve you more effectively in the field of Soil and Water Conservation.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

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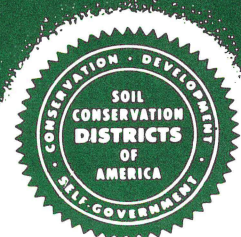
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Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS of the Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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Member of Board — R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

2nd File Copy

NOVEMBER, 1965

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.

One of the important events in your Soil and Water Conservation District Program is the annual election of a member to serve on the Board of Supervisors.

This is a time when every Cooperator should exercise his right and responsibility in helping to select the person he wants to represent him on the Board.

The first step is to nominate a candidate. This may be done by any 10 or more farmers or landowners in the county submitting the proposed candidate's name to the Board of Supervisors at the address shown on this Newsletter by November 20th.

A candidate must be a farm operator or landowner residing in the Northwest section of the county (that area of the county west of Route 113 and north of a line extending along Route 28 from Georgetown to Laurel and thence along Route 24 to the Maryland line).

The second step will be to cast your vote for the candidate of your choice when the election is held in early December. The time and place of the election will be publicized in your newspaper.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Fifteen years ago Timothy Schlabach was a young dairy farmer near Greenwood, who was continually asking, "Why can't we do something about Beaver Dam Ditch to improve our drainage?"

Five years ago he and his neighbors did do something about it. They reorganized their ditch under the Delaware State Drainage Law and with technical and financial assistance from the Federal Government under the Small Watersheds Act constructed 30 miles of needed outlet channels. Timothy served as a ditch manager during construction and has been re-elected as manager each year.

When the outlet channels were completed in 1963 he immediately concentrated on solving the drainage problem on his own farm. At this time, ill health forced him to abandon his dairy operation and change to general farming. His conservation plan was revised and 3,000 ft. of farm drainage ditches were installed.

At present Timothy farms 290 acres. This year's operation was devoted to 160 acres of soybeans, 80 acres of corn, 35 acres of alfalfa and a few acres of tomatoes. He also boards between 500 to 600 dry dairy cows annually for livestock dealers in the area.

Timothy still maintains several annual contacts a year with District and Soil Conservation Personnel concerning both farm and tax ditch problems.

Picture shows Timothy discussing farming operation with Soil Conservation Technician, Albert Montague.



"FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST"

There are two hundred seventy million acres of timber in our country and yet we harvest less than one-half the volume of good timber we are capable of growing.

We have mentioned before that conservation is using each acre of land within its capability.

Acres of woodland are practically valueless because of the lack of good sound management practices. Killing cull trees, thinning of overcrowded trees, removal of undesirable undergrowth, interplanting, pruning and selective harvesting are good methods of improving timber stands:

Advice on the proper treatment of woodlands should be sought from a professional forester since the need for treatment varies with the species, age, quality and other similar factors.

Tree planting is a practice which many times is avoided because of the expense involved. Here in Sussex County a reforestation program is under way in which the State Forestry Department will give loblolly pine seedlings to farmers to plant. The cost of actually planting the trees is very low. If you have five acres to plant, a tree planting machine is available for 50¢ per thousand trees after a \$5.00 placement charge. A contact with the State Forestry Department in Dover could be well worth your while!

The ASCS Office in Georgetown has specific practices which are to help landowners with forestry improvement. A call to them could also help make better use of some of our land.

There are facilities available without charge or at a very nominal charge to assist in making our woodlands pay their way. Winter time is a good time to work on stand improvement or to harvest some marketable trees for some extra money.

"YOUR EQUIPMENT IN ACTION"

Well, this year has now reached a point where most of you have almost finished your work and are ready to lie back and take it easy for the next four or five months.

Some of you will now be thinking about clearing up a piece of new ground for next year, others about getting some wet spots drained and of course others had such a good corn and soybean crop this year that all they will be thinking of is spending the money on a trip to Florida or Mexico or somewhere.

If you are one of the first two, your District is prepared to assist you with machinery and have so arranged their construction schedule. If you fall in the third category, your District Equipment Manager would enjoy going on the trip with you.

All joking aside, now is the time for you to schedule any construction work you are planning to do during the remainder of this year or next year. So let us hear from you.

COOPERATORS' ANNUAL DINNER MEETING SET FOR JANUARY 19TH

Wednesday, January 19th - 7:00 p.m., has been set as the date and time for the District's Cooperators' Annual Dinner Meeting. The meeting will be held in the Grace Church Hall, Georgetown.

A feature of the evening program will be a colored slide talk by Board Members Earl White and Cashar Evans of their trip to Portland, Oregon, and Hawaii. They have some beautiful slides and some interesting things to tell us.

An attendance committee will be named and announced in the January Newsletter. You will be able to get your tickets from any member of the committee in early January.

The important thing now is to mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend your annual meeting as a Cooperator in this important Soil and Water Conservation Program.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

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