

Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

JANUARY, 1966

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Chm. - ALDEN P. SHORT, Georgetown
Vice-Chm. - CASHAR EVANS, Selbyville
Secretary - Wm. HENDERSON, Georgetown
Treasurer - EARL WHITE, Bridgeville
Levy Court Member - RAYMOND TOWNSEND, Dagsboro
District Conservationist - LARRY IRELAN, Georgetown
Member of Board - R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK: ----

One of the important events in your District program is the Cooperator's Annual Dinner meeting. This is an occasion which offers all interested Cooperators an opportunity to learn more about their District, to become better acquainted with other Cooperators and to enjoy an evening of fellowship together.

This year the dinner meeting will again be held in the Grace Methodist Church Hall, Georgetown. The date is Wednesday, January 19, and the time is 7 p.m.

The program will feature a report on the work of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts showing its relationship to our District and a discussion of "Conservation in Color".

Tickets for the dinner may be obtained from any of the following:

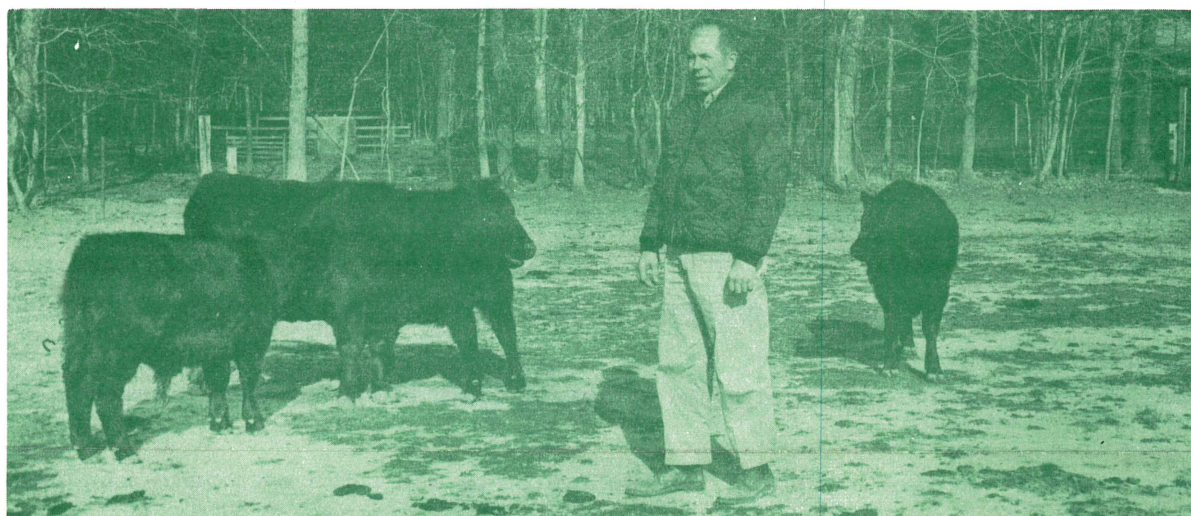
Oscar Draper, Greenwood
Earl White, Bridgeville
Joseph N. Elliott, Laurel
Elwood Tucker, Ellendale
Hylon C. Smith, Lewes

Alden Short, Georgetown
Raymond E. Townsend, Frankford
Cashar Evans, Selbyville
Harold A. King, Georgetown
Harold Gardner, Millsboro

Be sure and get your tickets by January 17th.

Remember this will be a ladies night so be sure to bring your wife.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR



Picture shows Frank and some of his animals in feed lot.

Frank Bonsall of Delmar is the owner of the Bonsall Cigarette Vending Machine Co. servicing areas in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. He is also Mayor of Delmar.

This sounds like a full-time job, but Frank is one of our many businessmen who is interested in farming and conservation. He is a landowner and serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Meadow Branch Tax Ditch and operates an 83-acre farm west of Delmar. His present operation is corn and pasture and he eventually intends to switch completely to pasture for a beef herd and pony breeding operation. He now has a herd of 18 Black Angus cows which will be increased to 40 or 50. His pony breeding herd will remain at about 12. During the last year, Frank installed a stock watering pond on his farm and also established some drainage ditches. Along with all these jobs, he still finds time to serve the Kiwanis Club, Delmar VFW Post, is a Board Member of St. Stephens Methodist Church and will serve as master of ceremonies at the District-Cooperator Annual Dinner.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

At the beginning of a new year seems to be the time when we examine ourselves and make plans for the coming year.

Following are some questions you as a landowner might want to ask yourself:

1. What soil and water conservation practices will give me the most profit, preserve my land, and make me the most profit?
2. What changes will I prefer to make in my over-all cropping program for conservation benefits?
3. Will I be willing to rely on practices like ditching, crop residue and cover crops in order to grow more high profit crops?
4. What new practices can I use to an advantage: Ponds? Trees? Wildlife Plantings? Tile?
5. Do I have some land that is more suited to wildlife or recreation which would make more money out of crop production?

There are lots of choices in soil and water conservation. Plan now to make your adjustments for the coming year.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Well another year has gone and like everything else, in looking back, you wish you had done some things differently. But generally speaking, 1965 was a real good year for the farmers and also for anyone in construction work. We feel that we serviced a good total of our farmers' requests this year and wish we could have reached more of you. However, if you had a request this year that wasn't taken care of, bear with us and you will be top priority for 1966. Since this issue is carrying quite a bit about the annual Cooperators' dinner and other subjects, I'll keep this short and end it by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and hoping to see you at our annual Cooperators' dinner.

EARL WHITE, BRIDGEVILLE, RE-ELECTED TO THE BOARD

Earl White of Bridgeville was re-elected to the Board of Supervisors at the annual election held in December.

Mr. White has served on the Board since the District was organized in 1944, and has been Treasurer of the District throughout this period.

Earl has been active on many conservation committees during this twenty-one year span and has served as Chairman of the State Association for two years. He has been a member of the County ASCS Committee for the past fifteen years.

Mr. and Mrs. White have attended every Northeast Area Meeting and every National Association Meeting during the past ten years.

The District is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated man as Earl White and the other Board members to serve as Supervisors.

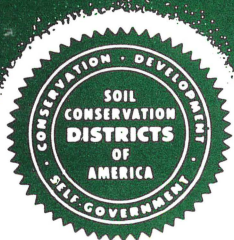


Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson

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Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

MARCH, 1966

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK



District Board of Supervisors as they appeared at the Cooperators' Dinner Meeting. Right to left - Earl White, Treasurer, Bridgeville; Elwood Tucker, Ellendale; Cashar Evans, Vice-Chairman, Selbyville; Alden Short, Chmn., Georgetown; R. Glenn Mears, Levy Court Member, Seaford; and Wm. H. Henderson, Secretary & County Agent, Georgetown.

We are grateful to each of you for helping to make our annual Cooperators' Dinner Meeting the great success we feel it was. Three hundred sixty-two Cooperators and friends attended and enjoyed the evening's program.

It will be our privilege and pleasure to continue serving you during 1966 in matters concerning the conservation, wise use, of the soil and water resources on your farm and throughout the District.

We remind you that we meet the third Tuesday evening of each month in the District Office at 8:00 p.m. We invite you to attend any or all Board meetings and bring to our attention any matter concerning conservation with which you feel we may assist.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Farming in Sussex County is not just an old man's occupation or a businessman's hobby. Many of our county's farmers are under 30 years of age.

One example of these young farmers is John Green in the Staytonsville section. Raised on a farm, there was never any doubt in his mind that farming was going to be his occupation.

Four years Vo-Ag instruction at Milford High School helped prepare him; in fact in 1954, the year he graduated, he was renting and tilling more land than he is now. At present he owns 212 acres and rents 56 more. These farms are drained by the Beaver Dam and Oakley Branch Tax Ditch in the Nanticoke Watershed. A combination of 200 acres of soybeans, 64,000 broilers and 100 to 150 hogs per year keep him pretty well occupied. John has placed high in both county and state soybean yield contests during the past several years.

Part of his faith in his future as a farmer is in the picture showing John, on left, talking with Albert Montague, an SCS Technician. The background is a modern brick home, a new three-story broiler house, and new equipment sheds being erected. This in itself is not unusual, but April 17, 1965, a fire destroyed every standing building; home, broiler houses, barn sheds, etc. Within 6 months, John had built and moved into the new home and placed his first bunch of broilers in the new house. During construction, John, his wife and their children lived in a trailer and continued farming as usual.

John doesn't hesitate in making use of the Extension Service, SCS and other agencies in assisting him with his problems.

This is true of nearly all of the young farmers in the county who are Vo-Ag trained and conservation minded. With young men like these, the future of farming in Sussex County is in good hands.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Each year the State Association of Districts sponsors a Land Judging Contest. This past year on November 1, the Sussex District was host for this contest. It was an all-day affair held at the Sub-station at Georgetown.

The participants in the contest were 4-H club members and Vo-Ag students from all over the State. The 4-H portion of the contest received awards for the high individuals as well as the winning county team. In the Vo-Ag competition, awards were given for the winning school team as well as the high individuals. Presentations were made in Dover at the annual meeting of the State Association.

Leo Cotnoir, Professor of Soils at the University of Delaware, was in charge of the contest. In the morning, Professor Cotnoir explained to the contestants the principals of rating soils. In the afternoon, the contestants were on their own. There were 4 observation pits. In each ratings were assigned for soil characteristics as texture, depth of soil, permeability, drainage and slope and erosion factors. Also a judgement had to be made as to the major limitation of the soil. In the final analysis, the capability class must be determined.

All of this sounds like a pretty tough course in soils and it is. This is good fundamental information that our young farmers of tomorrow must have.

Your District was host for the contest and served a lunch to nearly 100 participants and instructors. Your District provided the observation pits and made the necessary arrangements for the contest.

Your District is interested in the farmers of the future.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Winter finally came, and when it did, we had a whopper.

Construction, survey, and just about everything else in Sussex County came to a standstill in early February. Our digging District operation remained shut down for nearly two weeks. Our bulldozers, however, remained busy some of this time assisting the State Highway Dept. in snow removal operations.

Now things are back to normal and all equipment is back to work. Two of our draglines are working on the Layton-Vaughn Watershed Project near Georgetown, one is doing a maintenance job on Sandy Landing Tax Ditch at Omar and two more are occupied constructing Bucks Branch Tax Ditch in the Seaford-Atlanta Area. So long for this time and you'll hear from us again in May.

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK SET FOR MAY 15 - 22

Soil and Water Stewardship lives in the spirit of a responsible people at work on the land. As never before this spirit is being tested out and the work is becoming more critical. The reasons lie in the rapidly changing character and goals of our country.

We have become, predominantly, a nation of city-dwellers. Each year more Americans concentrate in towns, cities and suburbs. To them life is centered there.

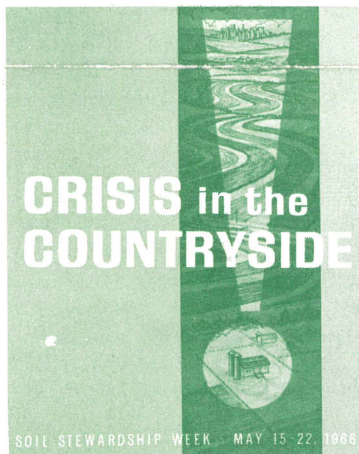
What now happens to the countryside? Never have so many Americans known so little about it.

Among the new and city-oriented generations, there is danger that the land in between cities and towns will be regarded as mere undeveloped space. There is risk that a majority of Americans will lose sight of the vital function of the countryside and underestimate the need for soil stewardship.

In this setting, the tasks are compounded for those who remain close to the land and who acknowledge their stewardship obligations. They must persist, even as a minority, with the work of stewardship.

Your District Board is concerned with this work and they invite you to join with them in observing Soil and Water Stewardship Week and to do what you can to further the concept of Stewardship among your acquaintances.

Sincerely yours,
Wm. H. Henderson, Sect.



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MAY, 1966

YOUR BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS -----

Your Board has long recognized the need for greater emphasis on the teaching of "Conservation of Natural Resources" in our schools. Efforts have been under way for some time to assist in providing the training necessary for this greater emphasis to take place.

Your District along with New Castle and Kent Districts, operating as the Delaware Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, in cooperation with the Delaware Conservation Education Association and the University of Delaware have developed a three-week course that will be given this summer at the Agricultural Substation.

The course will be conducted by the University of Delaware from July 5 through 25 and will be called An Institute in Conservation. Enrollment will be limited to 30 school teachers and others in the field of secondary education to be selected by the Delaware Conservation Education Association.

Professor Claude E. Phillips, Chairman Emeritus of the Department of Agronomy of the University of Delaware, will direct the course.

Topics to be covered will include: The Nature and Capabilities of Delaware Soils, Soil Conservation Practices, Delaware Water Resources, Agriculture's Water Needs, Improvement and Development of Farm Woodlands, Commercial Forest Management and Wildlife Resources and their Conservation.

All costs of the course will be paid by the Delaware Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

This is but another way in which your Board is working to serve the best interests of Conservation in our District and throughout the state.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Like the dodo bird, dairy farmers in southeastern Sussex County have become extinct. Eldred Cress is the only one remaining in the area.

On his 145-acre farm just south of Frankford town limits, Eldred has 69 acres of pasture and the remaining 69 acres of tillable land is used to grow ensilage. He also grows soybeans on rented land.

Eldred bought this farm in 1950 and started dairy farming on a small scale. Until 1955, he also tried to continue to operate an automobile agency. Since there were only 24 hours a day, this became an impossible task and Eldred decided to become a full-time dairy farmer.

Since then he has concentrated on upgrading and enlarging his Holstein Herd. He now milks 50 head and keeps 20-30 young cows to sell or incorporate into his herd.

In his free time Eldred manages to serve on the Board of Directors of the Dairy Herd Improvement Association and is a member of the Artificial Breeders Coop. He is also a member of the John M. Clayton School Board.

Eldred has always been interested in sports and played semi-pro baseball in the Central Shore League. His son Eldred, following in his dad's footsteps, has lettered in 3 varsity sports every year since the 9th grade. He made the all Henlopen Conference Team in football and baseball and was chosen to play on the Gold Team in this year's Blue-Gold Game.

Eldred has a mile and a half of drainage ditches on the farm and is thinking of doing some more in the near future. He is also seriously considering constructing an irrigation pond because he believes that present day farming is going to require putting water on the land when it is needed, as well as taking it off during wet seasons.



In the picture Eldred (on left) is discussing his plans with SCS Technician, Wayland Clogg.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

May is the time of year which marks the beginning of life. Flowers are blooming, the grass is green and farmers are tilling the soil.

It is also a time which has been set aside to appreciate our natural resources. This is done in the form of a Soil Stewardship observance. The relationship between the conservation of natural resources and religious development is as old as the beginning of man. The Bible charges mankind to "replenish the earth". It also defines the ownership by saying "The Earth is the Lord's".

Among the reasons for the settlement of our country by our forefathers was the need for new religion and the desire for land ownership. The United States history shows many times that the development of new lands was accompanied by the extension of missionary activities.

The rural churches have always thrived or waned with the availability of soil and water resources. The conservation of these basic resources has been encouraged by stewardship teachings of religion and the strengthening of the land has resulted.

It is not accidental that the center of every flourishing agricultural area is marked by flourishing religious environment.

With the increase of urban life in the United States, the churches have emphasized more and more the importance of resource development. There is a growing interest by churches in rural observances as a response to modern day changes. The relatively simple needs of the past for food and shelter have been expanded to an extent only imagined in the wildest dreams. Industrialization and automation enable man to live at new levels of comfort. Leisure time is one of the biggest problems man has in the United States today. Nevertheless without continuing conservation, man's unrestraining appetite for better living can hinder his future enjoyment. As we become aware of growing needs we must also demonstrate a corresponding increase of responsible conservation.

Your Soil Conservation District makes special efforts during Soil Stewardship Week to enhance the appreciation of our natural resources by all people, both urban and rural. The churches in your community have a corresponding emphasis on stewardship and on the devotion to conservation.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS

Farming time is here again and like every year the farmers are running their tractors right in back of our dozers spreading dirt.

Luckily the weather has been ideal for construction and we have been able to keep up with the draglines fairly close. But about now comes the point where field construction eases off and we concentrate our summer schedule to wooded areas.

Layton-Vaughn T. D. and Bucks Branch T. D. are proceeding on schedule and will continue construction throughout the summer.

Any of you farmers who are figuring on digging irrigation ponds should get in touch with us so that we can include you in our equipment schedule. We try to fit our scheduling in to suit the irrigation period of whatever crop you are growing. This year the ASCS Office is encouraging the establishment of wildlife ponds. All of you hunters and nature lovers should investigate this program to see if you can fit a pond of this type in with your farm plan.

CONFERENCE HELD ON "STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES"

A conference on "Stewardship of Natural Resources" was held at the University Substation on Wednesday, April 13. Sponsored jointly by the District Board of Supervisors, its Ladies Auxiliary, the Home Economics Extension Clubs and 4-H Leaders, the conference was designed to emphasize two things:

1. The concept of Stewardship as it applies to the work of some agencies of government.
2. How we may accept and fulfill, more effectively our obligations as stewards.

Representatives of the Soil Conservation Service, Water Pollution Commission, Game and Fish Commission and the Forestry Department presented ten-minute reports on the work of their agencies. These proved very interesting and informative.

Those present were then divided into small groups and discussed the question "How Can I Encourage Better Stewardship of our Natural Resources?".

Several timely suggestions were made. They were:

1. Become better informed on the wise management of resources.
2. Practice good management of the resources over which we have control.
3. Encourage others to become better informed by arranging for programs by these agencies in their organizations.

If you belong to an organization that would like a program on "Stewardship of Natural Resources", I should be glad to help arrange such a program for you.

Remember Soil & Water Stewardship Week is May 15-22.

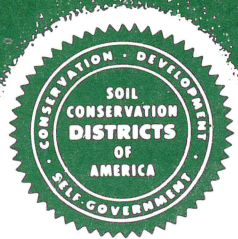
This would be a good time for such a program.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson, Secretary

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JULY, 1966

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Your District Board members and their wives will join together with Board members and wives from Kent and New Castle for a ferry trip to Cape May, New Jersey, a tour of the U. S. D. A. Plants Materials Center at Swainton, New

Jersey, a picnic lunch and business meeting on Thursday, July 21, as they participate in the State Association's annual summer meeting.

The State Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts provides an opportunity for the three Boards to exchange ideas on conservation and make plans for more effective operation of the District programs.

Elwood Tucker, Ellendale, President of the State Association, will preside at the business meeting.

Members of the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission and State and County A. S. C. S. Committees are invited to be guests of the Association for the day. The close cooperation between these groups that has been evident over the years is essential if the most effective conservation program is to be made available to all concerned. It is gratifying to your Board to have such excellent team mates assisting with the conservation program in Delaware.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Lloyd King has come the full cycle in farming and ditching operations on this truly family-type farm.

Assisted by his son, Lloyd tills 100 acres of corn and soybeans, raises enough cows and hogs to furnish milk and meat supply for annual family needs with an occasional sale, and a garden large enough to eat from during summer and can or freeze for winter needs.

Lloyd was born here in 1897 and the farm was in the family prior to that time.

As a boy, Lloyd plowed the land with a one-horse plow, then graduated to riding plows and cultivators and finally to tractor farming. Also as a boy, Lloyd helped clean out this ditch by hand; as a young man he helped organize and served as manager of the ditch when it has hand cleaned by the W. P. A. during the 1930's. Now he is a manager on the New Layton-Vaughn T. D. being dug with heavy construction equipment as a small watershed project.

Picture shows Lloyd and his grandson looking over partially constructed tax ditch channel with S. C. S. Technician and discussing future farm plans and drainage made possible by installation of the tax ditch outlet.

As you can see in the picture, Lloyd has become so accustomed to wearing knee boots and wading through the water that he feels it will take quite some time to break himself of the habit.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Farm fish ponds are accepted more and more as delightful features of farms. A fish pond makes good use of land and utilizes good conservation of all resources. A fish pond can also be used for fire protection, livestock water, and provide other recreation in the form of swimming and boating.

Dugouts are the most common type of fish pond found in Sussex County. These ponds utilize ground water and have proven to be very successful as fishing areas.

The pond should be at least 1/4 acre in size and have a portion of the area over six feet deep to aid in temperature control.

A combination of large-mouth bass and bluegills is a good stocking for this area. Since the surface temperature often reaches 85° F, trout are not generally adapted in a dugout.

High fertility of pond water is necessary to have a desirable fish pond. Fertilization increases the amount of microscopic plants in the water. This is the food on which the fish live. The amount of fertilizer needed in a pond varies with each pond site.

Water weeds are undesirable in fish ponds. They interfere with fishing and have bad effects on the fish population and ratio of bass to bluegills.

From time to time there will be problems come up concerning a fish pond; however, the enjoyment derived and the "good eating" which can come from it will far exceed the difficulties.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Rain, Rain, go away, come again some other day! This is not just a complaint of a poor beat up equipment manager, but also of a lot of Sussex County farmers who are having trouble getting into their fields.

The old saying that "When it rains it pours", has really been true this spring. We were fortunate in having planned our clearing operations far enough in advance that most of our work is still progressing on schedule with just a few minor changes here and there.

Surprisingly enough the rain has not lessened the demand for irrigation ponds and we have constructed several this spring. I guess farmers who have money tied up in irrigation have to have their water available whether its raining or not.

We have also heard from quite a few people about drainage problems that they had almost forgotten during the past several years and we are planning our schedule to take care of these this fall or winter.

Like the old man says, "We can't take care of everybody at once, but we try." So, if you have any conservation work to be done, let us hear from you.

Don't you think our new District sign shown in the picture adds something to the appearance of Shortly Road? We are right proud of it.

Your Equipment Manager,
Harold King



DISTRICT SPONSORS 4-H PROGRAM ON STEWARDSHIP OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Your District sponsored a 4-H program on Stewardship of Natural Resources during May. The program included five things which a 4-H Club could do in order to score points toward receiving recognition for its accomplishments. The five things, all dealing with conservation, were:

1. Prepare a window display.
2. Prepare a poster.
3. Give talks, demonstrations, or skits to various community groups.
4. Prepare club news articles for local papers.
5. Leaders and members participate in Stewardship Conference.

All of the clubs of the county participated and thus some 800 members learned something about conservation.

Winners in the program were Cokesbury, Mrs. Irene Layton, Leader; Sycamore, Lawrence Jestice, Leader, and Broadkill, Mrs. Frances Millman, Leader.

Plaques, suitably inscribed, were presented to the winners.

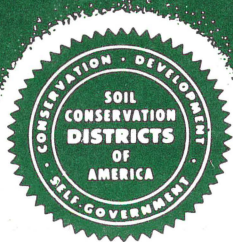
This is another example of how your Board is working to encourage greater interest and understanding of conservation in the District.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

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SEPTEMBER, 1966

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK:

For the past few years your District has been faced with the problem of rising prices as has everyone else. A recent audit has shown that it is necessary to make a price adjustment in the rental rates for machines. The new price schedule follows:

3/4 yd. dragline	- \$12.00 per hour
1-1/2 yd. dragline	- \$16.00 per hour
D-8 Dozer	- \$16.00 per hour
D-7 Dozer, power shift	- \$14.00 per hour
D-7 Dozer	- \$11.00 per hour
D-4 Dozer	- \$ 9.00 per hour
Root rake extra	- \$ 1.00 per hour

It is the aim of your District to keep giving the best service possible to Cooperators in the county. Your District will continue its efforts towards answering each and every conservation problem as it arises.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

When you first talk with Joe Penuel on his home farm located in Slaughter Neck you would think his 70 head of Holstein cows, 30 brood sows, acreage of peas and lima beans, would take care of one man's time.

After awhile you find out that more acreages of corn-soys-peas and limas are grown on other farms. Finally you discover that what seemed to be an ordinary size farming operation has turned into a large dairy herd, 1600 acres under cultivation in two counties (Sussex and Kent) and scads of tractors, combines, viners and other farming equipment.

Joe has been a District Cooperator since 1953 and has always been conservation minded.

Right now Joe is expanding into tomatoes, cucumbers and peppers on his Slaughter Beach Farm and just recently constructed a pond for irrigating these crops.

Picture shows Joe talking with Soil Conservation Technician, Wayland Clogg, about enlarging a stock water pond on home farm.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Summer is nearly over and many Cooperators have either finished their vacations or are planning one after crops are harvested. Since travelling is a favorite form of vacation, it is interesting to note how many forms of conservation can be seen on the way.

Staying right here in Sussex County, a traveller can see various types of drainage practices - tax ditches, shallow ditches and tile.

In a journey along the coast line, fine examples of dune stabilization may be seen.

Throughout the county are farm ponds for irrigation, stock water and fishing. Many outstanding wildlife habitats have been developed or preserved for both upland game and waterfowl.

Woodland conservation practices here in the county are some of the finest to be found anywhere.

All over the county, windbreaks and cover crops lend to beauty as well as erosion control.

Stabilization measures are found throughout the county - both structural and vegetative.

In northern Delaware are picturesque examples of terraces, diversions and contour farming.

As you travel, notice the conservation practices along the way. See them and appreciate them for their beauty as well as their intended purpose - protecting the productive power of America's agriculture.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Dry weather has been the story since our last newsletter. Just looking around it seems like our section has been more fortunate than other sections around it. At least we will make some part of a crop.

The District's equipment has been kept busy digging irrigation ponds and constructing the Layton-Vaughn Tax Ditch. By the time you receive this newsletter, Layton-Vaughn Tax Ditch will be completed.

A visit to our office and maintenance shop area was part of the training for a group of teachers taking the Soil and Water Conservation Education Course. This gave the group a better idea of the machinery and manpower requirements needed to apply conservation measures.

We also started constructing the final channel work on East Nanticoke Ditch near Bridgeville.

Well, by the time you hear from us again, most of your crops will be harvested and some of you will be ready to start your farm ditching and other conservation work.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION COURSE FOR TEACHERS HELD

A three-week Conservation Education Short Course for teachers was held at the Agricultural Substation during July with 31 teachers enrolled. Prof. Claude Phillips was in charge.

The course was under the supervision of the University of Delaware and the teachers received credit for completing the course.

The course was financed by the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which the Sussex District is a part.

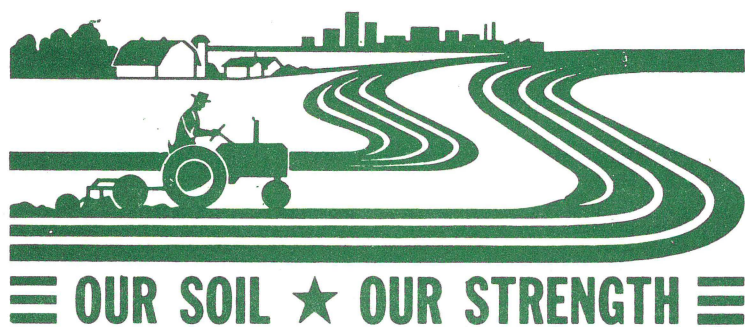
The purpose of the three-week study was to acquaint teachers with conservation work and to help prepare them for teaching more about Conservation in their classes.

The course was well received by the teachers and many compliments have been extended by them to all who had a part in making the program available.

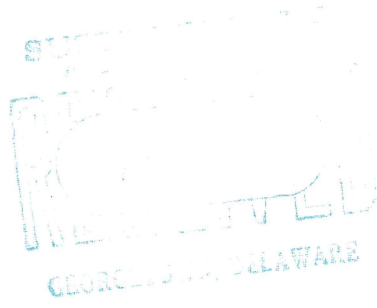
As Secretary, it was my pleasure to discuss the District program and explain how the District serves the people of the county in the field of conservation.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary



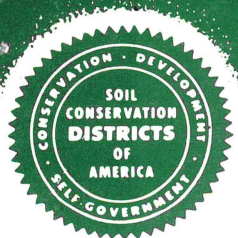
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NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS of the

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Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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District Conservationist - LARRY IRELAN, Georgetown
Member of Board - R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

OCTOBER, 1966

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

It is again time to elect a member to serve on your District Board of Supervisors. Elwood Tucker, Ellendale, is the Supervisor whose term expires on December 31st.

Every Cooperator should exercise his right and responsibility in helping to select the person he wants to represent him on the Board.

The first thing that needs to be done is to nominate a candidate. Your Board of Supervisors has a responsibility in nominating a candidate. They have nominated Elwood Tucker.

You, too, have a responsibility in nominating a candidate. If you feel some other candidate should be nominated, then you, along with nine other farmers or landowners, may submit the name of that candidate to the Board of Supervisors at the District Office by November 11.

A candidate must be a farm operator or landowner residing in the Northeast section of the county (that area of the county east of Route 113 and north of a line extending along Route 28 from Georgetown to Lewes).

The second thing for you to do is 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

Elwood Workman and sons of Shortly have been a family business and farming operation for a long time. Elwood, the father, while still active is now content to sit back and let Preston and Ralph carry on.

Originally their entire operation was centered round the Shortly area. Now Shortly is just the home base and their farming and broiler interests reach from Delmar to Redden with other farms at Dagsboro, Millsboro, Georgetown and Laurel.

Corn for use in broiler feed is the main crop grown on their 1,500 acres in Sussex County. This is processed through their own feed and grain mill at Shortly and in another mill near Seaford that they are partners in. Their broiler operation is capable of producing 8,000,000 birds a year.

Part of their success has been due to recognizing and solving farming problems by installing and maintaining good conservation and soil building practices.

In the picture, Preston and SCS Technician, A. Montague, are discussing the location of an irrigation pond on their Stockley farm.

Both Preston and Ralph are active in civic and community organizations in the Georgetown and Millsboro areas.

The Sussex Supervisors are proud that their District has several Cooperators similar to the Workman boys who started off as farm boys and have combined a successful business career with their farming operation.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Water has long been and is still recognized as the most important natural resource we have. It also is associated with being our biggest problem. In Sussex County, we either have too much water or not enough at a given time.

Landowners in Delaware, as well as everywhere else, control to a large degree the movement of water that falls on their property. This means that water necessary for domestic, municipal, industrial, recreational and agricultural purposes depend upon the farmers' and other landowners' interest in water conservation.

You know what water is. You drink it, cook with it, and grow crops with it. Industry depends upon it. Energy taken from moving water generates one-fifth of our electricity. Water in steam turbines generates an additional three-fifths of our Nation's electric power.

Transportation by water is essential to our Nation's economy.

Water is a source of recreation - boating, swimming and fishing. It sustains wildlife.

Every year we use more water than the previous year. The average daily use of water is 1,200 gallons per person.

The production of one ton of steel requires up to 110,000 gallons of water.

To produce a thousand yards of woolen cloth requires over 40,000 gallons of water.

One hundred and fifteen gallons of water are required to grow enough wheat for one loaf of bread.

What this means is that our economy in the United States is tied to how well we manage this valuable resource - Water.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER

Once again we have reached the harvest season and before long winter will be with us.

As always we have tried to gear our farm ditch construction program to fit in with the farmer's operation. This means we have planned that between now and the end of the year we will have draglines and dozers available to do as much individual farm work as we can. Any of you who have been thinking of doing some ditching this winter and just haven't mentioned it should get in touch with us and we will try to fit you into our schedule.

Since our last newsletter we have completed the East Nanticoke Tax Ditch and have started construction on the Tyndall Branch Tax Ditch near Hardscrabble. So far most of the construction has been directed at getting a large amount of clearing done before wet ground conditions set in and I would like to thank the ditch managers and the landowners on this ditch system for the cooperation they have shown in getting their timber cut ahead of our clearing operation. Well, maybe by the next newsletter we will have two or three feet of snow on the ground and prospects for a better crop year in 1967.

STATE LAND JUDGING CONTEST HELD IN KENT COUNTY

By the time you read this the fourth annual State Land Judging Contest will have been held at the Woodrow Haas Farm near Camden for 4-H and F. F. A. members throughout Delaware.

The contest was held to provide learning experience for young people interested in soil and water conservation. Contestants were required to decide whether the land used in the contest was best suited for continuous row crop, rotation pasture, occasional plowing, permanent pasture, trees or for wildlife and recreational use.

Contestants considered such factors as soil depth, texture, structure and color. Over-all soil features including drainage, moisture holding capacity and the possibility of erosion were also important in their decisions.

The Kent County Soil and Water Conservation District acted as host for the event this year. Our District will serve as host next year. Results of the judging will be announced in your local newspapers.

Your Board's interest in and support of this activity is but another example of the many ways in which it tries to help advance the Conservation of Soil and Water Resources in the District.

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