

# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

*File Copy*

## NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

## Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

JANUARY, 1967

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

The Delaware Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will hold its annual meeting in Dover on Thursday, January 12, 1967.

The State Association is made up of the Board members from the three county Districts. Elwood Tucker is President and Wm. H. Henderson is Secretary. Officers are alternated between the three Districts on a two-year schedule.

The State Association provides an opportunity for the Board members from the three Districts to exchange ideas on conservation and make plans for more effective operation of the District programs.

Sponsorship of activities designed to advance conservation on a state level is another feature of the State Association purpose. The "Conservation Education Course" for teachers held last summer, the "Land Judging Contest" for 4-H and F.F.A. members and recognition of the outstanding Cooperators in each District are examples of activities that serve this purpose.

The State Association is and should be an important part of the Soil and Water Conservation Program in the state.

\* \* \* \* \*



### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Francis Gum, Jr., of Frankford is one of the Sussex District's oldest Cooperators.

Back in 1944 when the District was first organized, Mr. Gum was one of the first farmers in the county to ask for information and assistance on his 250-acre general farm near Frankford.

During the next several years nearly 6 miles of ditch were planned and constructed on the farm. Cover cropping, liming and fertilizing for needs and other conservation practices were also followed, making this wetland farm one of the most productive in the county's southeast area.

Since then Mr. Gum has reached the age where he is now content to sit back and remember how wet it was at one time and of his days as a young left-handed pitcher in the Pacific Coast League. His sons, Robert and Waples, now carry on the farming operation.

Like most farmers and conservationists, Mr. Gum still has an intense interest in the conservation treatment of his land and recently started a program of reconstructing his drainage system which has silted in considerably during the past 20 years.

Mr. "Babe" Gum has really been a great help to the Sussex Conservation District, Extension Service and other farm groups in helping to plan policies and lend encouragement during their formative stages and by setting an example of how conservation farming pays off.

Picture shows Mr. Gum discussing next year's drainage plans with S.C.S. Technician A. Montague.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

This is the time of year when farmers are making their plans for the coming crop season. In addition to deciding what crops are going to be planted in which field, what new machinery is going to be needed, and many farmers will be planning what drainage improvements should be made this year.

Drainage in recent years has become a controversial issue between hunting interests and farmers. To the farmer, drainage has been one of the technologies that has helped to make American agriculture the most efficient and productive in history.

Most drainage was installed to remove the excess water from cropland, however, there were times when swamps were drained for farming. The Soil Conservation Service does not encourage draining of swamplands or bringing new land into cultivation.

Land used for wildlife habitat has an important role in our nation's agriculture and attention should be given by all landowners to preserve and enhance such areas. We do, however, have a responsibility to provide food and fiber for the expanding number of citizens and drainage is one important factor in this regard.

EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Hope you all had a happy holiday season.

We have started a new year and hope to make it our largest one ever in the amount of conservation practices put on the land.

Toward this end we have purchased a tiling machine and by next spring when ground conditions are right for this type of operation we hope to use it extensively throughout the county.

This will improve our drainage operations by allowing us to do some of the minor wet spot and pot hole drainage that is not practical for open ditches.

Cost-shares are available under the ACP program for this type drainage.

ELWOOD TUCKER, ELLENDALE,  
RE-ELECTED TO THE BOARD

Elwood Tucker of Ellendale was re-elected to the Board of Supervisors at the annual election held in December.

Mr. Tucker has served on the Board for 8 years. He is the third Board member to come from the Northeast area of the county. Hylon C. Smith of Lewes and Robert Short of Ellendale having previously represented that area.

Elwood operates a farm consisting of about 400 acres. He grows lima beans, corn and soybeans.

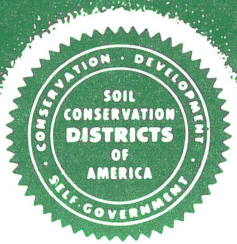
Mr. Tucker is currently serving as President of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.



\* \* \* \* \*

SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
PAID 2-7/8¢  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas



# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

FEBRUARY, 1967

*March*

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

The 21st annual meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held in Cincinnati, Ohio, February 5-9 was one of the best ever held.

Earl and Mrs. White, Cashar Evans, Elwood Tucker and Larry Irelan represented the District at the meeting. Mr. and Mrs. T. G. Adams, Sr., of Bridgeville accompanied Mr. & Mrs. White on the trip to Cincinnati.

Approximately 2,000 were in attendance from all 50 states.

Emphasis was on recreation and beautification as it is related to Conservation.

Many new ideas were brought back to Sussex by the Board members and will be of much help to the Board as it continues to provide the leadership for Soil and Water Conservation work in the District.



### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Hackleybarney Farms is the name of Joe Hudson's farming enterprise at Oyster Rock Road near Milton. Joe has been a District Cooperator since 1953. He follows conservation and soil building practices as a matter of economics. His farming operation is large and keeps him on the go most of the time.

Joe farms 500 acres of his own land and leases 2,100 acres more. His usual crop year will find 230 acres of peas, 900 acres snap beans, 140 limas, 1,500 corn and 50 acres of alfalfa. All of these crops are contracted for by local outlets including the alfalfa hay crop which is sold to the local horsemen and race tracks.

Irrigation is used on the pea, snap bean, and alfalfa acreage and Joe was one of our first Cooperators to use the soil moisture accounting method for conservation irrigation. His was one of the test farms used to gather the necessary information to set up the system. He is continuing to follow this method to apply the correct amount of water to his growing crops.

Marshland wildlife area improvement is one of his pet conservation interests, and during the past couple of years has blown several wildlife resting areas on his marshes.

Joe bases his decisions on a firm knowledge of soil structure and capabilities. Picture shows William Ireland, SCS Soil Scientist, on left, discussing soils with Joe. In the background are two of Joe's three planes that are used for custom work on mosquito control spraying, crop dusting, cover crop seeding and forestry spraying.

## EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

We finally got some winter weather but all in all this has been an exceptionally good year for construction.

We have almost finished construction on Bucks Branch Tax Ditch near Seaford and hope to be completely finished by farming time.

Work on Tyndall Branch Tax Ditch near Hardscrabble is progressing on schedule and outside of a few odds and ends we are almost caught up on completing our 1966 farm work.

Plans are now being made for scheduling our machinery for 1967 farm work so if you are planning to do any ditching, clearing, ponds, etc., be sure to get your name in the pot early.

Our new trenching machine for installing field tile is being readied for use as soon as ground conditions will permit its efficient operation.

That's about all I have for this time so keep well until our next newsletter.

SOIL AND WATER STEWARDSHIP WEEK SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 30 - MAY 7.



SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK - APRIL 30 - MAY 7, 1967

"Private citizens own or manage three-fourths of the land that makes up the United States. We look to them as producers of the abundance that flows from American agriculture--and as the preservers of our farmlands and their resources.

"When land is ruined, we blight the future of people as well as the face of America. When land is used in harmony with our needs and the requirements of nature, it rewards us with beauty and riches.

"As a nation, we have been blessed with great natural resources. We have been equally blessed with a large and growing number of men and women who use these resources well and wisely. We are indebted to them.

"I can think of no more important task than to be good and active stewards for that part of the earth entrusted to our care."

So wrote the President in the Stewardship Booklet prepared by the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts for promoting the week long observance.

Your District Board invites you

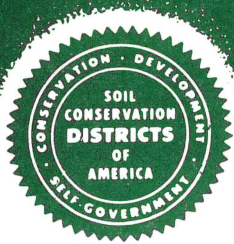
to join with them in observing Soil and Water Stewardship Week and do what you can to encourage your friends and neighbors to further the concept of Stewardship of these important resources.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,  
Secretary

SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
PAID 2-7/8¢  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas



# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

## NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

## Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

*File Copy*

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

MAY, 1967

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK --

Your District works very closely with the Federal Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture. In fact, we depend upon this agency to supply the technically trained men to provide the know-how required to install the conservation measures, such as drainage, pond construction and erosion control, on the land of District Cooperators.

Through a Memorandum of Understanding between your District and the Federal Soil Conservation Service, this cooperative effort is made possible. The original Memorandum was prepared when the District was organized in 1944. Since that time, great progress has been made in conservation work in our District and it was felt to be important to update our Memorandum of Understanding with the S. C. S. This was done and on April 18, 1967, it was approved and signed by your Board members.

Your Board is anxious that you, as a Cooperator, are made aware of this very important team approach between your District and the S. C. S. as we work to conserve--use wisely the soil and water resources of our county.

### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Cliff Parker of Selbyville is a southeastern Sussex County corn-soybean-broiler farmer. Ten years or so ago, Cliff was like most other blackland farmers. Wet weather would keep him out of the fields at planting and harvest time.

With a group of other landowners, Cliff helped organize and is now a manager of the Vines Creek Canal Tax Ditch. This provided an outlet for farm drainage in the area. Since the tax ditch was constructed, Cliff has redug old field ditches and constructed new ones to the point where he can get into his fields whenever he wants to. 25,000 feet or nearly 5 miles of farm ditches have been installed on Cliff's land.

Cliff farms 320 acres of corn and soybeans and uses modern methods to determine fertilizer, lime, etc., requirements. Other conservation measures used are winter cover cropping and crop residue use.

Along with corn and soybeans, there is a 44,000 broiler capacity on the farm, and 185 acres of growing timber.

These activities keep Cliff busy enough during the year that he hardly has time to run his bird dogs enough to keep them sharp.



The picture shows Cliff stopping his spring plowing just long enough to get snapped and say goodbye.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Parcels of land that do not fit into the general pattern of field layout are extremely valuable to wildlife. These odd areas can be made to produce food and cover for upland game. Often odd areas near marshes, lakes, or ponds can be helpful in waterfowl survival.

In Sussex County many pieces of land cut off from large fields by the location of a ditch or woods already have the kinds of plants that produce good wildlife food and cover. They need little or no improvement, except for protection from fire and overgrazing by livestock.

In other areas, a little effort can produce excellent habitat. Small patches of Shrub Lespedeza give good winter food. Also a good cover of grasses and legumes is needed by rabbits and ground-nesting birds.

Ditch banks are good wildlife areas, too. With water only a few feet away, ground-nesting birds have everything they need for propagation when a good grass-legume cover is grown.

This brings up one more important point to be considered. As landowners are maintaining their ditch banks by mowing or spraying, consideration should be given to nesting wildlife. Holding the first mowing until after the spring nesting season is over will help the young through a very dangerous period.

#####

EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

It seems like that every time you turn around, farming time is upon you again.

During the last month, we have been in a mad whirl trying to complete as much farm drainage as possible before crops are planted.

We have also made a considerable dent on the Tyndall Branch Tax Ditch near Hardscrabble.

Bucks Branch Tax Ditch near Cannons is just about finished except for a few odds and ends.

Most of our equipment has now been scheduled through the summer months, so if you have any work that you figure on doing in the fall, get in line early.

Well, I've got to get out and get some machines lined up, so you'll hear from me in our next Newsletter.

CONSERVATION - LIVING IN HARMONY WITH LAND

Our Soil and Water Conservation District should be and is concerned with more than just drainage, even though at times we may lose sight of this fact.

An item from a publication put out by Pennsylvania State University recently emphasizes this point. This item states:

"A worthy objective of natural resource conservation is to create in every person attitudes and actions which reflect a respect for natural resources and an understanding of their relationship to human welfare.

"Conservation is a state of harmony between men and land. By land is meant all of the things on, over, or in the earth. Harmony with land is like harmony with a friend; you cannot cherish his right hand and chop off his left. That is to say, you cannot love game and hate predators; you cannot build the forest and mine the farm. The land is one organism. Its parts, like our own body parts, compete with each other and cooperate with each other. The competitions are as much a part of the inner workings as the cooperations. You can regulate them-cautiously-but not abolish them. You can manage them, but it must be done wisely.

"Three major concepts of resource conservation determine the success of management programs. First, the interdependence of all natural resources must be understood. Second, facts rather than opinions must be the basis of resource conservation. And, third, citizen responsibility in a democracy must be balanced with appropriate government actions to fully reflect public concern in natural resources."

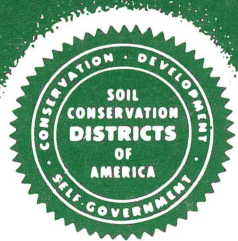
This is what your Soil and Water Conservation District is constantly striving to accomplish. Your understanding and sympathetic appreciation of this objective is most important to your District's success in this venture.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson, Secretary

SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
PAID 2-7/8¢  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas



# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

JULY, 1967

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK - -

For several years your District Board has arranged for a Cooperators Dinner Meeting in January. The purpose of this meeting was to better acquaint Cooperators with the work and activities of the District as it relates to the Conservation and Soil and Water resources in Sussex County.

Last year your Board decided to omit this meeting in an effort to determine its value in promoting a better understanding and greater support for the District's program.

We now need your help in deciding whether to hold such a meeting this January. If you would like to have your Board arrange a Cooperators Dinner Meeting this January, it will be most helpful if you will do one of three things ---

1. Call or write any one of your Board members and tell them
2. Call or write your District Office and tell Mr. Gardner
3. Tell some member of the S. C. S. staff, an equipment operator or Harold King when you see them.

### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Most people think of where they live as being north or south of the Mason-Dixon Line.

However, this can be confusing on the Family Pride Farms near Packing House Corners.

Ralph Phillips and Robert Trader own and operate this 424-acre farm that sits in the corner of the North-South-East-West boundary of the Mason-Dixon Line, so sometimes they can take a walk and be any direction they desire in relation to this historical line.

This picture shows Ralph on the left and Robert on the right standing in front of corner marker of the Mason-Dixon Line. The pavilion was erected by the State of Maryland on land which was once part of the "Family Pride" farm.

This farm has been in the Phillips family for five generations and was originally acquired by Samuel B. Phillips during the pre-Civil War Era.

Ralph and Robert combine their efforts in farming 320 acres of corn, soybeans, 70 acres of watermelons, snapbeans, and cantaloupes and 20 acres of pasture and hayland to support a herd of 20 Herefords. Like most successful farmers, they apply needed conservation practices and follow up-to-date agronomy techniques, including irrigation water management on their truck crops.

They know that to keep the land in the condition and production that it will remain the "Family Pride" when it is turned over to their children will require a lot more than planting the seed and harvesting the crop and they are determined that the farm will be in as good or better condition when their stewardship is ended than it was when they took over.

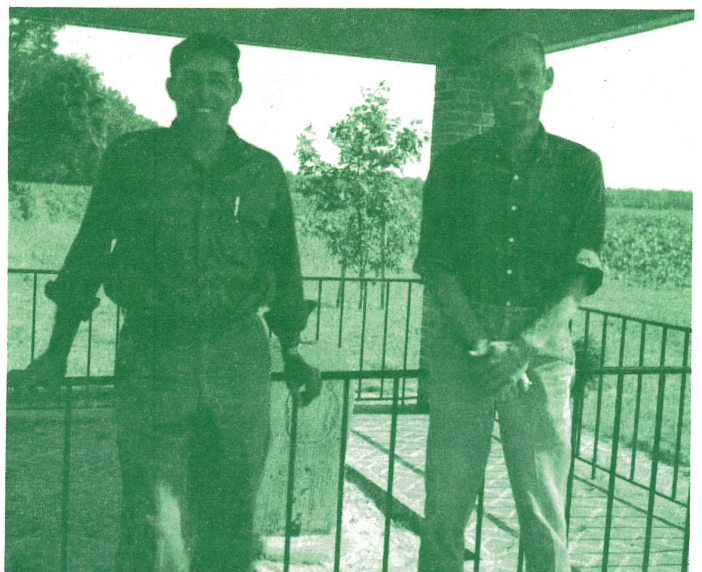
### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Residents of Sussex County are very familiar with recreation and the interest it generates among city dwellers. For years, Sussex Countians have seen vacationists cross their county toward the Atlantic Ocean and they are well aware of the economic impact it has on the area.

Trends in recent years indicate many people are not really looking for the Atlantic Ocean, but are only seeking the out-of-doors. They are looking for an area to hunt, fish, picnic, camp, swim, hike or just relax away from the tensions of city life.

The desire for outdoor recreation is fundamental to mankind in two ways. One way is that it reminds Americans of the activities so common to the early citizens of our great nation. Secondly, man has an inward desire to remain close to the basic resources of soil, water and air and the evolving plant and animal life.

(Continued on back page)



Since these desires influence all men, the present outdoor recreation facilities will soon be inadequate to meet the growing demand. Each year the beaches are getting more crowded and more camp sites require advance reservations. Hunting and fishing privileges are becoming more expensive.

Many landowners in the County have examined their potentials and are presently supplementing their income from otherwise unproductive areas. Your District encourages this and urges that you talk to your neighbors who have installed recreation facilities.

Your District representatives will be happy to talk to you about the conservation aspects of recreation.

#### EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

For the next several newsletters I thought that it would be a good idea to acquaint our Cooperators with the men who do the work on their farms and tax ditches. Most of these men are natives of Sussex County and have worked with the District from 5 to 15 years.

This picture shows Jack Rogers on the Harvey and Elias Tingle Farm at Frankford where an extensive drainage system was installed this spring.

Jack was born and raised in Sussex County near Stockley, Del. This is a case of like father like son, because many of you will remember Jack's father, "Squint" Rogers, as one of the best equipment operators that ever worked in this section of the country.



Jack has worked with the District between 6 and 7 years and is equally proficient on a crane, bulldozer or power grader.

He now lives near Georgetown on the Lewes-Georgetown road, is married and the father of three girls.

That's about all for this time except to say that our equipment is scheduled through until fall mostly on tax ditches, because of crops now being grown on practically all farms. We still plan to have machinery available as soon as crops come off to continue working on individual farm drainage jobs.

#### RECREATION ENTERPRISES CAN BOOST FARM INCOME

Recreation is a saleable farm product.

Providing rural vacations, fishing, hunting, camping and outdoor fun is already an established farm business on some farms. On other farms, it is still a new idea. Providing facilities for rural recreation and vacations promises to grow at a fast pace in the years ahead.

Some reasons why it promises to grow are: (1) Urban population is growing rapidly, (2) income per family is rising, (3) leisure time and paid vacations are increasing, (4) people get around more, and (5) public recreation facilities are limited.

City people want relief from the stress and tensions of urban life. Many like healthful, outdoor types of recreation and most of these new facilities will, of necessity, be on private owned lands.

Farmers and other landowners can take advantage of this fast growing market by developing tourist and recreational facilities on their land. Play for pay can mean extra income for a number of farmers here in Sussex County.

Your Soil & Water Conservation District is in a position to help you develop plans for such facilities. If you are interested, contact your District Office for further information.

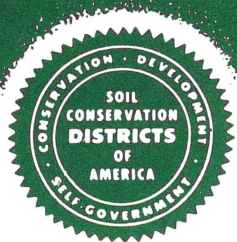
Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson  
Secretary

**SUSSEX COUNTY**  
**SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
**PAID 2-7/8¢**  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas





# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

## NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

## Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

SEPTEMBER, 1967

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK:

Delaware is one of the twelve northeastern states that compose the Northeast Area of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Each year this area has a summer meeting. This year the meeting was held in Niagara Falls with 300 in attendance.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss Conservation problems of mutual interest to Districts throughout the Northeast.

Water conservation was one of the main subjects for discussion this year. Dr. Daniel Hale of West Virginia spoke on the subject, "The Challenge and Opportunities to Districts in the Improvement of Water Quality." In his talk, Dr. Hale stressed the importance of teamwork between all agencies concerned with water conservation and water quality. A copy of Dr. Hale's talk is available from your secretary for anyone who would care to read it.

Attending the meeting from Delaware were State Conservationist Wm. R. Ratledge; Isaac and Mrs. Thomas from Kent District; Alden and Mrs. Short, Earl and Mrs. White and William and Mrs. Henderson, all from our District.

The meeting in 1968 will be in Maine and in 1969 the group will come to Delaware.

We shall look forward to having the group come to our State in 1969 and hope many District Cooperators can attend.

### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

This issue's Cooperator is James Pusey. Jim tills 475 acres in a corn-soybean-small grain operation, centered in the Hardscrabble area.

Most of this acreage is owned by Jim or his Dad in a combined family operation.

Jim was born and raised within two miles of his present home. He graduated from Georgetown High School and has followed farming ever since. He married the former Thelma Elliott who also grew up nearby. Both Thelma and Jim have been long-time members of the Asbury Methodist Church.

Just recently, Jim was elected by his neighbors to serve as Chairman of the Tyndall Branch Tax Ditch. This drainage job is part of the Nanticoke River Watershed project with 38 miles of drainage outlets planned to be installed.

As Ditch Manager and as a farmer within the project, Jim realizes the value of good drainage to his local area's economy, especially during the heavy rains that we had this August.

Jim also recognizes the importance of good maintenance once these systems have been established.



Pictured above is Jim discussing his farming operation with SCS Technician Albert Montague.

### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Recent rains have made Sussex County residents appreciate the drainage efforts of the past. Although the open ditches constructed during recent dry years have not appeared to be as essential as some may think, they have proven their worth by saving many crops during August.

In covering Sussex County, it appeared as though most of the rain occurred in the northwest section. Ditches constructed around Bridgeville and Greenwood showed that drainage was beneficial to the vegetable crops of that area. In the same area, it was demonstrated that corn and soybeans are much more tolerant of temporary flooding than the vegetable crops.

Down in the center of the county near Georgetown, Laurel and Seaford, the rain was spread over a longer period of time allowing more time for runoff. Here, damage generally was lesser than other areas.

In the southeastern section not as much rain fell and it appeared that where adequate drainage had been installed, damage was minimal.

(Continued on back page)

Another point of interest concerning the rains was the rate at which the water ran off. In areas where drainage had been done, temporary flooding occurred; however, it usually ran off in less than 24 hours doing little damage. In other areas, flooding was still present after 72 hours and much damage was done to crops.

In talking with the County Agent, I find that crop disease has increased considerably with the rains of this year. Ed. Ralph and Bill Henderson can readily spot areas of poor drainage solely by plant diseases.

#### YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

For some strange reason, our demands for constructing ponds has fallen off severely during this July and August, which is usually the most pressing time for this practice. I wonder why?

It really has been wet the last two months, hasn't it? However, crops in most of the county where drainage ditches have been constructed don't seem to have suffered too much.

This month, our featured operator is Norris Bryan. Norris has operated a dragline for the District for the past six years. He was raised in the Seaford area and now lives in Georgetown. Norris is married and has two children.

Norris' real ambition is to go on the professional bowlers' tour or to win the Indianapolis 500. Donald Passwaters claims that Norris will never make the grade in either one.



Pictured above is Norris standing by his machine.

#### TAX DITCH MAINTENANCE -- WHO WILL DO IT?

Maintenance of a tax ditch is the responsibility of all the taxables on the ditch and should be of concern to each taxable.

Experience on numerous tax ditches throughout Sussex County over a number of years leads to the conclusion that, in too many instances, maintenance is neglected and the result is that the ditches have to be almost completely rebuilt at tremendous expense.

Recently, legislation was enacted that makes it possible for the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission to provide for the maintenance of tax ditches out of state funds.

In order for this to be done, it is necessary for 50% of the taxables, owning 50% of the land on a tax ditch system, to request the Commission, in writing, to provide the maintenance.

The Deep Creek Tax Ditch, located just west of Georgetown, at a recent meeting of its managers, decided to send a letter to all of its taxables advising them of this fact. A copy of that part of the legislation which states specifically what is involved when a Tax Ditch transfers its responsibility for maintaining the ditch to the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission was enclosed with the letter.

This is the first action on the part of any tax ditch to determine if their taxables favor such a move.

Progress on this matter will be watched with interest by your Board of Supervisors. If the taxables approve the idea, maintenance of the Deep Creek Tax Ditch may well set the example for maintenance of other tax ditches in the State.

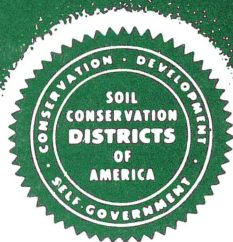
What is your thought on the matter?

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,  
Secretary

SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
PAID 2-7/8¢  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas



# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

## NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

## Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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

NOVEMBER, 1967

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Each year, in December, every District Cooperator has a responsibility to his District and his fellow Cooperators, in helping to select a member to serve on the Board of Supervisors.

The work on this actually starts in November with the nominating of candidates. Nominations are made in two ways: First, the Board of Supervisors has the responsibility of nominating a candidate and, second, any ten farmers or landowners in the county may nominate a candidate by submitting the proposed candidate's name to the Board of Supervisors at the address shown on this newsletter by November 20th.

The Board has re-nominated Cashar Evans of Selbyville as a candidate.

A candidate must be a farm operator or landowner residing in the southeast section of the county (that area of the county east of Route 113 and south of a line extending along Route 18 from Georgetown to Lewes).

The final step in the election is to cast your vote for the candidate of your choice, providing there is more than one candidate 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

This month's Cooperator is Earl Fleetwood of Laurel. Earl and his son rent or own 400 acres of which 223 is tillable.

Corn, soybeans, small grain and 12-15 acres of watermelons are grown each year. They also have a 46,000 broiler capacity and market around 100 hogs annually.

Earl has been a District Cooperator for several years and just during the past month constructed an irrigation pond on one of his farms with the intention of being able to increase his watermelon acreage. Picture shows Earl standing in field with crane in background digging pond.



### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

We in agriculture are aware of the great number of changes that have taken place in recent years to improve the production of food and fiber. Modern farming systems are combinations of advanced technology - improved fertilizers and methods of application; improved varieties of crops, grasses, and trees; better methods of control of diseases, insects, and weeds; improved machinery for maximum efficiency; and positive water control such as controlled runoff, drainage, and irrigation.

Farming today is the use of all these technologies, in the proper proportions, to achieve the maximum yields with the minimum amount of input.

Each of these technologies is tied to one basic resource, however, and that is the soil. We are becoming increasingly aware of the value of the soil and the factors that affect it.

Improved slow release fertilizers and irrigation let us now produce in sandy soils. Complex drainage systems now let us produce in wet soils.

Your Soil Conservation District is interested in you and your soil. Technical help is available to assist you in making decisions concerning the uses you make of your soil.

Also, if you need assistance in improvement of your soil, your District wants to help. Remember, conservation is the wise use of your most valuable resource - your land.

## YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Corn is almost all harvested and soybeans are coming off fast. This usually means that about this time farmers start wanting their ditching done.

We are trying to arrange our equipment schedule to meet as much of this demand as possible.

During most of the summer and even at the present, most of our machines have been busy working on two tax ditch watershed contracts, one near Hardscrabble and the other in the Oakley-Redden Section.

The picture shows our 1-1/2 yard Lima crane on the Oakley Ditch. The operator of this machine is Ernie Lowe. He was born in West Virginia, but moved to the Eastern Shore while he was still young enough to save. Ernie has been a crane operator for the District for the last 2-1/2 years and before that was a bulldozer operator. This is his fifth year as a District equipment operator.

Ernie is married, has two children and makes his home on Piney Neck Road near Dagsboro. Most of his free time since he and his wife Christine built their new home has been spent in cutting grass, planting shrubs, cutting grass and cutting grass, getting things shipshape and cutting grass.

We'll, I've got to go see a man about a ditch, so so-long 'till our next newsletter.



## FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

On October 28th, the State Land Judging Contest was held in New Castle County with approximately 100 4-H and F. F. A. members participating. The contest provides an opportunity for these young people to learn about Soil and Water Conservation. Such factors as soil depth, structure, texture and color were studied. Features including drainage, moisture holding capacity and the possibility of erosion damage were considered in making decisions concerning the land.

The contest was sponsored by the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which your District is a part. Results of the contest will be announced in the January Newsletter.

The annual meeting of the State Association will be held in Dover on Thursday, January 18th. A report on this meeting will be made in the March letter.

There is a very good possibility that a Cooperators' dinner meeting will be held on the evening of January 18th in Georgetown. Hold that date. Plans will be firmed up soon and if it is to be held, you will be seeing an account of it in the newspaper and hearing about it on the radio.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,  
Secretary



**SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
Georgetown, Delaware  
RETURN REQUESTED

U. S. Postage  
**PAID 2-7/8¢**  
Permit No. 1  
League City, Texas