

Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

JANUARY, 1968

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.....

On Thursday, January 18, our Annual Cooperators' Dinner Meeting will be held at the Georgetown High School Cafeteria at 7 p. m.

The program will provide information about your District operations as they relate to the conservation of soil and water resources on your farm. There will be some singing and other entertainment and, of course, a delicious dinner.

Tickets may be obtained from any of the following:

Oscar Draper, Greenwood
Earl White, Bridgeville
Paul B. Hastings, Seaford
Joseph N. Elliott, Laurel
John Annett, Staytonville
Elwood Tucker, Ellendale
Joseph R. Hudson, Milton
Hylon C. Smith, Lewes

Alden Short, Georgetown
Harley Moore, Millsboro
Raymond E. Townsend, Dagsboro
Cashar Evans, Selbyville
Harold Marvel, Frankford
Paul Lowe, Gumboro
Harold King, Georgetown
Harold Gardner, District Office

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

We urge you to get your tickets by January 15.

Your support of this activity is one way you can show your interest in your District program.

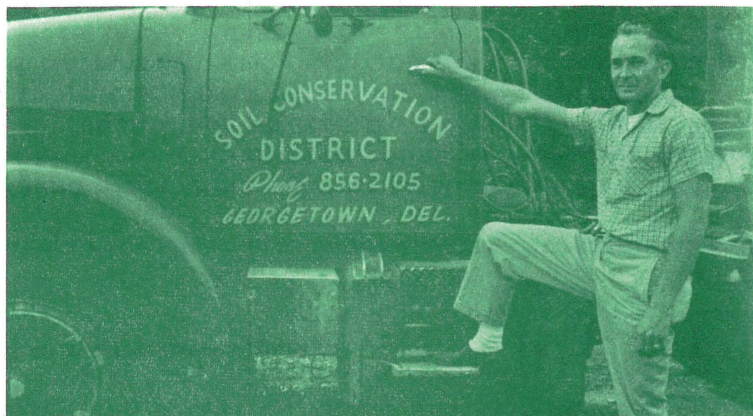
MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

For this issue, we would like to make a group the recipient of our nomination as Cooperator of the month.

This group numbers around 1,200 good conservation farmers who have signed agreements with the District.

The majority of these farmers have installed several conservation practices with the assistance of District equipment.

Picture shows a good number of these Cooperators at a previous District-Cooperators' Dinner. Can you find yourself if you were there? This dinner is going to be held again this year and details as to time, place, and where tickets are available are discussed more fully in another part of the Newsletter.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Advances in equipment manufacture and design, improved seeds and fertilizers, and constant methodology study are helping today's farmer produce food and fiber in increasing volume and at an efficiency rate never before known to man.

Conservation research is continuing to advance in many facets. One innovation that is of interest to Sussex County farmers is a new type of drainage.

Historically, open ditches have been the primary type of drainage installed in the area. Some clay tile has been installed, but the cost has prohibited extensive use. The regular 4-inch diameter clay tile which is manufactured in one foot sections has been used for centuries for agricultural drainage. There has always been much labor needed for the installation. This expense, in addition to the cost of shipping the heavy tile, has made clay tile cost 2-3 times as much as open ditches.

Recently, plastic has been used experimentally for agricultural drainage. A plastic tube is now available for drainage purposes that is lightweight, strong, durable in most Sussex County soils, and relatively inexpensive. The plastic tubing is perforated to allow water to enter. It is delivered in 250 foot lengths in a coil of five feet in diameter. A coil weighs eighty-two pounds.

Your Sussex District recently installed some of this plastic tubing near Seaford.

Although it is too early to know all the answers, it appears as though plastic tile installation has a big place in your District's future. For more information regarding this, contact your District Office.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Well, Christmas is over and another year has begun, and it seems that after all these years of digging ditches and leveling spoil that there are just as many jobs to be done as there was when we first started.

The Tyndall Branch Ditch near Hardscrabble is now almost completed. The Oakley Branch project has been slowed down by the horrible wet weather that we have been having. We installed our first job with our tile-trencher last month on the David Baker farm near Cannons crossing.

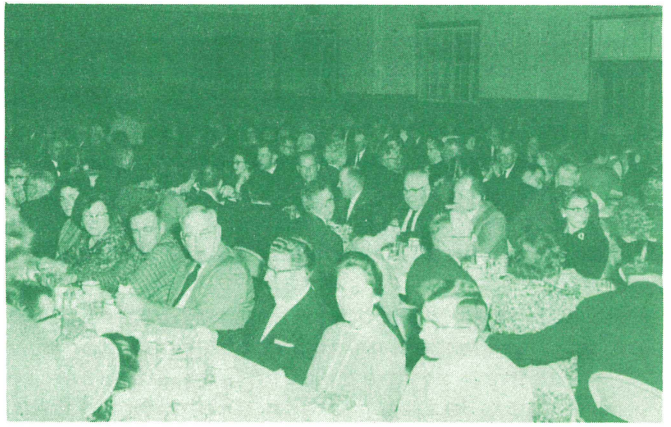
The equipment operator this month is Donald Passwaters. Donald is one of the most indispensable members of our crew. He can move machines all over Sussex Co. with directions via radio like, "Donald, do you remember that farm that Tab worked on three years ago where the bees stung him? Well, go past that farm about two miles and turn left and it will be the first farm on the right."

Being able to remember and work on verbal instructions like these have made Donald invaluable in keeping our machinery moving efficiently from job to job.

Donald has been with the District for six years now and was born, raised and attended school in the Bridgeville area. He now resides in Seaford, is single but looking hard and long to change this pitiful state of affairs.

Picture shows Donald standing by his vehicle ready to mount up and get on the road. Donald says that he takes a lot better picture than some people he knows and also bowls a better game than the same person.

Well, Happy New Year and so long until our next newsletter.



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Cashar Evans, Selbyville, was re-elected to the Board of Supervisors at the annual election in December.

Mr. Evans has been a member of the Board since 1951 and has been active in all phases of the District program. He has served on numerous committees concerned with advancing the conservation of soil and water resources of the county and state. As a Director of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts representing the eleven northeastern states, he has attended most of the Area and National meetings during the past sixteen years.

The Laurel F. F. A. Chapter took top honors in the Vocational Agriculture Division of the Land Judging Contest on October 28 at the University of Delaware Farm, Newark.

Members of the team include Oliver Bennett, Robert Nichols, Craig Megee and Sam Greene.

The Greenwood F. F. A. Chapter took second place. Their team members were Gary Drummond, Gary Lloyd and John Webb.

In the 4-H Division, Kent County took top honors. Team members were Beverly Lucks, Janice Harrison and Joseph Gibson. Second place in the 4-H Division went to the New Castle team composed of Nancy Harvey, Donald Moore, Henry Retz and Ned Williams.

Fifty-two F. F. A. and 4-H members took part in this year's contest which is planned to provide a learning experience for young people in soil and water conservation.

The State Association's annual meeting will be held in Dover on January 18 starting at 10 a. m. A report on the meeting will be included in the March newsletter.

Be sure and get your tickets for the Cooperators' Dinner by January 15.

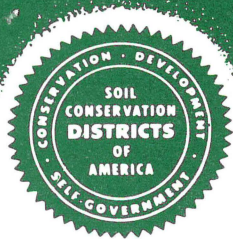
Sincerely,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary

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

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MARCH, 1968

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Our annual Cooperators' dinner meeting on January 18 in the Georgetown School Cafeteria proved to be a very pleasant occasion for us and we hope for all who attended.

283 Cooperators and friends of the District were in attendance and enjoyed the delicious dinner served by the English Grill of Salisbury.

District Cooperator Elias Tingle of Frankford served as toastmaster and entertained with his stories and conducted the meeting in grand style.

The Epworth Quartette of Laurel provided a most enjoyable and inspirational group of religious songs which added much to the evening's program.

Wm. R. Ratledge, State Conservationist from Newark, gave a colored slide talk on the subject "Conservation on the Land Equals Dollars in the Hand".

A highlight of the evening's program was the recognition of Earl and Mrs. White for 25 years of loyal and devoted service to Conservation in Sussex County.

This annual meeting is but one of many ways in which your Board tries to keep Cooperators aware of the important work your District is doing in the field of Conservation.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

This month's Cooperator is Richard Sapp, who has done his farming in the Milton area for the past seven years. Previous to that, he helped out on his family dairy farm operation at Harrington. Richard attended schools in the area and graduated from Harrington High. He was a 4-year Vo-Ag Student and still works closely with Extension Service and other conservation agencies. Richard is another young Sussex Countian who is convinced that there is a good future in farming.

His present farming is conducted on 425 acres of his own and rented land, in partnership with his father.

A normal year's operation would consist of 175 acres corn, 150 acres soybeans and 100 acres of lima beans. When all this is finished, Richard still has enough energy after a short vacation to work as a surveying aid on drainage projects with the Soil Conservation Service in Georgetown during the winter and early spring.

Richard is married and has one daughter.

He is active in the Farm Bureau and is a past State President of the Bureau's Youth Group. At the present time, he is a member of the Bureau's Board of Directors.



Richard is shown discussing irrigation possibilities with John Bister (on left), Soil Conservation Service Engineer.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

No one would consider building a house without a plan, yet most home owners indiscriminately plant shrubs, flowers and trees around their homes without any consideration other than "I think that will look nice there".

Conservation problems such as drainage, wet basements, gutter downspouts, and inadequate sewage disposal get some attention; however, all too often, this attention is given after the problem has been created.

Another conservation tip home owners want to consider is planting trees for shade and fuel-saving windbreaks.

Proper lawn mixtures, fertilization and liming can help stabilize areas around buildings where erosion will occur. On steep slopes, the use of vines can be attractive as well as practical for stabilization.

Proper grading away from a house can help thwart wet basements and foundation settlement. Diversion of water from your gutter downspouts to areas away from your cesspool will contribute to longer life of your sewage disposal system.

Another tip is to plant shrubs that provide food, cover and nesting areas for wild birds. This will give enjoyment as well as beauty to your home.

Make a sketch of your property noting conservation problems and interests. You owe it to yourself to plan for proper conservation treatments on your property.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT



District. Picture shows Bob standing by his "Old Faithful", during a break in spoil leveling operation.

See you around and so long until our April issue.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

We are proud of the recognition our District received at the National Association meeting in Dallas in February. The second place plaque and \$50 check for the Northeastern area in the Newsletter Contest came as quite a surprise. It speaks well for the job everyone is doing in getting conservation on the land and in telling everyone about the work of the District.

The plaque which is pictured here will be hung in the District Office as a reminder to keep up the good work.

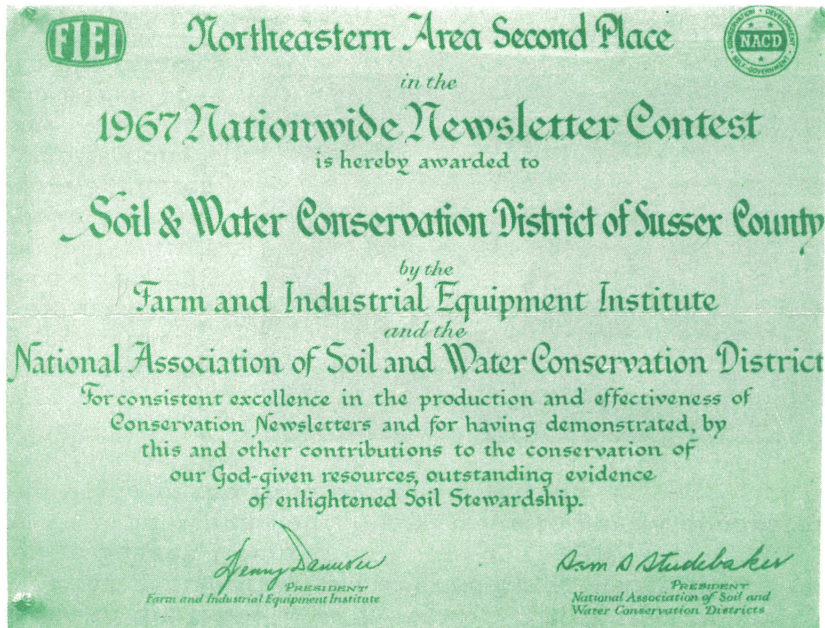
Soil Stewardship Week will be observed during the week of May 19 - 26. Theme for this year's observance will be "A Time for Initiative" which underscores the obligation each of us has in meeting our responsibilities as stewards of these precious natural resources.

You can help in this observance by encouraging your Church, your school, your service club and other organizations in your community to sponsor a program on the subject "Soil Stewardship" during the month of May.

If your District Secretary or Conservationist can help in this important work, call on us.

Sincerely,

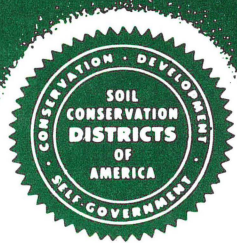
Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary



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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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MAY, 1968

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Soil Stewardship Week will be observed throughout our nation during the week of May 19-26. The theme for this year's observance is "A Time for Initiative." It seems quite appropriate. These next few lines will explain why we think so.

Consider the time---across the nation, in our villages and towns as well as in our cities and suburbs, a deep-rooted change is taking place. Natural resources once taken for granted are being regarded with increasing importance. Clean water and air, along with trees and soil, are taking on a new meaning. People are discovering these resources are not only limited and vital, but vulnerable to fouling, waste and ruin. People are awakening to the needs for better stewardship. On all sides there is a new climate for conservation.

It is a time for initiative--because great values are in the balance.

It is a time to become involved. It is a time to join in planning. It is a time of leadership - because the job to be done is as large as the nation and the years for doing it are short.

Your Board urges you to use your own initiative in encouraging the practice of good stewardship in every way that you can.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

This month's Cooperator is a farmer who makes his living dirt farming on black land. No broilers, no outside jobs, just the income from tilling 450 acres of land on which corn and soybeans are the crops. This is done with almost no hiring of outside labor.

The farmer is Ralph Timmons of Dagsboro, who tills 200 acres of his own and 250 acres of his brother's land. Most of this acreage is mapped as Pocomoke soil, which means black land with a drainage problem.

Around 15 years ago, Ralph started an intensive drainage program and today nearly all his land is drained to the point where he is sure of a bumper crop during any growing season. Ralph has been a District Cooperator for the past 16 years.

Approximately 7 miles of farm drainage ditches have been installed on the 450 acres that Ralph tills. With drainage came the full benefits from lime, fertilizer and cover crop application and today on an average yield per acre basis, Ralph is one of the high production farmers in the county.

Ralph is married and has two sons. One is grown and the other is still attending high school.



Ralph is shown standing beside a newly constructed ditch on one of his farms.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

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 MANAGER'S REPORT

This month we thought that we would feature our bookkeeping department.

The photo shows Harold "Larry" Gardner and Laura Atkins in their office.

Larry is the man responsible for sending out all those yellow bills. He is fondly known as the "Shy-lock" of the Sussex District. He came to Sussex County during the war and was connected with various feed and hatchery enterprises. Previous to that, he had worked for the Rhode Island Dept. of Agriculture. Larry has been the District Accountant since 1953. He and his wife make their home in Millsboro and have children and grandchildren strung up and down the east coast. Larry's hobbies are deer hunting and sunbathing, and the only thing that worries him is how to keep his hair from hanging in his eyes.

Laura works part-time each week during the billing and takes over completely whenever Larry is on vacation or sick. Laura resides in Georgetown, was born in the Cokesbury Church area and was one of the Elliott girls.

When I get tired of looking at Larry's shaggy head of hair, I turn my chair in Laura's direction to rest my eyes.

Farming time is on us again and in a couple of more weeks, it will be time to take our machines back into the woods on tax ditches until after crops are harvested. Right now, I've got to get on the road and see 42 people about 63 different things, so 'till our next newsletter, so long.

Harold A. King

FROM YOUR ASCS OFFICE.....

A local landowner remarked the other day "that tax ditch prong your friends are digging by me won't help me at all. My land is high and dry - except...." Then he went on to explain that there was a low pot hole in one field but he was afraid a tile line to the ditch would be too expensive. This brings to mind two practices that conservation-minded farmers could use more in Sussex County.

One is 'tile drainage' with the possibility of using the new plastic tubing mentioned in your January Newsletter. This has been approved for ACP assistance in Delaware.

The other practice is 'land leveling' to permit adequate drainage. The last few days, as the fields dried out, plowing was progressing. I noticed several small field areas where the water was still standing even though there was a working ditch beside the field only a few feet away. The cover crop had been drowned out and soon this area would become a hard-baked spot, as sterile as a concrete road.

If you have these problems, why not stop in and talk it over with your District Conservationist and then drop across the hall to the ASCS Office. Conservation is everyone's job.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

We are happy to welcome Donald Campbell, Office Manager for the ASCS Committee, as a contributor to the newsletter. We have long considered our friends in the ASCS Office as a part of the team. We believe you will find the item "From the ASCS Office" of interest as it appears in future letters.

* * * * *

The Northeast Area meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be held in Maine on July 21-22-23. Plans call for some of our Board members, along with Board members from Kent and New Castle, to attend. The meeting is open to anyone interested in Conservation. Perhaps you may be interested in going. I would be happy to make the necessary reservations for you.

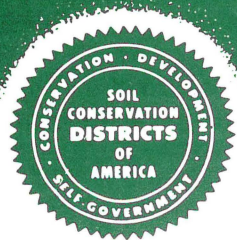
Next year the meeting will be held in Delaware. We are looking forward to it in anticipation of a very productive session from the conservation standpoint.

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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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July
JUNE, 1968

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

The Northeastern Area Meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will be held in Presque Isle, Maine, on July 21 through July 24.

Earl and Mrs. White and Bill and Margaret Henderson will represent our Board at this important meeting.

Theme for this year's program is "The Key Conservation Issues of 1968."

The four days will be filled with talks, group discussions, workshops and tours all aimed at helping to meet the conservation needs of the 12 northeastern states.

An invitation will be extended to the group by Delaware to come to our state next year, possibly in August.

We shall look forward to having our friends from the other states visit us in 1969 and shall count on Cooperators from our District to help us make this stay in Delaware pleasant and productive.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

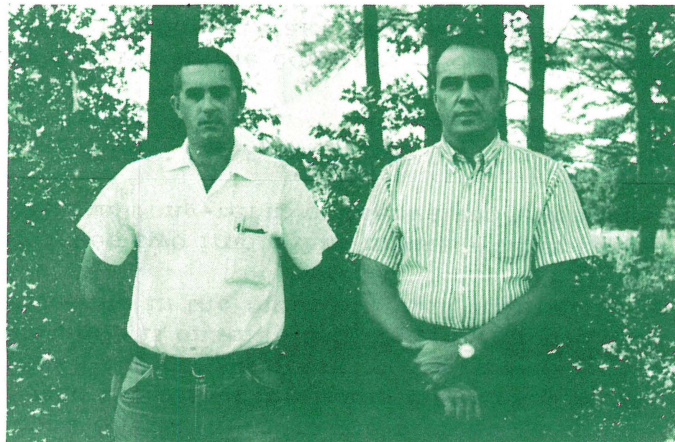
Every once in a while you encounter someone who works 24 hours a day and wishes that there were 30 so that they could get more done.

Robert Fitzgerald, this month's Cooperator, is one of these people.

Robert owns 700 acres of which 450 are tillable. In addition, he rents 450 acres. He grows corn, soybeans, small grain and limas. Since farming 900 acres only occupies a portion of his time, he also buys and harvests pulpwood, and working with the Glatfelter Corp., does most of their pulpwood cutting locally. As a spare time hobby, he also grows broilers and until recently had a herd of Black Angus cattle. Since he sold them, he has gotten lonesome and is thinking of restocking this fall.

Robert has been a District Cooperator for about 10 years and during that time has cleared approximately 300 acres of cutover timber land, dug a farm pond, constructed drainage ditches and smoothed and graded 40 to 50 acres.

Robert is married and has two children.



Robert on the right and Tom Reeder of the Glatfelter Corp. on the left during a visit to the local SCS Office.

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 cannot 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.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Well, summer is here again, corn is growing and most of our machinery is working back in the woods 'till after harvest. I have found out several times in the last two weeks that there are still a few damp spots around Sussex County where it is still possible to get stuck.

This month's operator is Dale Wooten. Dale has worked with the Kent and Sussex Districts for seven years, the last two being spent in Sussex as a crane operator. Dale also runs bulldozers and other construction equipment.

Dale was born in Georgetown, raised in Millsboro and attended schools there. He is married and has one child. Dale and his wife just recently moved into their new home north of Georgetown.

Dale has always been interested in horses and ponies and presently has a pacer in training that he hopes will be a big winner at Roosevelt and Younkers. Dale's only concession to being a horseman is the hat he wears to ride herd on his crane.



Dale and his hat standing by his crane on Oakley Branch Tax Ditch near Owens Station.

NOTES FROM THE ASCS OFFICE.....

Another example of the fine cooperation between the District and ASCS recently occurred. We were faced with the problem of unloading and storing 10 surplus CCC grain bins which were recently sold at auction in Sussex County. Robert Fitzgerald, a District Cooperator and an ASCS participant, purchased some of the bins. The final stage of erection of the second bin is shown in the picture.

Adequate and safe farm storage helps conservation in many ways. Besides providing a place to keep small grains for cover crop seedings, it enables a farmer to handle his harvesting and marketing in the most efficient manner for his operation.

This, in turn, frees two important inputs - time and capital for investment in long-term conservation improvements to his land.



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Many people in the state have long enjoyed a Sunday's drive in the country. To watch growing crops and grazing livestock relaxes and inspires. We, in Sussex, take this for granted and think very little about its value.

Since 1930, the spread of urban development, transportation systems and military bases have absorbed over 64,000 acres of Delaware's rural land. True, most of this has been in New Castle and Kent Counties, but the time is near when Sussex will feel this pressure.

Effective programs to preserve agricultural areas are under way in many states. It is not too soon to start a program in Sussex. If you share this concern, why not contact your District Board and discuss this matter with them.

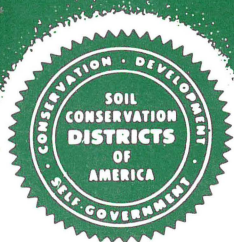
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SEPTEMBER, 1968

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Each year the question of "Should the District hold a cooperator's dinner meeting?" confronts your Board and requires an answer.

The pros and cons of the matter are weighed carefully before the decision is reached.

During the last five years, four meetings have been held. These meetings have been well attended with an average of just over 300 each year.

The programs have been designed to help cooperators know more about the District operations and how it helps in getting conservation practices established.

Your Board needs your help in deciding the answer to this question this year.

Will you call your District office at 856-2105 and express your opinion of whether a meeting should be held this year? Your help in this matter will be appreciated.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

This month's Cooperator comes from the Woodenhawk area, west of Bridgeville. William Vanderwende carries on an 80 milker dairy operation as well as farming 1,360 acres of corn-soybeans-limas, stringbeans, wheat and barley. This operation gained William the honor of being chosen the Delaware Jaycees "Farmer of the Year".

William, his wife, three sons, and one daughter reside in Sussex County, but he is a man for all counties since part of his operation is in Kent County, Delaware, and in Caroline County, Maryland.

He also has been elected by his fellow farmers as Chairman of Managers on the Marshy Hope Tax Ditch Project now under construction. As such he conducts the business of the ditch organization and acts for the whole group of landowners in dealings with State and Federal Representatives.

William has been a District Cooperator for several years and just recently started establishing a drainage plan.

Picture shows William getting two of his sons ready to start farming.



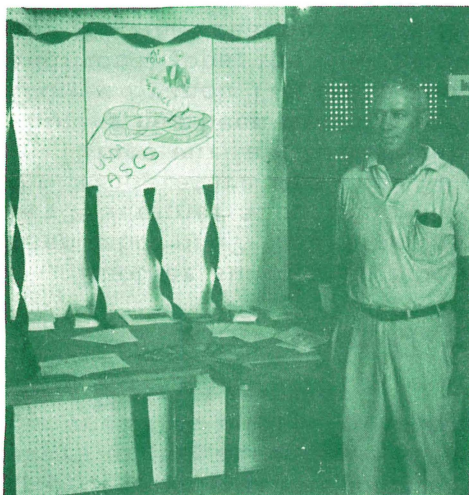
NOTES FROM THE ASCS OFFICE.....

Good farm management involves control of all your "inputs". It has often been said, "What we can measure we can control." This applies to our land as well as our fertilizer, seed and herbicides.

One of the advantages of our program is the Measurement Service we offer for the acreage of your fields and the bushels of grain in your bins.

Tom Elliott, shown here at our display on Farm Field Day, is in charge of these measurements. His tools are our aerial photographs and a steel tape when necessary. Tom is also a farmer himself and this experience insures that our measurements are what a farmer can really use.

In future Newsletters we will introduce the rest of the staff of our office.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

In the United States today, we have an adequate supply of water. This does not mean, however, that we have an adequate supply in all locations at all times.

Water supply and water quality are more important now with population increases and water consumption per person increasing.

(continued on next page)

By the year 2000 we can expect that:

- ... Irrigation use will be increased 50 per cent.
- ... Municipal water use will double and manufacturing need may quadruple.
- ... Outdoor recreation land requirements will more than double and popular recreation activities are water oriented.

If we are to meet increasing demands, we must give close attention to water quality for all uses.

Your Soil Conservation District is aware of water problems and continuously works toward improvements in this area. Your District has been working with farmers and landowners for years urging acceptance of new conservation concepts and new techniques. It is natural for communities interested in conservation programs to turn to Conservation Districts for help. Your District is ready.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Another summer is now history, and hasn't it been a hot one? It seems that I can't ever remember a summer around here with so many days when the temperature was over 90 degrees.

Since our last newsletter, your District machinery has been working steadily to finish the Oakley Branch Tax Ditch and has undertaken two additional jobs; the Georgetown-Vaughn Tax Ditch and the final channel of the Deep Creek Tax Ditch. These are scheduled for completion by crop time of 1969.

This time we are going to acquaint you with the boys that keep the equipment-purring like a tom cat; our shop and maintenance force.

From left to right in picture are: Robert Herrington-Millville section-with District 12 years; Elmer Daisey-Roxana section-with District 2 years; Dale Mears-Shortley section-with District 4 years.

All are married and have families, and all but Herrington were born in Sussex County. Robert came from some little place in Mississippi that he won't tell anyone the name of.

How many of you attended the tile laying demonstration at the Univ. of Delaware Field Day? What did you think of it and its value in Sussex County? Write and let us know your thoughts along these lines.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Demonstrating how to install plastic drainage pipe at the University of Delaware Substation's Farm & Home Field Day on August 14.

Larry Irelan, District Conservationist, conducted the demonstration and Bob Harrington, District equipment operator, handled the machine.

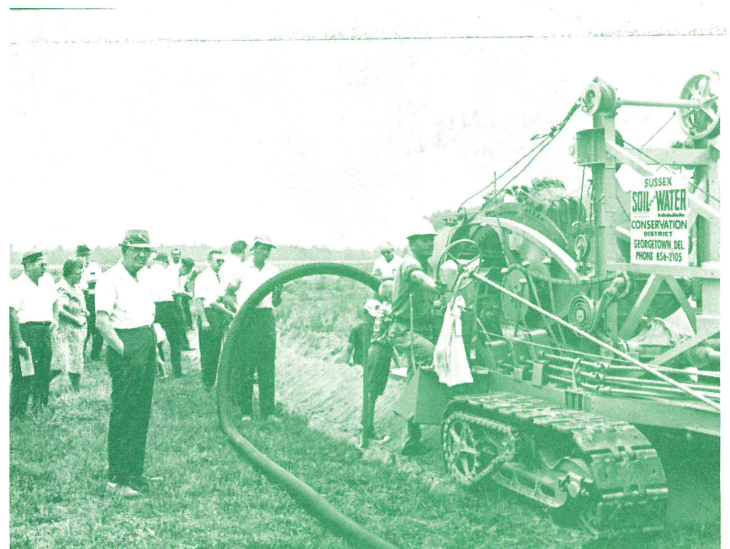
The plastic pipe was furnished by Advanced Drainage Systems, Incorporated, of Middletown, Delaware.

Rollie Lewis (in foreground), ASCS County Committeeman, looks on. The ASCS provides financial assistance in carrying out this conservation practice.

Interested landowners would do well to discuss this practice with your District Conservationist.

Sincerely yours,

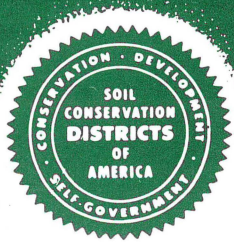
Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary



**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

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, 1968

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Our newsletter for this month is featuring highlights from our annual report for last year. 1967 was a productive year in terms of conservation accomplishment for our District. Many advances have been made in the protection and preservation of the valuable natural resources of the county.

During the year we assisted 46 landowners to prepare conservation plans covering 5,915 acres. In addition to this, 6 group plans that provided drainage outlets for 199 landowners on 3,527 acres were prepared. Fifteen farmers have adopted the irrigation water management practice on 3,007 acres.

Your District Board has received excellent cooperation from many public agencies and private groups in carrying out its work. For this we express our thanks.

In other sections of this newsletter will be found additional information from our annual report which we hope you will find interesting and useful.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST.....

The past year showed many accomplishments in the conservation of natural resources through the efforts of your District. The Soil Conservation Service worked with 325 individual landowners on planning and application of conservation practices. Some of the installations include:

Cover Crops	10,542 acres
Conservation Cropping Systems	11,075 acres
Crop Residue Use	11,052 acres
Farm Drainage Ditches	18.5 miles
Obstruction Removal	6.2 acres
Stream Channel Improvement	38.0 miles
Land Smoothing	8 acres
Structures	71
Spoilbank spreading	35.0 miles
Land Clearing	403.7 acres
Soil Surveys	42,305 acres
Ponds (all types)	7
Ponds (stocked with fish)	5

We, of SCS, are pleased to assist the Sussex District in fulfilling its conservation program.

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE

The cooperation between the Sussex Soil & Water Conservation District and the ASCS Office has a long history. We are all proud that Sussex County was the first one approved under the small watershed act. Throughout the years we have worked together to develop and install many conservation practices. The assistance of the ASCS programs has enabled many farmers to do this work to a much greater extent than they would have been able to do with their own resources.

In the 1967 ACP work, the District has completed 48 practices including 11 ponds, 33 on-the-farm drainage projects and three land levelling practices to permit drainage. The ASCS contribution that year was \$16,000 and of course the farmers matched that with at least an equal amount and in some cases more.

The main purpose of reviewing past accomplishments is not to rest on our laurels, but to recognize what can be done and then plan to renew our efforts to work together to install more needed conservation projects in our county.

YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Since this issue is serving in place of an annual report, I thought that you would all like to see the big sign in front of our office. Incidentally, that's yours truly standing in front of the sign.

Your District's ambitions, goals, workload and past accomplishments are being covered in other sections of the newsletter, so my comments will be on equipment and personnel.

Your District now has 15 pieces of heavy construction equipment for rental. We have one 1-1/2 cubic yard dragline and five 3/4 cubic yard draglines; two D-8, three D-7 and one D-4 bulldozers; one Buckeye trenching machine, one power grader and one Ford tractor with attachments. We also, have two large tractor-trailer rigs to move this equipment and several radio equipped service pickups used by our mechanics. We try to keep this equipment modern and in good working condition.

The operators, mechanics and clerical help necessary to keep the operation moving have an annual payroll of close to \$150,000.00. Eleven full time equipment operators, two mechanics, one welder, a full time tractor-trailer man and 1-1/2 bookkeepers are utilized in carrying out our program. This 16-1/2 man force along with your District Supervisors and the technicians provided by the Soil Conservation Service will continue to give you the same service that you have received in the past in solving your conservation problems.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Throughout the year your District Secretary, with the assistance of a great many people, has used the following means to keep you and over 1,500 other District cooperators, as well as more than 100 public officials, informed on the work of the District:

1. Cooperators' Dinner meeting (over 300 in attendance).
2. Six editions of the newsletter (mailed to 1,500).
3. Twenty-eight newspaper and radio releases (covering 8 papers and 3 radio stations).
4. Sponsoring a Soil Stewardship Program which involved:
 - a. providing literature to all ministers in the county,
 - b. conducting a poster contest for 4-H members,
 - c. conducting a Land Judging Contest for 4-H and F.F.A. members
5. Conducting four tours and 3 meetings devoted to conservation subjects.

I should remind you that the election of a District Board member will be held in December. Alden Short has been nominated for re-election to the Board. Other nominations will be received at the District office until November 18. Your support in this matter is a privilege you enjoy and it is also a duty you should accept.

Sincerely yours,

Wm. H. Henderson,
Secretary



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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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