

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 — JOHN L. BRIGGS
District Conservationist — LARRY IRELAN, Georgetown
Member of Board — R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

JANUARY, 1970

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK

The Delaware Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts is made up of Board members for the three Districts. Each year at least two meetings are held by the Association for the purpose of discussing Conservation problems of mutual interest and for planning how to more effectively solve these problems.

On January 9, the winter meeting was held in Dover, at which time tax ditch managers from throughout the state were invited to attend. Sixty-four tax ditch managers were in attendance and participated in the discussions that took place. It is hoped that this will be helpful in developing Conservation programs which will best serve the citizens of Delaware during the seventies.

The Governor spoke at the luncheon and assured those present that the interests of Conservation would not be overlooked under the new state government set up by departments.

With the new year upon us, it is important that cooperators make their needs and wishes known concerning District assistance for the installation of Conservation measures. Contact your District office or the S. C. S. office and discuss your plans with staff members.

May you have a happy and prosperous new year.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Pick up almost any magazine or newspaper today and you can read something about the quality of our environment. It is a very popular subject and one in which each citizen is vitally interested.

The Department of Agriculture has been studying the problems of our environment for many years. The Soil Conservation Service maintains a system of monitoring radioactivity in soils. We in S. C. S. have worked on problems such as erosion, sedimentation, and flooding which are detrimental to our environment.

Erosion from farmland depositing sediment in our streams and rivers has been recognized as a harmful pollutant. The same problem of erosion from areas where the vegetation is removed during construction of homes, industries, and shopping centers is causing much acceleration of this problem.

Streams filled with sedimentation will not run freely, the drainage is impeded, and the flooding potential is increased.

Dust storms in the spring of the year are a serious air pollution problem. Ask any housewife how the dust blowing affects her house cleaning.

Improving the quality of our environment with respect to these problems is an important part of the Soil Conservation Service assistance to your Soil Conservation District.

FROM YOUR A. S. C. S. OFFICE

Now that 1970 has arrived, it is important to contact this office and sign up for any conservation practices with which you wish financial assistance during the year.

Approximately 50% of the cost of the following practices may be made available to interested cooperators:

1. Construction of ponds for agricultural use.
2. Establishing sod waterways.
3. Providing outlet structures for drainage systems.
4. Installing either open drainage or underground drainage systems.

It is necessary to sign up for these practices before installing them, so stop in the office soon.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

Earl White was renamed to the Board for another four-year term at the District election in December. Mr. White has been a member of the Board since it was organized in 1944. He has served on numerous committees concerned with Soil and Water Conservation during this 25-year period. He has been active in the work of the State and National Associations of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, having served as President of the State Association, and has attended most of the area and national meetings.

Mrs. White has also been active in District work, having served as State and Area President of the Ladies Auxiliary.

(continued)

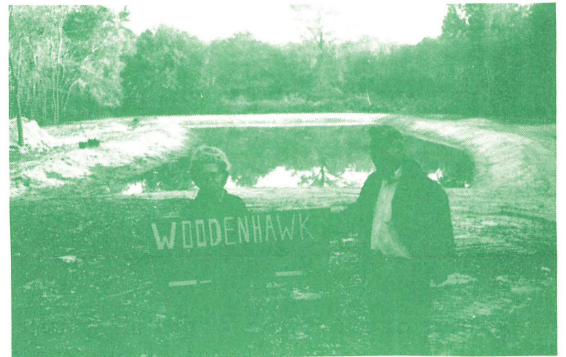
Another year has drawn to a close. It was a good year from the District standpoint with much soil and water conservation accomplished. Your District has a fine team of employees. They are well qualified and dedicated to do an excellent job. An expression, from you to them, of your appreciation for the fine job they are doing would be well received and would take only a short time. May I urge you to make that expression.

May your new year be all that you hope for.

Sincerely,
Wm. H. Henderson, Secretary

YOUR COOPERATOR OF THE MONTH

Last issue we featured recreation in an area where nearly everyone looks for it, namely near the coast and on our natural waterways. This month we have land-owners who although they are city oriented and a long way from what is normally thought of as a recreation site, are spending their vacations, weekends, and any other free time they have working on their Woodenhawk Camp Ground and fishing and boating area. This was made possible by the construction of the Marshy-hope ditch, which flows thru this area.



Louis and Irene Costa of Claymont bought their farm recently with the idea of starting a retreat type camping area for people who are engaged in business activities and are looking for a place where they can relax and enjoy nature. Louis works for Boeing Aircraft and Irene for the Westinghouse Corp. Both are production control expeditors.

Along with working on their camp ground, Louis also spends his free time as first violinist in the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra and is concert master for the DuPont Symphony Orchestra. He is the only member of the DuPont Symphony who is not a DuPont employee. Lou and Irene hope that with a couple of more years hard work, they will have an enterprise which will provide them a monetary return, as well as the pleasure of getting away from the hub and the bub of the city.

Picture shows Lou and Irene standing in front of a fish pond they recently constructed and stocked with Bass and Bluegill for their patrons.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS

Don't have much to say this time, because of the snow and frozen ground. Have to keep moving to find places for the equipment to work. All joking aside, it's been as bad as I've seen it for quite a few years. However, we are still figuring on finishing our watershed ditch (West Branch) and spending the remainder of the winter on maintenance work on other tax ditches in the county.



This month's featured member of your District team is Wm. (Bill) Henderson. Bill has been with us since Noah floated past looking for dry land. The Doves get credit for being the first thing off, but Bill really beat them. Bill is Secretary of our Board of Supervisors and County Agent for Sussex County. He has been associated with farming on the eastern shore for a long time, and came thru the ox yoke, wood plow, mule-drawn iron plow to the present tractor, mechanical stage of agriculture. I remember when I was small, Bill used to come around and tell Ole Pharoah how to get rid of the locust plagues, etc. Seriously though, Bill has been your County Agent for 27 years and previous to that, taught Vo-Ag in the Denton, Maryland area schools. He and his

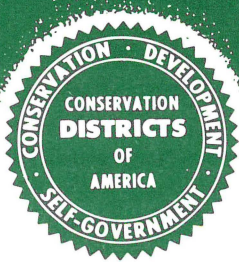
wife Margaret are residents of the Georgetown area. This picture shows Bill and Laurence Ireland of the S. C. S. discussing problems relating to conservation.

Bill probably spends more hours on his job and its various related duties than anybody else you can think of, which is probably the reason that whenever his name is mentioned, no one ever asks "Who is he?" They know!

SUSSEX COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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MARCH, 1970

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Our District is a part of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. From this association come many benefits to cooperators in our District program. Among these benefits are:

1. Directing National attention on Conservation needs,
2. Support of research and legislation designed to benefit conservation,
3. Providing opportunities for District Board members and others to exchange ideas and receive information pertaining to ways of improving Conservation programs.

The annual meeting of the National Association was held in February in San Francisco. Earl and Mrs. White, Cashar and Mrs. Evans, and Elwood and Mrs. Tucker attended this meeting. Accompanying them were Elwood's daughter and Thurman and Mrs. Adams of Bridgeville.

Highlights of this year's program included emphasis on pollution prevention through Conservation and a three-day tour to see Conservation measures applied to the land.

During the next several months, information and ideas gathered by our Board members at the meeting in San Francisco will be discussed and evaluated at Board meetings. Whenever possible, this information will be applied to improve the District program as it relates to you as a cooperator.

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE

According to an article in the March "Scientific American," a new use has been found for farm ponds. A farmer's daughter in Indiana used their farm pond as the basis for a Science Fair Project. A Professor at the University of Georgia has said that one of the best introductions to ecology is the study of a small pond.



Sussex County has many of these multi-purpose ponds already established. An example of a well managed "healthy" wildlife pond is Richard Kroeger's near Redden. The picture shows his Chesapeake Retriever, Ebony, just hitting the water going after the floating lure. The Kroegers have seen deer, egrets, cranes, and hawks using their pond besides the healthy fish grown from the original stocking of this pond. One local wildlife pond originally estab-

lished for fish has begun to show the same symptoms of "sickness" as the one studied in Indiana. The bottom is covered with debris and the type of fish has changed to a less desirable species. Those of us in Sussex County who have a pond for fish or other wildlife or would like to have one should be aware of management practices needed to keep these ponds "alive" and well. Maybe your own or some neighbor's teenagers will help clean up the weeds and debris that rob a pond of its oxygen.

Also, consider a wildlife seeding for food and cover around the edges of your pond. This will help reduce siltation as well as the other benefits. As farmers, we must think of the long-term effects of all of the conditions we provide on the land we manage.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Soil Stewardship Week will be observed May 2-9. Mrs. Earl White, President of the Ladies' Auxiliary is already busy with plans for a Conservation Poster Contest for 4-H, Scouts, and other interested youth groups.

Information in booklet form appropriate for the observance will be distributed to all Home Economics Extension Clubs, and they will be encouraged to devote their May Club Program to the subject of Conservation.

You may wish to encourage your Church, service club, or other groups in your community to participate in the observance of Soil Stewardship Week in some manner. If I can help you with your plans for such an observance, call me at 856-2553.



MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR.....

Willard Workman was born, raised, attended school in the Milton area and still lives there. Willard is married, has one married daughter, and a son in the service.

He farms 1,250 acres of land that he owns or rents. Outside of 250 acres of corn and soybeans, the other 1,000 acres are in what could be called truck or specialized crops, such as peas and limas, or if you really want something rare for Sussex County, how about 450 acres of carrots.

Willard has been growing carrots for about ten years, and if there is such a thing as an expert on carrot growing in this section of the country, Willard is it. Three hundred of the 1,200 acres he farms are under irrigation.

He has been a cooperater with the District for several years and works closely with them on irrigation water management.

Picture shows Willard standing in front of a mess of money or 220 acres of rain.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS.....

By the time you read this, another farming time has rolled around. Some crops will already be up, and land preparation for nearly all crops will be completed.

This means that back into the woods and marshes we go with our equipment until after harvest near year. Even with the bad weather this winter, we just about completed everything we had planned to do. We are just now starting to get our ducks in a row for this summer and fall work.

The second member of your Board of Supervisors who we are featuring is Elwood Tucker who serves as a representative of the landowners in the northeastern section of the county. Elwood is the baby of your Board of Supervisors, both age-wise and in number of years serving as a Supervisor. He is serving his third term as Supervisor (12 years).

Elwood resides in the Ellendale area, has been married all his life, and has one wife, one son, and two daughters. He farms 475 acres of corn, limas, and soybeans. He also keeps 15 head of beef cattle.

Picture shows Elwood standing in his back yard just dreaming of starting plowing. After Bill Henderson last issue and Elwood this time, you may be worried about your Board of Supervisors letting their hair grow too long, but we promise to do better with our next one.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST.....

In the past year, I have had more contact from cooperators asking about purple martins than ever before. Most people are interested in erecting martin houses to attract these blue-black swallows for the purpose of holding the mosquito population to a minimum.

A new trend is taking place now in erecting martin houses near farm ponds. Farmers for many years have encouraged these birds to live near their farmsteads, however, increased usage of farm ponds for fishing and swimming has made it desirable to control insect population here, also.

The diet of a purple martin consists almost entirely of flying insects. He eats his body weight equivalent in insects each day - all caught in flight. Some have estimated that one bird eats 2,000 mosquitoes daily. Martins are non-selective, however, and will eat whatever insects are available.

In recent years, man has waged his war against insects with chemical controls. There has been much success in this area, but adverse publicity concerning the residues left by DDT and DDT derivatives have caused more interest in martins to control mosquitoes.

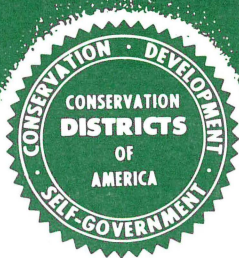
No species of life can eradicate another species or completely control the population of another species. Each species has many factors to keep it in balance with the rest of nature. Other birds that help control the mosquito population are swifts, nighthawks, bats, and other swallows - all of which catch flying insects. Wrens and warblers pick mosquitoes from vegetation along with other ground species. Frogs, fish, and waterfowl help to control mosquitoes by eating larvae.

If you are interested in putting up a martin house, there are many prefabricated models on the market; or if you want to build your own, plans are readily available.

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MAY, 1970

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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

While Soil Stewardship Week is over, we would remind you that good stewardship is a continuing responsibility of us all. The following item from the NACD booklet entitled "Resources and Renewal" is worth remembering.

"Consider These Resources"

Soil and water, air and forests, fish and wildlife --

They are as vast as the world, but they are not limitless.
They represent the purity of nature, but they are being polluted.
They are the gifts of God, for your use, but they are being misused.

They are foundations of your past, realities of your present, and essentials of your future.

They are the excitement of the seashores, the composure of the midlands, and the spectacle of the Rockies.

They have been called renewable, but the decision is yours.

How do you value a breath of clean, fresh air -- the sight and taste of pure, sparkling water -- or the inspiration of fertile fields and soaring forests?

In dollars?

Where's your soul?

These resources are indispensable.

They demand your attention and thrive on your care.

They help mold your life; condition what it is -- and will be.

Everyday they serve you, surround you, sustain you.

Consider these resources. Consider them well.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

The Northeast Area Meeting will be held August 2-4 at Pipestem State Park, Princeton, West Virginia. This is always an important meeting for District Board members, their wives, and District cooperators throughout the 12 Northeastern states.

Last year, you will recall this meeting was held in Dover at Wesley College with Delaware Districts serving as hosts.

I suggest you mark the dates on your calendar and plan to attend this meeting this year.

A youngster gave this definition of Conservation ---- I pass it on to you for your consideration --- "Conservation is what we eat and what we wear and where we live and if you don't--we won't."

Sincerely,

Wm. H. Henderson, Secretary

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Your fellow cooperator for this issue is Marion "Happy" Walls. The reason he's happy is that he left the Church Hill, Md. area 18 years ago and came to Sussex County, Del. He and his wife live and farm in the Slaughter Neck area. They have a son attending the Univ. of Delaware and two daughters.

"Happy" is another one of our remaining dairy farmers, with a 45-head Holstein herd and a fluctuating herd of cats.

Along with his cows and cats, he also finds time to tend his 275 acres. Peas, corn, lima beans, pasture and Alfalfa are grown on his 200 acres of tillable land. The other 75 acres are in marsh and woodland located along the boundary of the "Prime Hook Wildlife Refuge."

Marion has been thinking of irrigation and just recently constructed a pond to try 18 or 20 acres. He constructed his pond in such a way that if he wishes to increase his irrigation acreage, he can do so by enlarging its storage capacity.

"Happy" has been a District Cooperator since 1956, and like all successful farmers nowadays, he fertilizes for the high yield, uses green manure crops, and an extra amount of the most important ingredient in farming -- "work."

Picture shows Marion taking enough time from his milking barn to stand in the pasture with part of his herd in the background.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS

It was, it is, and it looks like it will be. Place the word "wet" in back of all of these and you won't be too far wrong. I believe that there have been more tractors stuck in the field this year than any year I can

RESOURCES & RENEWAL



SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK - MAY 3-10, 1970





remember, and when tractors can get stuck, bulldozers can, and that doesn't make me too jolly. But, with all the wet weather, we have managed to keep digging away, and unless there comes a flood, we'll continue to keep busy as a bee.

The gentleman shown cutting grass in this picture needs no introduction to most of the farmers in Sussex County. However, for the few who may not know him, it is Earl White of Bridgeville. Back in 1943, Earl helped draft the legislation necessary to form your Soil Conservation District, was elected to the first "Board of Supervisors," and has served as the Board's representative from the Northwestern section of our county for 27 years. During this time, he has held State Association offices several times and has been a member of several National Association Committees. Earl has also served his area as ASCS community committeeman and county committee member for the past 18 years. He is active in the Growers Committee of the D. P. I. He also finds time to farm and supervise a 200-acre corn and soybean operation and has a 32,000 broiler capacity.

His wife, Rachel, could be called Mrs. Conservation of Sussex County. She has been active in the Ladies Auxiliary of the State Association since its beginning and has always been a leader in 4-H and MYF work. Between Earl and Rachel, the community, the county, and the state have a husband and wife team of civic-minded conservationists that would be hard to beat anywhere in the country.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

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

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

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

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

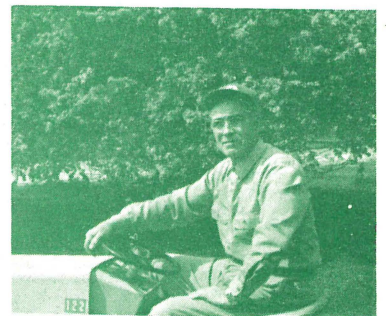
In short, good conservation of soil means using each parcel of land within its capability thus keeping it productive for generations to come.

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE.....

The Soil Conservation District and ASCS have joined again in a conservation practice for Sussex County. After careful evaluation the District has purchased a machine which can efficiently do a brush removal job which is beyond the reach of ordinary farm equipment.

Our H-2 practice under ACP calls for "Removal of Unsightly Growth from Operating Open Ditches." The restrictions are that we cannot help with normal mowing of ditch banks. However, when the brush gets down in the bottoms where a farm mower can't reach, it's better conservation (wiser use of our resources) to remove it now and keep the ditch working without having to clear and excavate again.

Your District machine is also capable of many other jobs such as woodland border controls. It is available for this work with or without ACP assistance.



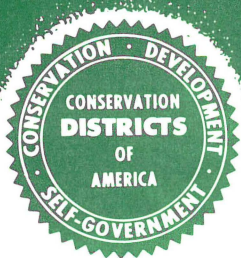
Donald W. Campbell

Donald W. Campbell, County Executive Director
Sussex County ASCS office
P. O. Box 9, Georgetown, De 19947

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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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JULY, 1970

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YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK ----

Natural resources are to be used today in a manner that will benefit mankind and yet will not destroy the basis for our future existence. It is in the "how" and "when" of resource management that individuals can exercise their influence as conservationists.

To some, conservation means the construction of a dam for flood protection or water supply, the contour strips on a farm or perhaps the development of a park or recreation area. To those who have had the privilege of sitting by babbling brooks, hiking through the woods or roasting hot dogs around a campfire, conservation is life and living. It is the protection of resources, water, air and soil in the communities in which we live, everyday that we live.

The time has passed when we can expect to restore the waters simply by halting the discharge of pollutants into the streams, or assuming that land will be developed to its full potential without guidelines, and that needed agricultural land will always be available, or to think that the passage of legislation alone will clear up the water and air, preserve our soil and adequately dispose of the sewage and junk.

It is time for all citizens to become interested and involved in the conservation of our natural resources. We invite your active participation in the work of your District.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ----

We have been hearing words like "pollution," "environment," and "ecology" in the news lately. Public concern is being expressed over a situation that has been developing for a long time. Progress in pollution control and environmental quality has not advanced as rapidly as our scientific and social areas.

Erosion and sediment cost a half a billion dollars a year to taxpayers to clean up. Streams filled with sediment become barren of microscopic plants on which fish feed. Spawning beds of fish are destroyed.

Another type of pollution is excessive plant growth in waterways. This can be caused by excessive plant nutrients being in the streams as a result of runoff or inadequately treated sewage. Excessive plant growth will choke sunlight from other plants causing them to die. When these plants decay they use oxygen and oxygen is vital to fish and other desirable aquatic life.

Interest in our environment has caused your Sussex Soil and Water Conservation District to join forces with the other 3,000 Districts across America and actively pursue a program aimed at a quality of environment we all need and want.

We have put man on the moon during the sixties. In the seventies, we should make the earth fit for man.

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE ----

For years, we have been working with the Soil and Water Conservation District in helping farmers install practices that made our air and water cleaner here in Sussex County.

In line with the special emphasis nationwide on anti-pollution efforts, we have included three new practices for the 1970 ACP, which are directed especially at pollution problems which may soon become acute due to changing farming practices.

Two of the practices are for farm feed lots or dairy operations and may involve lagoons or special divisions for runoff areas from these concentrated animal feeding areas.

The third involves the establishment of filter strips along ditch banks to reduce runoff of sediments on fertilizers and pesticides into our streams.

Like the H-2 practice mentioned in our last Newsletter, this practice would apply to any ditch area on farmland whether it was originally an ACP ditch or not.



MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR ----

Carmel Collins was born in Gumboro and still lives there. He started off farming in a small way and as his family grew, so did his farming operation, until at the present time, he owns 950 acres of which 700 are tillable. He also rents 300 acres. Corn and soybeans are his main crops with an occasional year of small grain. He has a broiler capacity of 100,000 and several years ago to fill in the winter months, Carmel started operating a small sawmill which like his farming operation has grown into a large operation with planers and chippers for a shavings and litter business.

Carmel has one wife, one daughter, and four sons who all live at home and help in the farming and sawmill operation.

The picture on the front page shows Carmel standing in the mill yard. As you can see, all the farming and timbering have worn him down to almost 250 pounds.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS

Corn is prettier this spring than just about any year I can remember. Soybeans also look good, but not exceptionally so. Well, since our last Newsletter, we have finished our watershed project (West Branch T. D.), completed a maintenance job on William Canal Tax Ditch at Bayard and suspended construction on Beaver Dam Tax Ditch until crops are harvested. At present our machinery is digging ponds or doing ditches where the farmer left out crops to take advantage of summer working conditions. Before too long, we anticipate starting another watershed job in the Bridgeville-Greenwood area.

Hey, do you want a swarm of bees hived, a hog or steer butchered, a lobster broiled, or a farm managed to produce the high yield? If you do, see this month's featured supervisor, Cashar Evans.

Cashar was born on a farm in the Johnson Corners-Roxana area and outside of occasional trips, has really not gotten too far away from his birthplace. He has lived in Selbyville, and farmed in Roxana for many years and has operated the "Crab House Restaurant" in Fenwick Island for the past several seasons. Since farming and the beach season conflict, Cashar has been renting out his 80-acre farm. Five or six acres have been planted to Lespedeza and Multi-flora for wildlife.

He has served you as District Supervisor for the past 20 years. During this time, he was a member of the National Board, and was a member of the Delaware Soil and Water Conservation Commission until its demise. He now serves as a member of the Advisory Board which replaced the Commission.

Cashar is married, has one son and just recently became a proud Grand-Daddy!!

Picture above shows Cashar standing in front of the old "Money-Box" at his "Crab House Restaurant."



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK ----

Your District Office is located 1/4 mile off Route 113 on the Shortley Road (431). The address is Soil and Water Conservation District of Sussex County, P.O. Box 8, Georgetown, Delaware, 19947, and the listing in the telephone book is Soil Conservation District of Sussex County 856-7219 or 856-2105. I call this to your attention because some cooperators have asked how to contact the District Office.

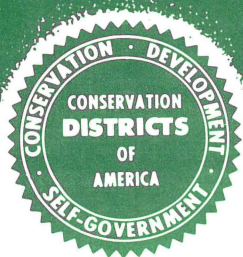
If things go well, Earl and Mrs. White and Margaret and I plan to attend the Northeast Area Meeting August 2, 3, and 4, at Pipestem State Park, Princeton, West Virginia. We hope to have a report on the meeting in the next Newsletter.

*Sincerely
Wm. H. Henderson, Dist.*

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SEPTEMBER, 1970

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK ----

We welcome Wm. R. "Bill" Ratledge as the new Director of the Division of Soil and Water Conservation for the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Bill has always been a friend of Districts. He worked in our District from the time it was organized in 1944 until 1955. He served as area District Conservationist from 1951 to 1955. From 1955 until 1961, he was Assistant State Conservationist when he became State Conservationist upon the retirement of Richard S. Snyder.

Bill retired from the Federal SCS after 30 years of service and assumed his new duties as of September 1st.

We look forward to working with him in his new position and know that he will continue to serve the interests of Conservation with the same dedication that has marked his work for the past 30 years.

We also welcome Otis D. Fincher, who has been Assistant State Conservationist for Alabama, as our new State Conservationist effective September 13. We look forward to working with him in his new assignment.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ----

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

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

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

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

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

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE ----

Good farming and good conservation go hand and hand. Jake Banks, one of the first District Cooperators in the ditching program in Sussex County, has found a new problem to work on. Johnson Grass is becoming an increasing problem in the entire State of Delaware and we have just joined Maryland in passing a weed control law aimed at Johnson Grass on the Eastern Shore. Jake is shown with the field on which he has been practicing clean tillage this summer. This is recognized as one of the most effective means of control if it is done thoroughly like this and often enough. This will be followed by a thickly sown small grain and the practice repeated until the infestation is under control. The key to successful control in the county is going to be cooperation by all farmers as well as other landowners and the State Highway Dept.



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK ----

Our District will assist the State Association in sending a land judging team to the National Land Judging Contest to be held in Oklahoma next April. The team will be selected this month when the Tri-State Judging Contest is held at Newark. The training received by these young people and the trip to Oklahoma

(continued)

should be an enriching experience for them and one that they will not soon forget.

It is hoped that when these young people return from Oklahoma they will be given the opportunity to tell of their experiences to service clubs, Church groups and other gatherings of people interested in Conservation and in youth.

Your help in arranging for such speaking engagements next spring will be welcome.



MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR ----

Donnell Calhoun from the Lincoln area is this month's featured cooperator.

Starting back in his Vo-Ag days at the Milford High School, Donnell has always been interested in agriculture and growing up as a Sussex County farm boy didn't discourage him from making farming his life's work.

Donnell owns and operates a 225-acre farm and with his father owns or rents an additional 1,000 acres in the area. Peas and snapbeans are irrigated by a self-propelled system. Corn, soybeans and barley are grown on approximately 1,100 acres with late soybeans following his barley crop. This year Donnell had a 70 to 80 acre field of corn planted the first week of July following a pea crop. He has irrigated this field and believes that his yields on it will equal or

exceed his early corn. As far as we know, this is the largest acreage of field corn that has been irrigated in Sussex County.

Donnell has been a cooperator with the District since 1957 and recently started working with the SCS technicians on irrigation water management.

Along with his farming, Donnell also raises broilers and has a 62,000 capacity. He is married, has two sons and two daughters and where some people go to the beach or fish or fly airplanes for a hobby, Donnell's pride and joy is working with a herd of 12 prize Whitefaces.

The picture at upper left shows Donnell standing in front of one of his broiler houses.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS ----

Are you in the picture of the crowd who attended

or

Did you visit

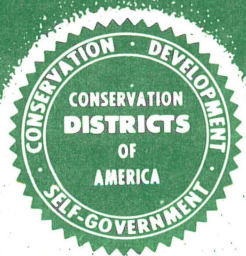
your annual University of Delaware Field Day at the Georgetown Sub-Station this past August 12? If you didn't, why don't you go to your calendar and mark down in capital letters approximately the same dates for next year. For those of you who did, didn't you think that the farm looked better this year than it ever has? To get the test plot, etc., in such condition took a tremendous effort on someone's or everyone's part and all the sub-station personnel should feel proud of their accomplishment. Emphasis this year was placed on the bus tours to test plots of various crops, the sick plant clinic in the grove area and the USDA regional poultry lab. Approximately 800 attended and enjoyed this year's field day. Next year, any of you who weren't there can make it 801, 803 or 804 or more.

Not much concerning equipment work this time except that everything has been kept busy and we have started a roadway and slope mowing on the Bridgeville Branch T. D., East Nanticoke T. D., Deep Creek T. D., and plan to do several others this fall. Well, until next fall's issue, keep getting your corn and soybeans off and I'll keep digging and clearing.

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

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NOVEMBER, 1970

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

An important group of landowners and operators in the work of Conservation as it relates to the District program is the tax ditch managers. For years this group has contributed much help to improve the drainage of the county.

There are other ways this group can help further the Conservation program of the District. Encouraging and supporting improved management as it applies to forestry, wildlife, and pollution prevention are a few examples.

One of the great needs of our District, as well as other Districts, is to have more people with a better understanding of the Conservation program and to appreciate how they can help implement it by speaking out on its behalf.

Your Board members call upon all tax ditch managers and urge them to become more creative in the District program toward the end of making it a more effective tool for the advancement of Conservation in the District.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST.....

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

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

Acres of woodland are practically valueless because of the lack of good sound management practices. Killing cull trees, thinning of over-crowded trees, removal of undesirable undergrowth, interplanting, pruning, and selective harvesting are good methods of improving timberstands.

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

Tree planting is a practice which many times is avoided because of the expense involved. Here in Sussex County a reforestation program is underway in which the State Forestry Department will give Loblolly Pine seedlings to farmers to plant. The cost of planting trees is very low. If you want to plant several acres, a machine is available to accomplish it. A contact with the Forestry section in the State Department of Agriculture in Dover could be worthwhile.

FROM THE ASCS OFFICE.....



Monty has often said, "You can stand on any spot in Sussex County and look in all four directions and see trees."

This is surely one of the advantages we still have conservation-wise. The picture adjoining suggests the multiple uses that tree cover affords. E. Marvin Jones of near Columbia has been planting wildlife borders next to his woods for several years. The alternate strips of clipped rye provide a run for his hunting dogs. The wildlife population has been increasing every year.

Our woodland bordering fields provide an ideal cover for rabbits and quail.

The stands of timber still growing in the county provide other benefits to us all. They serve as windbreaks. They protect the headwaters and banks of our streams. They serve as filterstrips to help keep the streams clear. They moderate our climate. These benefits

all have a measurable value and we should take steps to protect and enhance the woodland we still have in the county. A recent concern is the evidence of the Southern Pine Beetle in some of our best stands of timber. Woodland owners should check with any of the conservation agencies on the best method of identifying and controlling this problem.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATORS.....

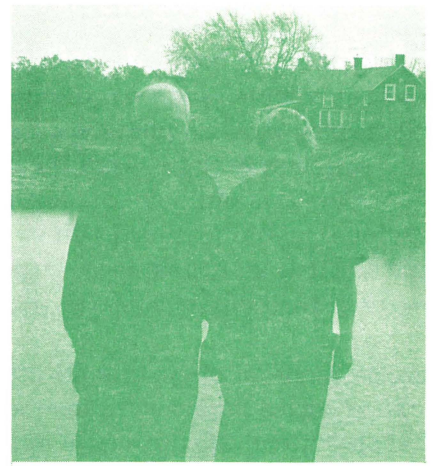
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Cole are your featured cooperators this edition. They have lived on their farm south of Concord pond between Laurel and Seaford for the past two and one-half years.

Mr. Cole was born near Atlanta, Delaware, and went to sea at age 15. He worked for Sun Oil Co., and during this time, his wife Anna and their growing family resided in Pennsylvania. After 40 years the family had grown to 14 sons and daughters, 28 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. They they retired and moved to the 100-acre farm they bought eight years ago.

They have 55 acres of growing timber and 45 cropland which they rent out. Both Willard and Anna are avid fishermen and have fished most of the ponds in Sussex and adjoining counties of Maryland and Delaware. Mrs. Cole also takes great pride in the fruit trees that she has planted.

Picture shows the Coles standing in front of their newly constructed farm pond. This pond will be stocked with bass and bluegill, will provide irrigation water for small acreage, and a source of fire protection for theirs and neighboring farms. It will also probably be used for swimming in summer and ice skating in winter.

YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS.....



Here we are with another Thanksgiving and Christmas on top of us and it seems only a week or two since the last ones. Well, when you are up to your neck in work, time flies by and you wonder why you couldn't get everything done that you wanted to or promised to do. We started construction on the Bee Branch Tax Ditch between Bridgeville and Greenwood a couple of weeks ago and will complete it over the next 18 months. This is another of Nanticoke Watershed Project Ditches. We are also scurrying to catch up on our spoil leveling, root-raking, etc., from construction done where crops were planted this summer.

The gentlemen in the picture should be familiar to most of you farmers who have done any construction work in the last two years. Bobby Tribbitt and Chip Figurski are the survey and layout crew for all farm work and any tax ditches not in the Nanticoke. They are employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Soil Conservation Service. Chip was born in Lewes, attended school there, is married, and still lives in Lewes. Chip has been with us four years. Bobby overcame the handicap of being born in Maryland because his family moved into the Dagsboro-Frankford area when he was real young. He attended the John M. Clayton School and has worked with SCS for over 10 years. Bobby is married, has four children, and lives in the Frankford area. You football and basketball fans may also recognize him as the official who always throws the flag or blows the whistle against the home team. Both Bobby and Chip are enthusiastic hunters and fishermen, even though they very seldom catch anything.

Picture shows Tribbitt at the level and Chip with the rod staking out ditches on the Lem Long farm near Selbyville. (Chip is the thin one.)

Both take pride in the speed and quality of their work and play a big part in the service Sussex County farmers get from their Federal Soil Conservation Service in planning and carrying out conservation measures.

Well, by next Newsletter time, this Christmas will be over and another one will be on the way, so as John Greenberger says, "and it's a Good-Night."

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK..... Winners in the State Land Judging Contest that will be representing Delaware in the National Contest next spring in Oklahoma are Steve Mesibov, Houston; Mike Baker, Greenwood; and Junanne Jerread, Harrington. They are members of the Peach Blossom 4-H Club.

The State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts of which we are a part are sponsoring the trip to Oklahoma. -- Congratulations to these young people, and we shall look forward to hearing from them when they return from Oklahoma next spring.

SUSSEX COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

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