

# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

## NEWSLETTER for COOPERATORS

of the

## Soil & Water Conservation District of SUSSEX COUNTY

JANUARY, 1971

### 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

### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK ---

Once again we are happy to announce that Elwood Tucker of Ellendale was re-elected to the Board for a third four-year term.

Elwood operates a 400-acre farm and grows lima beans, corn, and soybeans. He has been an active supporter of the District program for many years.

Elwood has attended several of the National Association meetings and many of the Northeast Area meetings during his term on the Board. He is a past president of the State Association and has served on numerous committees.

We are fortunate indeed to have the benefit of Elwood's sound judgement in helping to shape the District's program for the next four years.

### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ---

In many articles prior to this one, I have talked about the various types of programs available to cooperators through the Soil and Water Conservation District. We, in the Soil Conservation Service, are only one agency available for assistance.

Our programs of technical assistance vary from information on soils and their characteristics to planning land use with owners and in some cases, actually laying out a conservation practice for construction.

We started working with individual landowners and soon began working with groups of landowners. Financial assistance was available for specific practices from the Agricultural Conservation Program of ASCS.

In 1956, the Bear Hole Watershed Project in Sussex County was the first project in the nation involving SCS funds for construction costs. Since that time, the Upper Nanticoke and Marshyhope Creek Projects have started construction with similar arrangements involving Federal, State, and County monies for construction. More applications are pending.

SCS, in cooperation with the University of Delaware, has been working on the National Cooperative Soil Survey for several years. This is a system of cataloguing the various soil types and preparing a detailed map to show their locations in the state. This information has been used by agricultural landowners and resource planners to a great advantage for some time.

These are a few of the activities of the SCS in assisting you, the cooperators of the Sussex Soil and Water Conservation District.

We have made progress in all programs since the District began in 1944. The National Cooperative Soil Survey is about completed. This will mark the third state in the Nation to complete the mapping of all the soils into an organized detailed form.

Thousands of acres of land have been treated according to its conservation needs. This has been done to provide for a good future in Sussex County.

New programs of assistance are being developed. They will be dealing with environmental resource problems - an area your District has been working in for a long time. Changes will occur, must occur, to advance soil conservation today.

I wrote only of how SCS has assisted your District. Other groups and agencies have provided programs and assistance, also. We all are interested in better resource conservation for Sussex County.

### FROM THE ASCS OFFICE ---

Environmental improvement will be the main emphasis of conservation programs from our office under recently approved appropriations.

Sussex County again is leading the way in this field with two projects for livestock waste lagoons.

The first one on the Paul Hastings farm near Seaford will serve his pond area and milking parlor.

The accompanying photo shows the first stage of construction of the lagoon which will be completed next spring.

The second lagoon has been started on the William I. Handy farm near Reliance. It will serve a concentrated pig feeding and farrowing operation.



One of the best things about these practices is the way all agencies, local, state, and federal, have worked together with the farmers to develop the specifications and then to modify them; so they would be practical for Sussex County conditions. Your District has been very cooperative in providing equipment in time to meet our December 31 deadline for substantial completion. The SCS engineers have spent many hours study-

(Continued on back page)

ing similar projects from other states, then revising their plans to fit our local soils and farming operations. The state environmental resource people have worked with us thru a difficult time of reorganization of their own agency.

Paul and Bill are contributing their land, and resources, matching our ASCS assistance in a pioneering effort that will benefit the whole community as well as their own farms. As long as we can continue to work together like this we will make Sussex County a better place in which to live.

*Donald Campbell*



#### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR ---

No, this picture was not taken in the sheep country of the west, it comes out of Sussex County. The sheperd shown in the picture is Thaddeus Warrington.

Thaddeus is one of the District's oldest cooperators dating from 1945 and has kept an active interest in the District's programs and accomplishments since that time. He was born in Georgetown, left at an early age, and as soon as he was old enough, he moved back to stay. Thaddeus received his degree from the University of Delaware and did graduate work at Cornell.

After college he taught Vo-Ag for 15 years in the Newark and Georgetown school systems. In 1942 he went with Eastern States (Agway) and retired in 1970 with 28 years service.

Thaddeus has operated a 245-acre farm west of Georgetown since 1939. One hundred and fifteen of the 135 tillable acres are used for corn production with the remaining 20 acres in pasture. Thaddeus has always been interested in horses and at present has six Welsh show ponies, one quarter horse, and one Arabian. His sheep flock numbers between 40 and 50, and is one of the few remaining sheep operations in Sussex Co. Thaddeus is a past president of the Sussex Saddle Club numbering between 40 and 50 members interested in horses and riding.

Last year, Thaddeus received one of the highest compliments a farmer can receive, when he was named Delaware's agriculturist of the year.

During their spare time, Thaddeus and his wife managed to raise two sons and three daughters who are all now grown.

Picture shows Thaddeus standing in front of his sheep with horses and ponies in the background.

#### YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS ---

Well, we have just about finished our usual years end rush to try and complete all the ACP ditching work.

We have started two watershed tax ditch systems. One is Bee Branch in the Bridgeville-Greenwood area and the other one is Gravelly Branch in the vicinity of Redden.

Most of our machinery will be concentrated on these jobs until ASCS finalizes their program for 1971.

This month we feature a crew that works exclusively on survey and layout in the Watershed Tax Ditch Program. Donald West, the party chief, has been an SCS employee for 12 years and is a native of Sussex County. He is married, has two children and lives in the Redden area. Willie Hughes, the survey aide, is also a Sussex County boy and lives in the Georgetown area. He has been with us for five years.



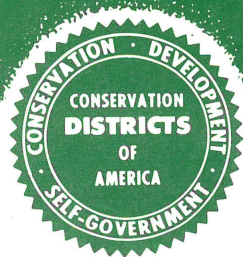
Picture shows Donald on the left and Willie on the right getting ready to start surveying on Bee Branch Ditch.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK --- The Boy Scouts are emphasizing a Conservation Program during 1971 entitled Project SOAR - meaning Save Our American Resources. Your secretary and members of the SCS, Forestry, Parks, Fish, and Wildlife, and Water and Air Resources Depts. provided a conservation training meeting for the benefit of 45 Scout Masters and Junior Leaders on Jan. 12th. The information provided should help the Scout leaders to enrich the programs for the 600 Scouters in Sussex during the coming year. One more example of how your District is furthering Conservation in the county.

SUSSEX COUNTY  
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware

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# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

MARCH, 1971

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### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK ---

Delaware is the first state in the continental United States to have a complete soil map of every acre.

The last acre was mapped at the Georgetown Substation of the University of Delaware in ceremonies February 19.

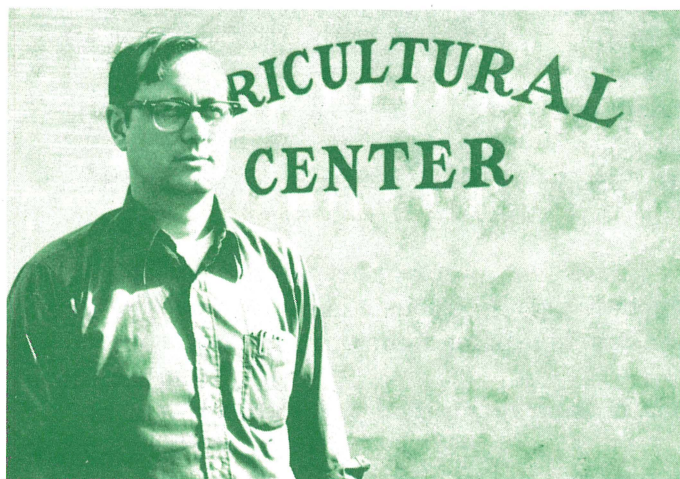
Developed for agricultural and urban land-use planning, the soil maps identify the texture, structure, color and thickness of more than 100 soil types found in Delaware. Mapped on aerial photographs, the soils information also identifies various limiting characteristics of land formations, such as hard surface layers that restrict underground drainage and areas with high seasonal water tables.

Planners will find the soil maps particularly helpful. They can use the maps to locate areas where the soils may be unstable or not solid enough to support residential construction or highways; areas that are subject to flooding; and soils that are best suited to crop, woodland or forage production.

The slope of the land--shown on all soils maps--provides additional information to help planners select suitable areas for development.

State soil maps are also used in farmland tax assessments in accordance with the Delaware Farmland Assessment Act of 1968. County board of review and assessment have found up-to-date soil maps useful tools in determining the fair value of rural land.

Your Board was happy to entertain the group at lunch on this occasion.



### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST ---

Since your last Newsletter, a change has been made in the Georgetown Work Unit. Larry Ireland has transferred to New Jersey and I have taken his place as District Conservationist.

It is almost like a homecoming to me since I was raised on a farm at Packing House Corners, attended Delmar High School and graduated from the University of Delaware in 1962. After graduation, I started working with the Soil Conservation Service. My first assignment was in Centreville, Md. Since then I have worked as District Conservationist in Cumberland, Md., and just prior to coming here, I worked in LaPlata, Md.

My wife, Katherine, our four children and I now live in Georgetown on W. Market Street. I am looking forward to renewing old Sussex County acquaintances, making new ones and hope that I can continue to serve you as well as your previous District Conservationists. Don't let the stern look in the picture fool you--I'm really a pleasant guy.

Richard P. Bennett

### FROM THE A. S. C. S. OFFICE ---

Conservation includes many things. The woodland that helps hold the soil and water in Sussex County has come under a new threat. The Southern Pine Beetle has advanced into some of our loblolly pine timber and is killing trees in several hot spots throughout the county. In the picture we were looking at one of these on our Conservation Tour last summer, but the problem is more widespread than we realized at that time.

We are proposing a special practice under our new conservation program. The forestry section of the State Department of Agriculture has done enough research to suggest a sanitation program as one of the best means of controlling this pest. This includes harvesting any market-



(Continued on back page)

able timber and then chipping the residue in one of the powerful new brush and tree clippers that are available. Because of the expense involved we hope to approve a cost-share high enough to encourage land-owners to actually use the practice.

In any case, we have several forestry practices already approved and we have included a revision of the woodland border management practice which includes chipping the smaller trees with equipment similar to the District's machine.

If you are interested in forestry or wildlife as well as good farming, come to the office and inquire about our conservation programs.

#### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR ---

Donald Powell is another one of our younger Sussex County farmers who decided in high school that farming was their future. Vo-Ag courses and F. F. A. membership at the Lord Baltimore school laid the interest and groundwork for future success.

His general farming operation consists of 850 acres tillable on which corn and soybeans are grown, 25 to 30 hogs and 18,500 broilers. Seven hundred of the 850 acres are rented.

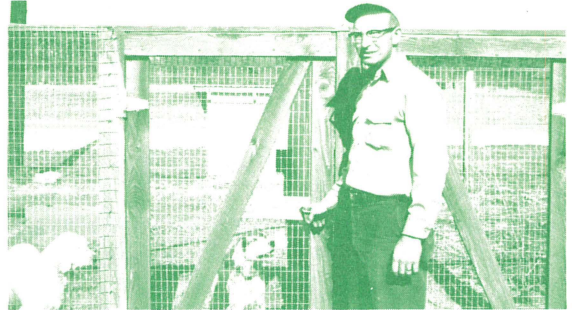
Donald was born in Fenwick Island and now resides near Peppers Corner. He is married and has two boys and one girl.

In case some of you from the area don't recognize him by Donald, then I'll call him by the name his is best known by, "Duck".

During the fall and winter he spends any time he can spare from machinery upkeep, etc., hunting quail, ducks and geese. Picture shows "Duck" standing at his dog pen. You can tell by the expression on their faces that they are ready to go.

*Donald W. Campbell*

Donald W. Campbell, County Exec. Dir., ASCS



#### YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS ---

The winter is about gone, farmers are ready to get in their fields and plow, and if it will only quit raining, we'll be able to get in their fields and level spoil or clear for this year's ditching.

During the bad weather, we managed to keep all of the machines running, mostly on Bee Branch Tax Ditch near Greenwood. Our contract on Gravelly Branch at Redden has been shut down because the water is high enough to drown a muskrat. I thought about putting scuba equipment on the sawyers but they wouldn't agree.

Our newest employee is David Banks. David has been with us since last fall and has been running the mower and grader mounted

bush-hog most of the time. He can also operate a bulldozer.

David is one of the Baltimore Hundred set of Banks, is married, has one child and lives in the Fenwick area. His hobbies are hunting, fishing and crabbing.

Picture shows David standing by his bush-hog on the Bear Hole Tax Ditch.

#### FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK ---

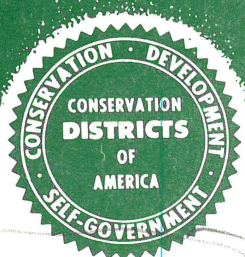
Earl and Mrs. White, Cashar Evans and Elwood Tucker attended the N. A. C. D. meeting in Chicago in February. They came back with glowing reports on the work of N. A. C. D. on behalf of Conservation throughout the United States. They would be glad to tell you and your neighbors about their trip. Why not call them?

The Land Judging Contest for 4-H, F. F. A., and Scouts will be held on May 19th in Sussex. The State Contest will be on May 25th. Your District sponsors the Contest in Sussex.

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# Soil & Water Conservation District

GEORGETOWN, DELAWARE

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

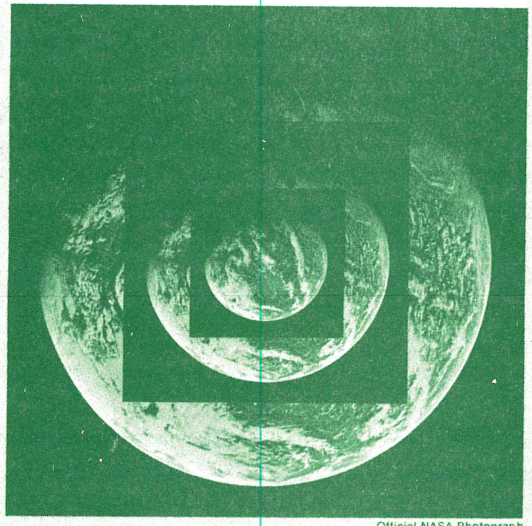
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MAY, 1971

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

#### The world and they that dwell therein



Official NASA Photograph

Soil Stewardship Week May 16-23, 1971

Soil Stewardship Week, a nationwide observance which places emphasis on man's obligation to God as stewards of the soil, water, and other related resources, was observed May 16-23. "The World and They That Dwell Therein", the theme of this year's observance, underscores the responsibility which each citizen has in fulfilling his or her role as caretaker of the realm.

Our District and some 3,000 champion Districts throughout the nation along with our State and National Associations sponsored the event for the 17th consecutive year.

Copies of a booklet entitled "The World and They That Dwell Therein" were distributed by the Ladies Auxiliary of all of the Home Economics Extension Clubs in the state. They, in turn, contacted the churches and encouraged their support of the observances.

Soil Stewardship Week is over now, but the need for encouraging all citizens to support programs designed to make wise use of our national resources continues throughout the year.

Your Board members, therefore, call upon all District Cooperators to take a greater interest in the work of their District and to help in making its program effective in every way possible.

### FROM THE A.S.C.S. OFFICE

Progress on Pollution Control - When we started the two animal waste lagoons in the county last fall, it was too late to complete them before cold weather set in. Here we are levelling the old spoil piles on Bill Handy's project for his hog operation.

In our January Newsletter we discussed the problems of designing these from scratch. Over the winter, both Paul Hastings for his dairy operation and this one were operating on a temporary basis with a ditch directing some of the runoff into the lagoons. Both appear to be working on this limited basis. When they are enlarged and the inlet is completed, we'll know a lot more about the costs and problems involved.

As more Sussex County farmers enlarge and concentrate their livestock operations, we will need more of these new approaches to waste disposal. ASCS is working with the District, the Engineers, and the State Department of Environmental Control to develop more imaginative ways of dealing with this problem. Come in and discuss your ideas with us.



*This item must be discussed*

*We Begin Again*

*would soon be over*

*are sponsoring*

*22*

*Let Begin Again*

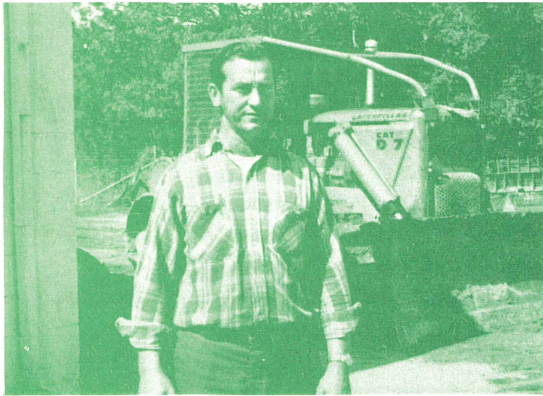
## MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

This month's cooperator is one of Sussex County's vanishing breed, a dairy farmer.

Paul Hastings was born and raised in the Old Furnace-Middleford area and still lives not too far from his birthplace. He grew up farming and graduated from Seaford High School in 1938. After graduation, he worked at DuPonts for six years, then went to general farming and broilers. In 1950 Paul went to dairy cows. At present, he has a herd of 50 milkers. Paul is one of the dry feed-lot farmers. His 500 acres have 300 acres tillable. The usual crop year finds 100 acres corn, 100 small grain and hay, 100 soybeans, with all but the soybeans going for feed.

Paul served eight years as State ASCS Committeeman. His family consists of one wife, two grown sons, and one daughter.

The picture shows Paul standing in front of feed-lot with herd in background.



## YOUR DISTRICT EQUIPMENT MANAGER SPEAKS

This is likely to be the shortest report on record. We've been so busy this spring that I don't even have time to wipe my nose, let alone write news articles. Outside of saying that we need 20 more machines every year at this time, that will be all for now.

Our employee this edition is Gerald Stoeckle. Gerald came with us about a year ago as our mechanic and has managed to keep things running very well. He was born, raised, attended school, and still lives in the Georgetown area. Gerald is married and has four sons who go to the Georgetown School (Indian

River District). Gerald's hobbies, when he is not working, are tearing things apart and putting them together, and seeing if they run. Well, six 'dozers and two cranes are ready to move now, so I'll have to close for this time.

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Resource Conservation Planning is when Soil Conservation Service Technicians participate in technical planning activities with individuals, groups of people, and representatives of units of government on opportunities and problems dealing with the use, development, and conservation of soil and water resources.

This technical assistance is channeled through your local Soil and Water Conservation District. You as a Cooperator have entered into a cooperative agreement with the Soil and Water Conservation District to work together in planning and carrying out soil and water resources use, development, and conservation on a specific land area, which you responsibly use.

Is your conservation plan up-to-date? Have you made all major conservation decisions to assure that your land will be used and treated to achieve the conservation objectives?

## FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK:

The State Land Judging team composed of Mike Baker, Greenwood; Julianne Jerrard, Harrington; and Steve Mesibov, Houston, accompanied by Professor Leo Cotnoir, Soils Specialist from the University of Delaware, had a wonderful trip to the National Land Judging Contests in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in early May. They will tell about their trip at the summer meeting of the State Association on July 7th.

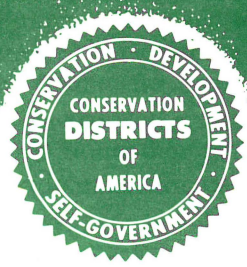
This is the first time Delaware has sponsored a team in the National Contest, and we are looking forward to hearing from these young people about their experiences.

This is but another way in which our District is helping to promote a better understanding of the importance of conservation and to encourage young people to become involved in helping to make wise use of our natural resources.

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### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK

Recently some members of the Congress suggested that there be a one year moratorium on all drainage work in our nation. This was to provide time to evaluate the effect of drainage on the land, the wildlife and the welfare of all the people.

Obviously from this suggestion, it is quite clear, that some people do not view the need for drainage in the same way your Board Members do, especially as it relates to Sussex County.

Your board immediately wrote to your Senators and your Congressman requesting them to oppose such a moratorium. Similar action was taken by many other District Boards, State Associations and by the National Association of Conservation Districts (N. A. C. D.).

This concerted action has apparently had its effect and at the present time it appears that there will be no such moratorium.

We at times wonder about the value of State Associations and the N. A. C. D. as they relate to the local District program. Perhaps this example may give us additional evidence as to their value.

### DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

From the ASCS Office.....

This year space satellites are being used to survey the spread of corn blight. Recently new success has been reported in seeding clouds to produce rainfall in drought stricken Florida. We sometimes wonder if science and technology haven't taken over farming completely. Then we read in a national daily newspaper; a front page article of families who have bought property in the Maine woods and carved out a successful homestead using plain hand tools and hard work. They have made a go of it on their own terms. There are some Sussex County farmers who can remember clearing land the hard way - digging stumps by hand.

This is another reminder that all man can ever do is provide conditions and concentrate or move around some natural material. It is also a reminder that we can provide conditions for wildlife whether we do things by hand or with big equipment. There are wildlife ponds, woodland border management, wildlife food and cover seedings. These can all be installed on small acreages or large. The bigger the fields and the straighter the field ditches, the more need there is to establish another area on the farm to provide these.

Do you have a low spot that is difficult to drain? Dig a wildlife pond there and work with nature. (Mabel Wilson recently completed this pond near Ellendale.) Do you have a woodland border that is growing out and shading your crops? Cut the border back under our wildlife plan and leave the brush for cover.

Do you have a problem with deer and geese eating your crops? Make a wildlife seeding along the borders of your fields and leave it for them so they won't bother your other crops.

There's room in this free country for all sizes of farms and types of operations, there's also room for wildlife and people. Let's work together to provide the good conditions.

### YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER REPORTS

Now that farmers have finished planting and hollering for dozers and cranes until fall, we have gone to digging ponds and working wooded sections of Tax Ditches. Since our last newsletter the water on Gravelly Branch has dropped enough to resume our clearing operations and before too long we hope to commence digging our pilot channel.

Progress on the Bee Branch job is slightly ahead of schedule and should improve now that dry construction weather has arrived.

We are also planning on commencing clearing operations on the Mifflin ditch within the next couple of months.

Anytime you are on the Chaplains Chapel road within the next couple of months stop at the Gravelly Branch bridge and take a look at our new 1-1/2 yd. dragline in operation. We also plan to be using our new dozer blade on the upper end of Gravelly and throughout the Mifflin clearing. This blade shears trees off at ground level and leaves the stumps in the ground, resulting in a lot less debris to be piled in the roadways and wood edges.

Well, I've got to see a man about a pond so keep your chin up and your Johnson Grass under control until our next newsletter.



## MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATORS

This issue, fellow cooperators, aren't fellows, they are---- girls.

Sallie Lou and Mary Ann Wagamon inherited a farm just outside of Georgetown. Their father, Burt, was one of the Soil Conservation Districts first cooperators. Back in 1944-45 most of the drainage installed on the farms in Sussex County was limited to shallow type grader ditches spaced close together and more or less following the path of least resistance. This was due to the major outlets or Tax Ditches being in poor shape. Burt installed several thousand feet of this type ditch and worked like a beaver to get the the Layton - Vaughn and Georgetown - Vaughn Tax Ditches improved under the small watershed act, so that he could eventually install a system of dragline ditches more suited to big equipment farming. The tax ditches were constructed two or three years ago, but Burt passed away before he could take advantage of the outlet they provided him. Just recently the girls decided that before they could realize the full cash rent potential of their farm, drainage would have to be improved.

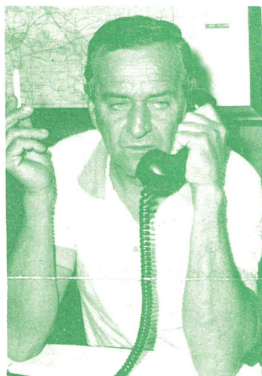


Working with the Soil Conservation Technicians they hoped to carry out essentially the same plan that Burt had visioned many years before.

Sallie Lou and Mary Ann have professional careers, but were reared country enough to know that a farmer cannot make money without spending money.

Both girls graduated from Georgetown High School. Sallie Lou completed her education at Vermont State University and presently teaches elementary school at Milton (Cape Henlopen District). Mary Ann studied nursing at Delaware Division in Wilmington and is now at Milford Memorial Hospital.

Picture shows Sallie Lou on left and Mary Ann on right discussing their farm plan with District Conservationist, Richard Bennett.



### From Your District Conservationist - -

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Albert C. Montague for 30 years of dedicated service as a member of the S. C. S.

"Monty" as everyone knows him started with the Soil Conservation Service in 1945 and has spent his entire career in the Georgetown Work Unit. He has faithfully worked at furnishing technical assistance to the landowners and cooperators of the Sussex Soil and Water Conservation District throughout this time.

"Monty" was reared in Georgetown where he attended school. He has lived in Dagsboro for the past 33 years. He has been married for almost twice as long as he was single. He is telling his friends that he is looking forward to retirement and baby sitting with his grandchildren.

"Monty" has a favorite saying, "Want to know what I think?" If you ask him he will spend the next two hours or so telling you and he won't skip a thing.

He is a great fellow and it is a real pleasure to be working with him.

### FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

The Northeast Area meeting will be held in Burlington, Vermont, August 1st through 4th. Your District will be represented by Board Chairman, Alden Short and Mrs. Short and your Secretary and his wife. The area meeting always provides an opportunity for securing information, discussing problems and exchanging ideas concerning conservation of our natural resources.

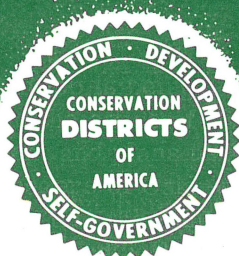
The Northeast Area is composed of 12 states including Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

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### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK

Tax Ditch managers have important duties to perform that greatly influence the drainage program of our District.

To illustrate we list four of the nine duties that are included in the 1955 Delaware Drainage Law:

1. Determine from the taxables the desired program of operations.
2. Determine the amount of taxes to be levied to carry out each desired program.
3. Provide for construction work on the Tax Ditch.
4. Provide for adequate maintenance of the Tax Ditch.

We wish to express our appreciation, to the many men who have served as Ditch Managers, for the fine job they have done over the years.

Perhaps never has their job been more important than it is now, nor has their active support been more needed by the District than at this time.

Last January in Dover at the State Association meeting 65 ditch managers participated in a discussion on the merits of a more organized effort on their part to help further conservation in the Districts.

On October 14th the State Association will further explore some possibilities of involving Ditch Managers in a more active way with the District Program.

It is hoped that out of these discussions can come a plan that will, indeed, lead the way toward this goal.



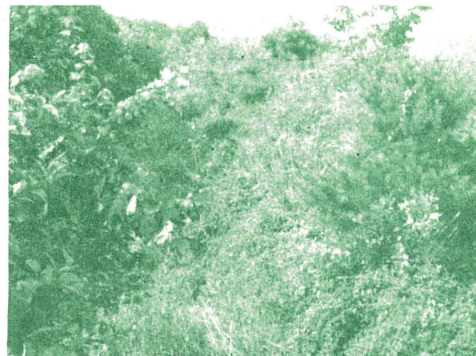
### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

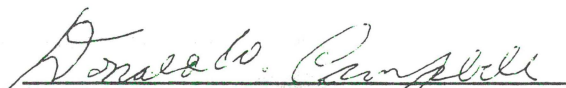
This month we go up to Oakley to find your fellow cooperators.

Did you say where's Oakley? Well, it's found on Route 16 between Ellendale and Greenwood. Elwood Webb knows where it is because he was born there, raised there, and still lives there. He attended school first at the Oakley Country School and then Greenwood High where he graduated in 1938. After spending four years in the Air Force during World War II, Elwood returned to Oakley and started farming and timbering. He presently owns and tends 74 acres of which 35 are tillable, raises standard-bred horses, operates a 50-75 hog operation and supervises a timber operation. This is all in his spare time because his main job is being Postmaster of the Ellendale Post Office. Elwood has been Postmaster since 1957 and has held the office of National President of the Postmasters Association. At present, he is a National Vice-President and plans to attend the National Association Meeting in California this month. He is also one of the managers of Oakley Branch Tax Ditch. Elwood is married and has four sons and three daughters. His wife gets into the family enterprise around the Xmas season when she makes wreaths of running cedar, crows foot and holly and yards and yards of doorway trim or ceiling streamers of the same material. Picture shows Elwood talking with bush-hog operator about a roadway maintenance mowing on the Oakley Branch Tax Ditch.

### FROM THE A.S.C.S. OFFICE

We've talked about wildlife ponds and anti-pollution practices this year. Now that fall is approaching and hunting season is at hand, here is a combination practice that we've had for a long time. This ditch bank seeding is on the Otis Smith operation near Hollysville and was seeded about eight years ago. The roses have formed a thick mat to prevent erosion of the ditch bank and have helped suppress the larger trees. A filter strip of Lespedeza was planted beside the ditch and there's still plenty of room for the corn beside it. Here we have a stable working drainage system, ideal wildlife food and cover, and a system to reduce pesticide or fertilizer runoff all working together to the advantage of both the farmer and the public. Many Sussex County farms could use this combination of good conservation practices.



  
Donald W. Campbell, ASCS  
County Executive Director

## YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER REPORTS



As I am writing this (Sept. 13th) the rain is coming from the skies and tears are coming from my eyes. I think we must have had at least five or six inches of rain in the last three days. Most of the jobs we are working on have become thoroughly wet. Oh well, it will dry out sometime. Crops will soon be coming off and any of you who have any ditching or ponds to do get in touch with me so I can get you on our fall schedule.

This issue features our newest crane operator, Robert Cox of Greenwood. Robert has been with us for about a year. Previous to that, he has probably been one of the most travelled equipment operators on the shore. Twelve years in the Air Force as a heavy equipment operator and mechanic took him to jobs in California, Mississippi, New Jersey, Greenland, Okinawa and Viet Nam. After leaving the Service, Bob worked for Delaware and Maryland contractors. Robert is an old "Tar-Heel" born and raised in Hayesville, N.C. He is married and has three boys and two girls, all attending school at Woodbridge. Picture shows Bob admiring a ditch he recently dug on the Bee Branch system near Bridgeville.

## FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

With summer drawing to a close, thoughts now turn to fall. Autumn for most farmers means a lot of hard work in harvesting crops. For sportsmen it means it is time to clean guns, sharpen arrows, mow rabbit paths, build duck blinds, dig goose pits and look for deer trails. It is also time for most game animals, which have been so easily spotted all summer, to disappear.

One of the main game birds we enjoy in Sussex County is the dove. Farm management practices especially helpful to doves include:

1. Establishment of windbreaks and tree plantings for nesting areas.
2. Development of ponds for watering areas.
3. Establish and maintain woody cover in odd areas or around ponds.
4. Establish and maintain dense shrub borders around wooded areas.

Doves nest primarily in pine trees in Sussex County with any tree that provides a broad surface by dense branches or sloping limbs being acceptable to build a nest on. Conifers are preferred to offer protection against the spring winds.

Seeds compose 98 percent of the doves diet. Waste grain from harvesting and weed seeds are the major source of food. Corn, wheat, crabgrass, ragweed, pokeweed, Timothy and Lespedeza are the major seeds for the dove in Sussex.

Doves generally are plentiful if given adequate nesting area, food, water and open area and they can be a source of much enjoyment for the landowner.

## FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK

The 4-H Land Judging team which represented Delaware at the National Land Judging program in Oklahoma City in May attended our Board meeting in August and showed slides and told about their trip. It was most interesting.

Would you like to see their pictures and hear their report. I would be happy to arrange it if you will let me know.

The Northeastern Area meeting in Burlington, Vermont, was an excellent one. The enrollment was the highest ever and the program most informative.

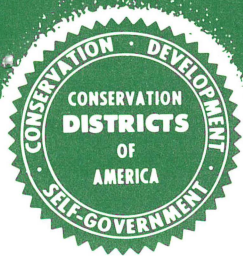
Those attending from Delaware were Mr. and Mrs. Short, Mr. and Mrs. White, Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson and Mr. Otis Fincher.

The State Association will meet on October 14 at the Hub Restaurant in Dover. More on this meeting in the next newsletter.

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

NOVEMBER, 1971

### BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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### YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK --

In our September newsletter we discussed four of the important duties of tax ditch managers and their influence on the drainage program of our District. We also recalled the State Association Meeting in Dover last January in which 65 ditch managers participated in a discussion on the merits of a closer working relationship between tax ditch managers and the District Board.

On October 14th the State Association further explored this idea and concluded that a closer working relationship would indeed be beneficial to the Conservation Program.

One suggestion was that tax ditches may become associate members of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and thus unite the efforts of both groups in working to achieve a common goal.

A second suggestion was that the ditch managers and District Board members meet in small discussion groups for the purpose of considering how, together, we can contribute more effectively to the over-all conservation program in the District.

Your comments, either as a tax ditch manager or as a District cooperator on these suggestions, would be quite helpful to your Board in guiding us in the direction we should take on this matter.

### FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

I was just thinking the other day about the approaching hunting season and figuring out a schedule where I could stay out of all woods, fields and marshes. However, some people aren't fortunate enough to do this and must take their chances.

Whether you are a hunter or just going to be around an area where hunting is going on, an observance of some common-sense principles will lessen your chances of being mistaken for whatever is being shot at.

Some suggestions are listed below:

Wear bright clothing.

Don't wander around silently in areas of poor visibility. Whoop, holler and let everyone else know you are there (including the animals).

Observe game laws and regulations pertaining to firearms safety.

Dress warmly. Sometimes it is less painful to be slightly wounded than to recover from pneumonia.

Either know whose land you are hunting on or ask permission from the landowner. Sometimes they can get irate to the point of violence. Since most of our farmers are hunters themselves, it is very seldom that a request to hunt on their land is turned down.

The new schooling being required for novice hunters is an excellent safety program.

We are fortunate here in our area to have such an abundance of hunting and fishing at our doorsteps and it would be a pity to have what should be a pleasure turn into a tragedy from not observing a few safety rules.

The picture shows some of the wildfowl that make this area a hunting heaven.



### MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Our cooperator this month is John Pomeroy whose 46-acre farm is near Johnsons Corner. John was born in 1931 around the Selbyville-Williamsville area, raised on a farm, attended Selbyville High School, and graduated from the Pennsylvania Military Academy. After graduation he worked at the DuPont Nylon Plant and then entered the Marine Corps for two years. After his discharge, John worked with his father for awhile and in 1957 became a member of the Delaware State Police. He is now the Captain of Troop 4 at Georgetown.

John purchased his farm two years ago and although he

cash rents the land, he noticed a low area that was almost a sure loss every year because of water. This

(Continued on back page)

spring he decided to utilize this area by building a pond. When completed, the pond will provide a source of recreation, fishing and fire protection. It will also provide John an excellent training place for his retrievers. His farm is located in an area heavily used by Canadian Geese and chances are good that the pond will be used by these birds as a resting place.

John is married and has two boys. His hobbies are boating, fishing, hunting and scaring rookie troopers. The picture shows John in front of pond with his Chesapeake retriever, "Kim."

#### YOUR EQUIPMENT MANAGER REPORTS

Rain, rain, go away, come again some other day. As I'm writing this, the radio is predicting thunderstorms. It may have been wetter when Noah took to the Ark, but I doubt it.

The lateness of the harvest due to wet fields is going to play the dickens with our fall construction work. Many farm jobs that would now be underway are still waiting until beans, and in some places even corn are off. Clearing is also going to be difficult on some jobs even later on.

But between the farm jobs and the tax ditches we have under construction, we have pretty well managed to keep all the machinery busy.

Well, I've got to rush out and see if I can find a place where the dust is blowing and the dozers can work. So long till next time and we will all hope that maybe sometime in the next year or so, it will dry off.

P.S. Have you noticed that for the past five or six months no one has been telling us how low the ground water supply had fallen?

#### FROM THE ASCS OFFICE.....

What does it take to make a happy hog? Dennard Hill, of near Atlanta, must have found the answer. He raises about two thousand of them at a time in his operation. They were very friendly when we walked through the lot to take this picture. The point of the picture is that this is one of the areas where Dennard plans to construct a livestock lagoon to make his hogs (and his neighbors) even happier.

This will be the third such lagoon in Sussex County and all of the agencies involved are gaining more experience although each project has its individual problems. Like many areas in Sussex County, Dennard's farm sits on the top of a very flat 50-foot contour. It drains in several different directions. One of these is Chapel Branch which empties into the Nanticoke just below Seaford.



This is another example of our conservation efforts helping the general public as well as the farmer.

*Donald W. Campbell*  
Donald W. Campbell, County Executive Director,  
Sussex County ASCS Office

#### FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK--

Farm-City Week is being observed throughout our nation November 19-25. The purpose is to emphasize the interdependence of farm and city or town people. What has this to do with conservation? Proper drainage is essential for both and both are a part of a proper drainage system. An ample supply of good water is necessary for both and both have a part in supplying good water. Wildlife, forests and recreation areas are important to both and each have a responsibility and an opportunity to help make them available.

For these reasons, I urge you to join in the Observance of Farm-City Week by talking to your friends and helping them to understand its purpose - from a conservation viewpoint.

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SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Georgetown, Delaware

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