

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
County Council Member — RALPH E. BENSON, Lincoln
District Conservationist — RICHARD P. BENNETT, Georgetown
Member of Board — R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

MARCH, 1975

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK.....

Soil Stewardship Week will be observed throughout the nation during the week of May 4-11. Our District will sponsor the observance here in Sussex and as board members we invite you to join us in the observance.

The purpose of Soil Stewardship Week is to create a larger awareness of our responsibilities for stewardship of the natural resources that sustain us. Stewardship observances also provide an opportunity to draw the public's attention to local resource problems and the efforts being made in the community to help solve them.

The theme for this year is "Test of Strength." It emphasizes the many changes now occurring in our nation, and how they "test our strength" and affect our continuing responsibility to be good stewards of the land.

Materials for use in observing Soil Stewardship Week will be made available to individuals or groups who wish to help promote this important event. Some ways in which individuals can help include:

1. Encourage your minister to include Stewardship in one of his sermons during May. A 16-page, four-color booklet on Soil Stewardship can be made available for his use. You could deliver this to him.
2. Place a copy of this booklet in your doctor's office.
3. Prepare a talk on Soil Stewardship and offer to give it to community organization meetings, church groups or at a school assembly program.

If you wish to have some of these booklets write or call the District Office and we will supply them.

You may think of other ways you can help and your Board encourages you to do so.

Remember Conservation means, "the wise use of our natural resources" and it is important to everyone.

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Sussex County is primarily agriculturally oriented, about 93% of the land area suited to intensive farming. The soils are not only capable of yielding high cash crops, but also support numerous wildlife populations. The wildlife population of any area depends on the availability of food, cover, and water in a suitable combination. Equally important is the "carrying capacity" of the area, or the ability of an area to support a given number of species at a given time of year. Habitat for an individual species or group of species depends upon the interaction of the species, food, cover, water and population.

The Sussex County Soil Survey rates the soils of the county according to their natural suitability for the establishment and maintenance of the major elements of wildlife habitat. The elements of wildlife habitat are rated as good, fair, poor and not suited. The information the survey provides is extremely important when considering your land for wildlife value.

If you would like to receive information on wildlife, contact the Georgetown Field Office.

FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

Just a reminder of the Soil Survey Reports that are now available for distribution. The information they contain can be very helpful in farm management, selecting sites for ponds, buildings and other land uses. If you have not gotten a copy, I urge you to contact your District Office and request a copy.

A few events that appear on the calendar include:

Soil Stewardship Week - May 4th-11th; 4-H Stewardship Poster Contest in May; Land Judging Contest for F.F.A. and 4-H members in September; 4-H Conservation Day in September and the Northeast area meeting in August - this year to be held in New Jersey.

More details on these events in the next newsletter.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

Our fellow cooperator for this month is Granville Conaway. Granville is a native of Sussex County (42 years) and has considerable experience in farm operation and management. Together with his son, Gary, they show that teamwork in farm management is an integral part of a large farm operation.

Growing corn and soybeans on 800 acres, is Granville's main objective. Of the total acreage, Mr. Conaway rents approximately 600 acres and owns 200 acres. Other farm enterprise includes raising 100 head of hogs and 30,000 chickens.

Granville has expressed a keen interest in wildlife and manages his woodland area for wildlife habitat. One of Granville's future plans is to install a wildlife pond for ducks and geese.

Being a father, farmer and a conservationist is a big task for any man, but together with the Soil Conservation District, Granville hopes to accomplish his goals.



FROM THE ASCS OFFICE....

As farmers, we all know that conservation is a continuing thing that goes on all year long. There comes a time when it is good to take an inventory of what we have accomplished and make plans for the coming year. 1974 was an interesting year to make comparisons between the two approaches to conservation cost-sharing. We were operating both the 1974 RECP and the restored 1973 REAP during the same calendar year. The following was accomplished as of December 31, 1974:

	<u>1973 REAP</u>	<u>1974 RECP</u>
Permanent Vegetative Cover	69 acres	0*
Forestry (site preparation)	92 acres	381 acres
Pasture Improvement	122 acres	0*
Ponds For Wildlife	7 ponds	5 ponds
Open Ditching	857 ac. served	0*
Temporary Cover	18,435 acres	0*
No. of Farms	272	21
Total Cost-Shares Used	\$76,000	\$21,000

*Under the 1974 RECP these practices were either not offered or Sussex County soil was ineligible for approval.

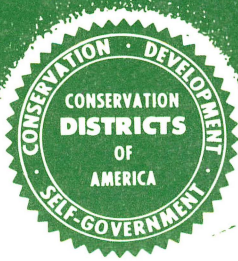
Many forestry, ditching and pond practices will be completed during the spring of 1975. These will earn cost-shares from last year's funds. As of this date we don't know what the 1975 program will be. We do know the need is here for continued efforts; so make your plans and keep in touch with us when it is announced.

* * * * *

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate U. S. Postage PAID League City, Texas Permit No. 1



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
County Council Member — RALPH E. BENSON, Lincoln
District Conservationist — RICHARD P. BENNETT, Georgetown
Member of Board — R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

JULY, 1975

YOUR BOARD MEMBER SPEAKS.....

Johnsongrass is a sturdy perennial which spreads rapidly and thrives easily. For years, in Delaware, it has reduced land values, increased food production costs, divided neighbors, and otherwise been a burden in farming areas. Now, in this state, it is "unlawful to knowingly contaminate uninfested land... to knowingly allow Johnsongrass to set seed..."

This has come about through the recent enactment of Senate Bill 742, and is now part of the Delaware Code. Its effect is to make Johnsongrass a matter of concern to every owner of open land, even though he is not engaged in a farming operation.

Last year a Johnsongrass Education Program was started in the state with the Extension Service, State Department of Agriculture and Highway Department cooperating.

The program is being conducted this year. Briefly the program includes the following:

1. Helping people to identify the weed - Extension Service will help.
2. Preventing it from going to seed.
3. Where it is on the highway right-of-way the Highway Department will spray it with chemicals to kill it.
4. Where it is on non-cropland the landowner is encouraged to spray it to kill it. The Department of Agriculture has a truck mounted power sprayer and will, for a nominal charge, spray small spots on non-cropland, where the landowner wishes the help.
5. On cropland farmers are urged to plant soybeans and use Treflan at double strength for two or three years. If it is present only in small spots on cropland, farmers are urged to spot treat these areas. The materials to use may vary according to the situation and therefore the landowners are encouraged to contact the Extension Office, 856-5250, for further recommendations.

Your Board feels that this is a conservation problem and, therefore, we urge your cooperation and support in the effort to bring this weed under control.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATOR

The purpose of wildlife management is to maintain populations of wild animals at levels consistent with the best interests of wild species themselves and of the American public.

Satisfying that objective is a big, complex job for Mr. Pete King, wildlife manager at the Old Furnace Mill Game Preserve.

Recognizing the importance and beauty of wildlife, Pete has constructed a two-acre wildlife pond and established feeding strips adjacent to the pond site. In addition, a restricted area is set aside for the breeding and nesting of all types of wildlife. As the breeding area increases in population, the wildlife will spread into the areas designated for hunting. By careful regulated hunting and special breeding sites, Pete feels confident that the 300-acre game preserve will yield an abundance of wildlife for many years to come.

The above picture depicts Mr. King standing beside the two-acre wildlife pond.



FROM THE ASCS OFFICE

Buckwheat, Millet, Sericea Lespedeza, Autumn Olive, Tartarian Honeysuckle and Persimmon. What do these plants have to do with modern farming operation? All of you good conservation-minded farmers recognize them as ideal wildlife plantings for food and cover. If you had the space, and the time, and the extra cash to purchase and plant these and other exotic and common shrubs and seeds, you would like to

(continued)

ASCS OFFICE (Continued)

provide for more wildlife on your farm. Some Sussex County farmers might even claim they are already feeding the deer and rabbits and raccoons along the edges of their woodland anyway with the outer rows of their corn and soybeans. This brings up the point that maybe a lot of farmers do have that extra space on their farm. An odd corner of the edge of a field, or along a ditch bank. These places would be ideal for wildlife habitat and you wouldn't be losing that much productive land anyway. If you need the extra help with the cost of these practices which benefit the public, stop in at the ASCS Office and see if one of our practices fits your plans.


Donald W. Campbell, CED

FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

Shallow wildlife ponds are recognized by many environmentalists as the indispensable nursery grounds of our wildlife resources. In terms of their yield, shallow wildlife ponds probably are the most productive sites on earth.

The waterfowl populations have increased dramatically in Delaware since the 1940's. This increase was brought about by a change to a corn-soybean agricultural economy, utilizing large equipment and large fields; establishment by state, federal, and private landowners of ponds and large water areas near food supplies; and carefully regulated hunting.

Fresh open water ponds, in the vicinity of cropland providing food, are a major key to successful wildlife management. The abundance of food and cover is the primary element needed for waterfowl nesting sites. The pond is designed for a depth of three feet and the sloping banks seeded to a deep-rooted grass to retard erosion and provide cover for ducks and geese. The designed depth, which produces submersed plants, is very attractive as feeding and nesting sites for waterfowl. This pond occupies a surface area of 1.42 acres with an additional acre seeded to grasses around the pond.

The Soil Conservation Service provided the technical assistance for this shallow wildlife pond located near Milford, Delaware.



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK.....

The Northeast Area Meeting of the National Association will be held in New Jersey, August 3-4-5. Subjects of interest to those concerned with conservation will be discussed. Earl and Mrs. White and your secretary and Mrs. Henderson are planning to attend. Reports on the meeting will be in our next newsletter.

Johnsongrass is a problem on many farms in the county. A campaign is being conducted to help control it. Your Board members spoke about this problem and I wish to urge you to do what you can to help bring this weed under control. Call the Extension Office, 856-5250, and we shall be glad to discuss the control program with you. This is indeed a conservation matter if we agree that conservation means "wise use of our land".

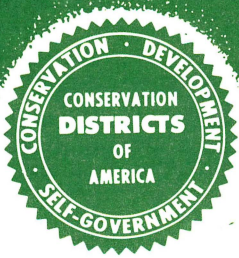
SUSSEX COUNTY
SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Georgetown, Delaware

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
League City, Texas
Permit No. 1

SX DEL

UNIV. OF DELAWARE
ATTN: FRANK GORDY
RD#2, BOX 48
GEORGETOWN, DEL. 19947



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
County Council Member — RALPH E. BENSON, Lincoln
District Conservationist — RICHARD P. BENNETT, Georgetown
Member of Board — R. ELWOOD TUCKER, Ellendale

NOVEMBER, 1975

YOUR BOARD MEMBERS SPEAK

Our District's Annual Dinner Meeting will be held in the Sussex Central High School Cafeteria, Georgetown, on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 p. m.

The program will feature information concerning tax ditches and their importance to the proper drainage of farm land, towns, highways and other public lands. There will be entertainment and fellowship along with the dinner. Ladies, of course, are invited.

Attendance at this meeting is one way you can learn more about the things your District is doing and help support your Board in those programs which you feel are worthwhile.

Tickets are \$1.00 each and are available from any of the following members of the attendance committee:

Jacob Banks
Frank Bonsall
Joseph N. Elliott
Cashar Evans
Paul B. Hastings
Lester Hudson

Henry C. Johnson, III
Joseph Kollock, Sr.
Paul Lowe
Chester J. Lynch
Grise McCabe
Timothy Schlabach

Alden P. Short
Milton Swartzentruber
Elwood Tucker
William Vanderwende
James E. Wharton
Earl E. White
Donald Campbell

Call the member nearest you and get your tickets and be on hand in the Sussex Central High School Cafeteria, Georgetown, on Thursday, November 20th at 7:00 p. m.

MEET YOUR FELLOW COOPERATORS

Our three candidates for the long term agreement program are Peter King, Walter Hopkins, and Bill Wolters.

Peter King (upper photo) has a 300-acre game preserve in addition to an option to lease another 300 acres adjacent to the game preserve. Pete's long term plan will include the following practices: the construction of wildlife ponds, wildlife borders, food plots, establishment of permanent pasture and planting herbaceous and woody wildlife plantings. The long term plan will be implemented under the RE-10 Permanent Wildlife Habitat. The target date for completion is 1984.

Walter Hopkins (middle photo) has planned a four-year waste management system plan related to his dairy operation. The conservation plan will allow Walt to expand his herd with a minimum of pollution to the farm and its surroundings. The plan allows extreme flexibility in handling animal waste so that the operation can be made more efficient. The installation of the system is divided into four phases. Phase 1 will consist of a collection ditch and slurry holding tank to handle waste from the milking parlor. In phase 2 a retention pond will be installed for added storage. Included in this phase is an irrigation system for disposal waste onto adjacent cropland. The third phase will be the installation of flush tank and separator. The fourth phase will include a diversion and grading to control barnyard runoff. The completed plan will exceed the Environmental Protection Agency specifications.

Bill Wolters (lower photo) has four tracts of land entered into a long term agreement. Bill plans to install wildlife ponds, herbaceous and woody wildlife plantings, drainage, and a field wind-break. Bill's plan will be completed in 1978.

The participants are signing the long term agreement with Harold Short, Chairman of the ASCS Committee.



FROM YOUR DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST

It is now time to think about conservation planning on the land. A Long-Term Agreement Program is designed to provide technical assistance for the application of conservation practices on the land. The advantages of long-term agreements are:

1. Funds are assured for life of agreement.
2. Sign up once for complete conservation package.
3. Is a real aid to long-term planning for farm operations.
4. Farmer knows the cost-sharing and technical assistance he can count on.
5. Provides long-term benefits for the community.
6. Helps conservation contractors plan their work.

FROM THE A. S. C. S. OFFICE

The new Agricultural Service Center was officially dedicated on October 30 with J. Paul Bolduc, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration, USDA, as the guest speaker.

Sussex County was the first in the Tri-State area of Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey to fully implement the one-stop service center. The main change was to remodel the building to use the open space concept around the lobby area. This allows farmers and the public to come in and be directed immediately to the agency they need. It also helps SCS, ASCS and FMHA to share other facilities that we use together such as maps, office machines and supplies.

The main reason Sussex County was able to be one of the first in this renovation is our ability to cooperate with each other and work with other agencies like Extension Service and the Sussex Conservation District. We will continue this cooperation in order to better serve the farmers and people of Sussex County. If you didn't make it to the dedication, come to the new 'Service Center' anytime and check on our programs.



FROM YOUR SECRETARY'S NOTEBOOK:

Ten F. F. A. Departments with 50 members participating took part in the annual Land Judging Contest on October 16th at the University of Delaware Substation.

Professor Leo Cotnoir of the Soils Department at the University conducted the contest with the help of the F. F. A. Advisors from the 10 Chapters.

The State Association of Conservation Districts provided the refreshments and the money for the awards to the winning teams and individuals. This is just one of the ways in which our District along with the other Districts in Delaware encourage a greater interest in and a better understanding of the conservation of our natural resources.

The winning Chapters in the contest were:

1. Milford
2. Newark
3. Lake Forest
4. Ceaser Rodney
5. Smyrna

Congratulations to all who participated.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Bulk Rate
U. S. Postage
PAID
League City, Texas
Permit No. 1