

Help Save Productive Soil



AMERICA'S BASIC ASSET

We acknowledge the cooperation of the USDA Soil Conservation Service in supplying many of the photographs used in the preparation of this pamphlet.



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This is a brief story of our farm lands—telling something of what has occurred in the past—and what is being done in the present. Its purpose is to show the importance of conserving our soil for the future welfare of all the American people.

Much of the information that follows is gleaned from reports, surveys, bulletins, and other sources, prepared by men who have been working on the program of saving our basic and most important resource—the productive top soil of the country.

Top soil is the farmer's principal asset, and it is upon the productiveness of this top soil that all business ultimately depends. Productive farm land is indispensable to man and to all enterprise, and none can survive if there is no fertile soil to produce crops.

What Has Happened

Nearly 14 percent of our continental surface has lost all crop growing vitality, and more than a billion acres are being eroded now.



Sheet erosion first—then gullies.

In 1934 the Soil Erosion Service, which was organized in 1933 and was the predecessor to the Soil Conservation Service, made a national survey of erosion by wind and water that revealed a most disturbing situation. In a country with less than

two billion acres of land it was found that about 280 million acres had been entirely ruined for any kind of immediate productive use. This area, nearly eight times the size of Wisconsin, was once covered for the most part with a fairly deep layer of fertile soil. Profitable use of these lands today is out of the question. They are gone, so far as farming is concerned, for many generations.

The survey revealed that about 775 million more acres of land was seriously affected by erosion, some of it very badly but not beyond redemption. Little area is absolutely free from damage by erosion, whether in the rolling hills of the East or the flat lands of the West. Lower levels are subject to overwash from higher lands, or serious silting from floods or overflowing local streams.

A Hundred Careless Years

Most of our land has been under cultivation only about 100 years, and much of the West for an even shorter time; yet we have lost 14 percent of our acres from production, and another 35 percent is rapidly being lost through erosion. This loss has been in a large degree due to carelessness and to outright abuse of top soil. The United States has wasted its precious soil resources at a faster rate than any other nation or race that ever attempted extensive agricultural practices.

The publication, *Soil Conservation*, May 1944, states: "Based on experimental evidence it is estimated that soil losses in the United States are now 5,400,000,000 tons annually. With the weight of seven inches of top soil approximately 1,000 tons per acre, this soil represents the yearly loss of top soil from 5,400,000 acres of fields and pastures. It moves with every rain, and it moves as the wind passes across unprotected plains and other exposed dry sandy land."



Sixty acres of land were ruined on this farm. Removal of timber from the ridge tops was in large part responsible.

Sheet erosion, the most serious because of its action in washing away top soil in thin layers, often is unnoticed until the best top soil is gone and serious damage done. It is worst on clean tilled or bare fields. Gullies make us aware of erosion, but often sheet washing has removed the best soil long before gullies interfere seriously with farming operations.

The more the soil washes and blows away the less chance the farmer has to grow crops to prevent continuance of these losses.

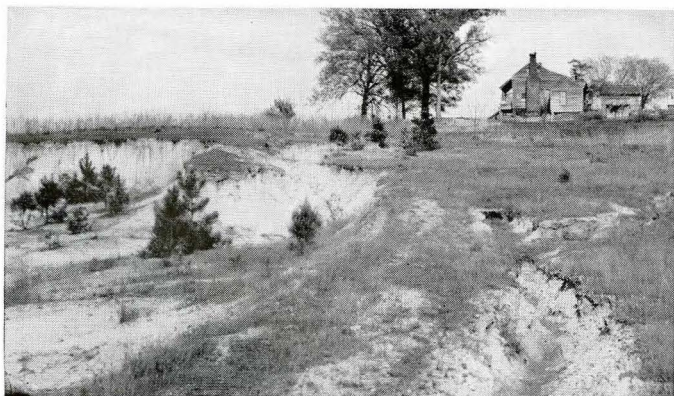
No New Frontiers

In the early days of American agriculture there seemed to be a limitless supply of new, fertile land and the trend of cultivation was ever westward. If the early American's farm wore out he did not worry. He could move West to a new one. But that is history. Today there is no great area of new land to move to. Something must be done to conserve the soil we have left.



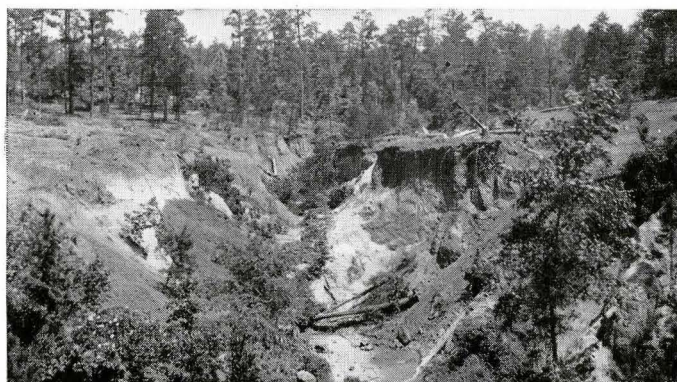
Sold for taxes!

Already about 50 million acres of formerly cultivated good land has been ruined and another 50 million acres has been reduced to a definitely submarginal condition. Submarginal farming is bankrupt farming, and the farmer as well as all business depending upon his production will eventually fail. The amount of land once cultivated but now



No one lives here.

out of production due to loss of fertile top soil is nearly equal to our entire wheat acreage of 1943, according to Marvin Jones, War Food Administrator. According to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, more than one half of our land is being seriously eroded by wind or water or both.



Improper drainage from a highway started this gully. See picture below for treatment.

Losses Affect All of Us

Erosion losses fall most immediately and directly on the nation's 30 million farm people, but the ruinous results really extend far beyond the farm to ultimately affect everyone. It is estimated that American farmers have an annual loss of \$400,000,000 from erosion, not to mention the further damages from floods to highways and railroads, silting of streams and reservoirs, and other losses.

Eroded silt fills reservoirs, ditches, stream beds and harbors at an estimated annual damage cost of \$92,000,000, according to the Soil Conservation



Controlled slope diversion ditches built to permit healing the gullies shown in the foregoing picture.

Service. At the same time we are told erosion is increasing the cost of maintaining highways and railways by about \$280,000,000 a year.

Washington and Jefferson saw the ravages of erosion on their own holdings and made serious efforts to check the destructive action, but farmers as a whole gave little attention to the matter.

It takes generations, even centuries, for the creation of a 1-inch layer of really productive top soil, as nature builds top soil. Our present top soils vary

from none to 12 inches deep. On vast areas today it will not average over five inches deep. Up and downhill plowing, continuous single-cropping, overgrazing, deforestation, and other exhausting practices of the past have wrought havoc with top soil. Especially serious is the rapid rate at which our soil resources have been and are going out.



Up-and-down farming doesn't pay even on gentle slopes.

For over half a century a few individuals have agitated for soil-saving programs, but no real national undertaking of the job was started until early in the 1930's.

Seriousness of Erosion Now Recognized

Regardless of what has occurred to our soils or how it happened, the control of soil erosion, the conservation and improvement of what fertile top soil we have left, is a pressing and vital national need. Without adequately safeguarding our area of good soil we are likely, eventually, to face a serious land shortage for production of crops.

In the 1930's, record-breaking floods and dust storms focused public attention on the danger of



Strip-cropping on an upper Mississippi valley farm. Strips of ground-anchoring grasses and legumes hold back excess runoff of storm waters, reduce soil washing on the cultivated crop above, and filter out any silt washed from the cultivated strip above.

soil losses. It became clear that conservation of our soils, the country's most valuable and fundamental asset, is a national necessity of the highest importance.

In 1933 a government agency, known as the Soil Erosion Service, was organized under the Department of the Interior, and started to work on the problem of erosion in its various phases, although Federal interest in the erosion problem really began in 1929 with the establishment of several experimental farms to study erosion problems.

Establishment of SCS

In 1935 the Soil Erosion Service became the Soil Conservation Service as a permanent agency of the United States Department of Agriculture. With the increasing interest in the problems of erosion the program of activities of the Service was expanded. The main objective of the Soil Conservation Service (hereafter referred to as SCS) is to promote control of soil erosion, whether by water or wind, and encourage better use of American farm and range land over the widest possible area.



Terraces and 34-foot contour strips have greatly increased the yields on this man's farm.

The conservation program is many-sided. Soil differences, sectional variations, types and practices of farming, cropping systems, topography, climate and many other factors play their parts and have to be considered in working out the best adapted plans. Conservation practices vary from farm to farm and even in different areas of the same farm, so no general plan can be laid out for application. What proves good in one section may be injurious in others. Careful study of all factors involved and accurate analyses of all aspects are necessary to work out the best conservation plan for a given farm or tract of land. However, soil conservation becomes part and parcel of the whole business of making a living from the land, not only a living for those on the farm but for everyone else.

Erosion can be controlled adequately only if every acre on the farm, or within a watershed, is treated according to its needs and inherent adaptabilities.

Long-Term Program

Following the organization of the SCS, various kinds of educational material were put before the public to make it conscious of the seriousness of the situation, to show that important and far-reaching social and economic benefits would result from effective conservation practices, and to make clear the fact that the wealth, well-being and future solidarity of the nation depended on saving the fertile soil that was being wasted away.

The effectiveness of continued effort along these lines is evidenced by the fact that the gospel of soil conservation is now preached by increasing numbers of agencies and organizations throughout the country.

Allied Agencies

In a brief span of years other government agencies, such as Agricultural Adjustment Administration, Farm Credit Administration, Farm Security Administration, Agricultural Extension Service and others became very active in promoting conservation practices. State agricultural experiment stations and extension services became actively integrated into the program from state standpoints.

Various associations have been formed to foster and promote further activities in connection with saving our farm lands. The organization known as "Friends of the Land" has many active members from various pursuits of life other than farming people who have come to realize the dire need for soil conservation and who are having a gratifying influence on the rapid progress of the work.

County agents, vocational agriculture teachers and their classes, ministers, civic organizations, local clubs and financial institutions all over the country are now actively behind the conservation program or beginning to sense the acute need for it.

Industrial concerns of many types are becoming aware of the situation to an increasing degree and are lending various kinds of assistance to those directing conservation work and to farmers who are putting recommendations into practice.

Organization of SCS

SCS Headquarters are in Washington, with an executive staff under Dr. H. H. Bennett, Chief. There is an operations division made up of specialists in all agricultural lines, a research division composed of especially trained personnel, and other units necessary for effective functioning.

The country is divided into seven regions, each with a headquarters office in charge of a Regional Conservator whose organization is similar to that of the Washington force but adapted to the special requirements of the region.

The following are the regions, the states in each region, the name of the conservator in charge, and the location of the regional office:

REGION 1—Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia.

August L. Patrick
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Upper Darby, Pennsylvania

REGION 2—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Thomas S. Buie
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Spartanburg, South Carolina

REGION 3—Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

Ralph H. Musser
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

REGION 4—Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma.

Louis P. Merrill
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Fort Worth, Texas

REGION 5—Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Arthur E. McClymonds
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Lincoln, Nebraska

REGION 6—Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah.

Cyril Luker
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Albuquerque, New Mexico

REGION 7—California, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii.

John H. Christ
Regional Conservator
Soil Conservation Service
Portland, Oregon



Harvester men on tour with representatives of SCS
near LaCrosse, Wisconsin, June 22 and 23, 1944.

The personnel of the regional offices deals with problems peculiar to the area of the region, covering every angle that is involved in soil conservation work.

Agronomy, engineering, range problems, forestry, biology, project plans, land management, nurseries, soil surveys, cartographic work, land acquisition, records and reports, information and education are some of the working groups in the regional offices.

State Conservationists

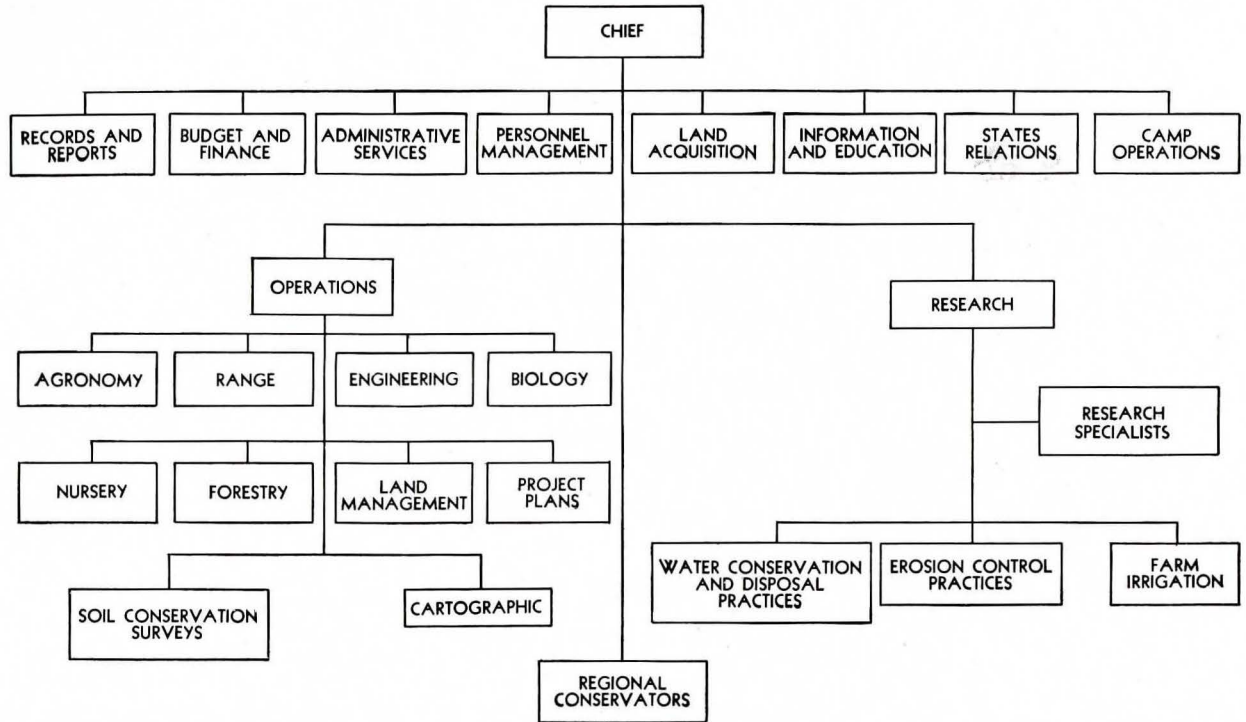
Regions of SCS are divided into zones with zone technicians in charge of operations in their areas. SCS also has a State Conservationist in every state to cooperate with various agencies and coordinate their activities. The following is the latest available list of State Conservationists and their headquarters.

<i>State</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Alabama	O. C. Medlock	Auburn
Arizona	Allen F. Kinnison	Phoenix
Arkansas	Edgar A. Hodson	Little Rock
California	J. S. Barnes	Berkeley
Colorado	Kenneth W. Chalmers	Ft. Collins
Connecticut	L. R. Albright (Acting)	Kingston, R. I.
Delaware	R. S. Snyder	Newark
Florida	Colin D. Gunn	Gainesville
Georgia	T. L. Asbury	Athens
Idaho	Robert N. Irving	Boise
Illinois	B. B. Clark	Urbana
Indiana	Kenneth W. Welton	Lafayette
Iowa	Frank Mendell	Ames
Kansas	F. J. Sykes	Salina
Kentucky	H. K. Gayle	Lexington
Louisiana	Harold B. Martin	Baton Rouge
Maine	W. B. Oliver	Orono
Maryland	Edward M. Davis	College Park

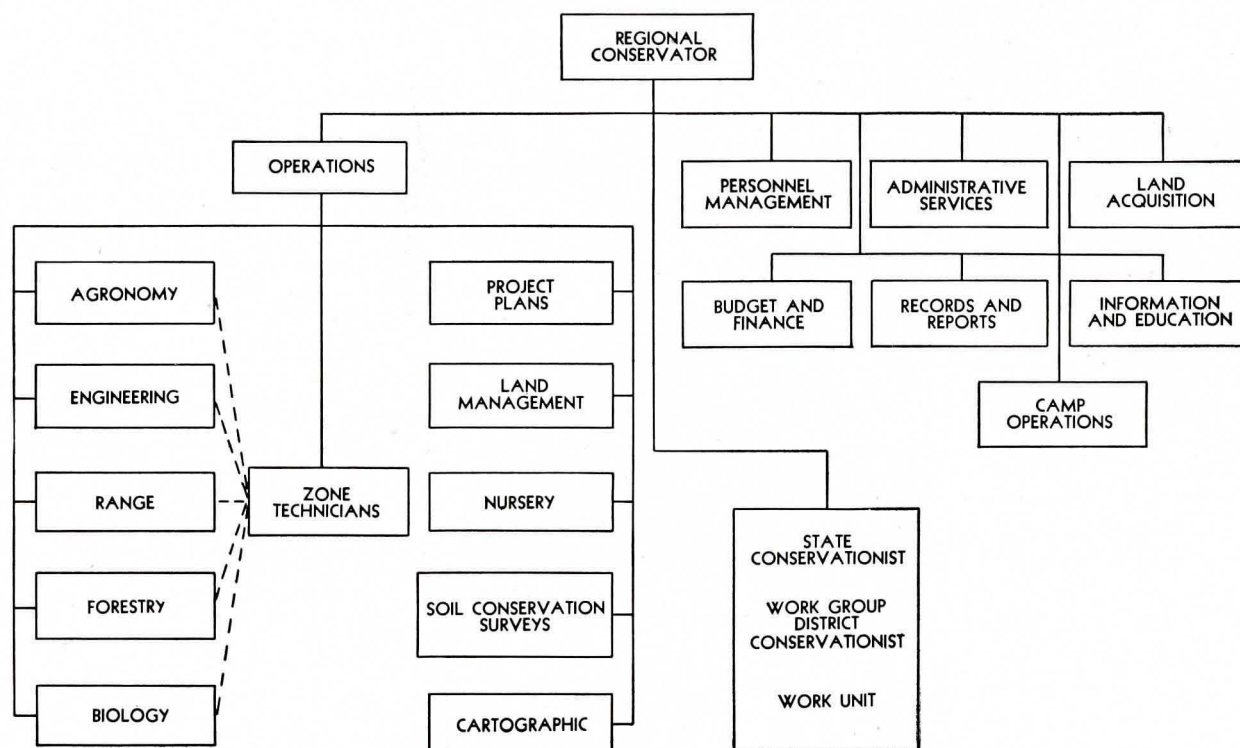
<i>State</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Address</i>
Massachusetts	L. R. Albright (Acting)	Kingston, R. I.
Michigan	E. C. Sackrider	East Lansing
Minnesota	H. A. Flueck	St. Paul
Mississippi	C. B. Anders	Jackson
Missouri	Kenyon G. Harmon	Columbia
Montana	T. C. Anderson	Bozeman
Nebraska	E. G. Jones	Lincoln
Nevada	George Hardman	Reno
N. Hampshire	A. J. Collins	Durham
New Jersey	L. L. Lee	New Brunswick
New Mexico	James V. Taylor	Albuquerque
New York	I. B. Stafford	Ithaca
N. Carolina	E. G. Garrett	Raleigh
North Dakota	A. D. McKinnon	Bismarck
Ohio	Thomas C. Kennard	Columbus
Oklahoma	Harry M. Chambers	Oklahoma City
Oregon	Leo L. Anderson	Corvallis
Pennsylvania	W. C. Gumbel	Harrisburg
Rhode Island	L. R. Albright (Acting)	Kingston, R. I.
So. Carolina	Ernest Carnes	Columbia
South Dakota	R. D. Davies	Huron
Tennessee	W. M. Hardy	Nashville
Texas	Paul H. Walser	Temple
Utah	Ray Walker	Salt Lake City
Virginia	Lyman Carrier	Blacksburg
Vermont	L. J. Peet	Burlington
Washington	Harry B. Carroll	Spokane
West Virginia	L. L. Lough	Morgantown
Wisconsin	M. F. Schweers	Madison
Wyoming	E. A. Reeves	Laramie

With the organization of Soil Conservation Districts, which will be explained later, the SCS provides District Conservationists and work units to cooperate with Soil Conservation Districts whenever the supervisors solicit assistance of any technical nature pertaining to the conservation program.

Organization of Washington Office



Organization of Regional Office

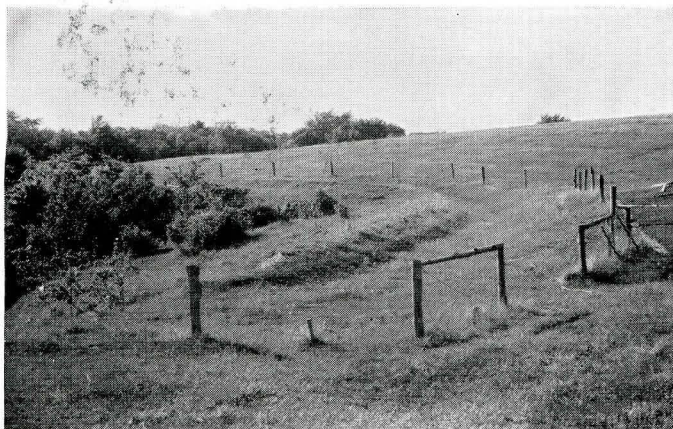


Field Work of SCS

The field activities of SCS are varied, and include every angle of activity connected with wind or water erosion control and proper land use. Careful studies are made of all problems.

SCS plays a part all over the country in connection with the various recommended practices for

better land use. Among them are proper farm layouts, farm management, crops, terracing from start to finish, contour farming, contour strip-cropping, range management, reforestation, farm woodlot management, highway water runoff control, land clearing, pasture problems, drainage, irrigation, and other farm improvement practices.



Diversion dike catches the water that formerly rushed down the head of the gully. Water now drains into a sod flume, extreme left, which carries it safely to a lower level. Note fence for grazing control.



Crop of young oats on a moderate slope nearly ruined by overwash of silt.

Soil Conservation Districts

State laws legalizing the formation of local Soil Conservation Districts have been passed in 45 states. More or less regular procedures are involved in the organization of districts, the first of which was set up in South Carolina in 1937.



Effective drainage by means of properly laid tile.

These local districts may cover a part of a county, a whole county, more than one county or whole watershed areas, depending upon circumstances and the organizing body's purposes. Usually a district's operations are governed by a board of five supervisors, generally farmers. In reality these Soil Conservation Districts are farmer cooperative setups organized to develop and work out plans of conservation for the area involved. A farmer does not have



Building a firebreak to protect a valuable farm woodlot.

to join, but a majority of land owners must be favorable to the formation of a district.

Through an agreement of understanding, supervisors of districts can call on SCS for all kinds of technical advice and possible loan of equipment, and other help if it is available.

Widespread Acceptance

As of May, 1944, there were over 1,000 Soil Conservation Districts organized in the United States

covering close to 1,000,000,000 acres of farm and range land. New districts are being organized faster than it is possible for SCS to get the necessary technical manpower to meet requests for assistance.

The Fort Worth office of SCS, which region includes Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas,



Cultivating corn on the contour—the rows in this 50-acre field are half a mile long.

reports that about 75 percent of all farm land in the four states is now in Soil Conservation Districts and that by 1945 probably 90 percent will be covered by districts. Alabama, in Region 2, has all farm land within functioning districts.

SCS is vigorously cooperating with districts, state agencies, schools, and other organizations to promote conservation work. Each year an increasing number of farmers apply to districts for conservation plans. They see that conservation pays on farms of cooperators.



Adequate drainage produced the tall hemp in the right foreground. Low hemp at center had insufficient drainage for this particular type of soil.

Typical Practices

One Soil Conservation District in Pennsylvania used 22 different practices in the conservation treat-

ment of farms in the district. Some of the most important were:

1. Contour cultivation
2. Contour furrows
3. Cover crops
4. Diversion ditches
5. Relocating fences
6. Special fertilizing and liming
7. Outlet channels
8. New pasture and perennial hay plantings
9. Obstruction removal
10. Strip-cropping
11. Terracing
12. Forest plantings
13. Woodland management
14. Filling or sloping gullies
15. Grading of farm lanes and roads
16. Building water reservoirs

Terracing with Farm Equipment

SCS is strongly promoting the building of terraces with the equipment that farmers use in their regular

slack times. SCS men, county agents, vocational agricultural teachers, and other capable cooperators can be depended on to lay out accurate contour lines.



Plowing out the channel of a terrace. Lines indicate cross-section of terrace.

Coupled with other good farm practices, such as rotations, soil-saving tillage, contour strip-cropping, diversion ditches, and wise use of fertilizers, terraced fields produce higher crop yields than similar fields not terraced. Increases result from saving top soil,



Building a terrace with a turning plow.



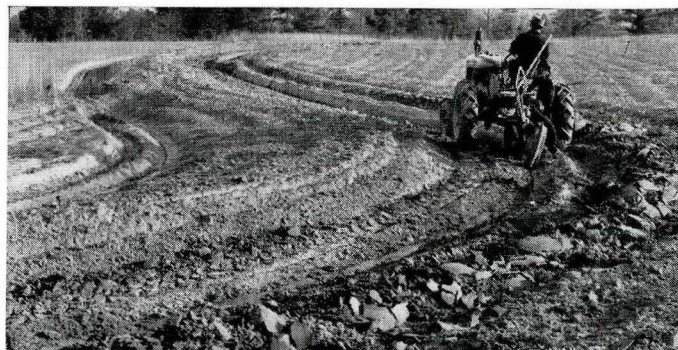
Terrace building with the harrow-plow.

crop production work. Turning plows, disk plows, and harrow-plows can be used to build satisfactory terraces. The main thing is to have accurate contour lines laid out before starting construction, and to build the terraces to specifications, starting with the upper terrace. Much of the work can be done at

holding water on slopes, saving seed, lime, and fertilizer. Terracing should be practiced on fields that must be used for crops and on which contour tillage or strip cropping will not control erosion.



Starting and finishing a terrace with a disk plow.



Roadside erosion control is important to safeguard ditches, culverts and embankments, as well as to protect adjacent lands from damage due to highway runoff.

Drainage

Proper drainage, either sub-tiled or surface, has brought about remarkable increases in crop yields, and in many cases made possible the growing of profitable crops where formerly they failed to produce.



Severely eroded southeastern field, left, was planted to kudzu which became thoroughly established within three years, right.

Conservation farming not only helps farmers protect their land against erosion, but also enables them to increase yields and greatly diversify their farming activities.

Reduction of Farm Abandonment

Soil and water conservation results in a marked decrease in land abandonment. A study of ten counties in the southern Great Plains showed that almost one farm in six had been abandoned in the last few years. Where conservation treatment had been applied the rate of farm abandonment was less than one in thirty.

Quoting from the magazine, *Soil Conservation*, May 1944: "The application of soil conservation practices on the land increases yields on the average of at least 20 percent for the United States as a whole. After treatment 100 farms will produce as much as 120 farms without treatment. A report by 9,244 farmers in 47 states shows that on their 3,900,000 acres the annual average per acre production of major crops has increased 35.5 percent as a result of soil conservation. Regional variations in percentage increase were as follows: Northeast, 33.0; Southeast, 40.4; Upper Mississippi, 25.6; Western Gulf, 35.0; Northern Great Plains, 35.1; Southwestern, 27.7; and the Pacific Coast, 21.3.

Increased Yields

"On these farms it was found that 1,380,000 more bushels of corn were grown on 32,000 fewer acres; 14,705 more bales of cotton on 2,892 less acres; 778,882 more bushels of wheat on 25,303 less acres of land. Increases of other crops and farm products, as a result of conservation farming, were equally as high. Livestock numbers showed substantial increases: dairy cows 27 percent, beef cattle 22 percent and hogs 53 percent."

A report from 1,829 out of 68,618 conservation-treated farms in the nine Southeastern states which have been under complete treatment for at least two years, show an increase in yield per acre of cotton, corn, peanuts, oats and wheat ranging from 19 to 42 percent, and in production per farm from 6 to 110 percent. On 1,754 of these 1,829 farms 178,000 more bushels of corn was grown on 14,000 less acres. This was a 42 percent increase on 20 percent less land.

On 1,800 of the 1,829 farms, dairy and beef cattle increased 82 percent, hogs 62 percent, and poultry 60 percent. There also was an increase of 215 percent in the area of improved pasture on 996 farms. Kudzu, a crop for pasture, hay, silage and soil improvement, increased from a few scattered plantings to an estimated 350,000 acres.

Increased Livestock Production

A survey of 2,500 farms in the northern Great Plains region showed that contour cultivation alone increased row crop (corn and sorghum mainly) yields from 10 to 50 percent and small grain up to 25 percent. On these same farms livestock carrying capacity has been increased as much as 100 percent. Increased livestock follows increased feed production. One farm operator said, "The soil conservation program has saved me from bankruptcy and my farm from destruction."

Some striking examples of the benefits that come from conservation farming are contained in a tabulated summary report from the Milwaukee office of SCS, Region 3, covering the following states: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. A total of 2,011 farmer cooperators, covering 340,213 acres, were interviewed in the eight states. The average size of the farms was 169 acres. The following information is taken from a March, 1944, report from the Milwaukee office:

<i>Subject</i>	<i>Before Planning</i>	<i>After Planning</i>	<i>Percent Increase</i>
Crop Acres per Farm (Avg. 8 States)	106	102	3.7 (Decrease)
Clean Tilled Crops (Acres)	39.6	35.5	11.5 (Decrease)
Small Grain (Acres)	34.0	28.0	17.6 (Decrease)
Hay (Acres)	31.5	35.5	12.7
Corn Yields (Bushels)	44.3	59.1	33.4
Soybeans (Cult.) (Bushels)	18.0	22.3	23.8
Soybeans (Drilled) (Bushels)	14.4	20.1	39.5
Wheat (Bushels)	18.1	21.6	19.3
Oats (Bushels)	36.2	45.0	24.3
Barley (Bushels)	27.4	30.3	10.5
Clover and Timothy (Tons)	1.4	1.7	21.4
Alfalfa (Tons)	2.2	2.5	13.0
Soybean Hay (Tons)	1.7	2.1	23.5
Dairy Cows (Total)	19,972	23,741	19.9
Cows per Farm	11.36	13.54	
Milk Produced (Total)			29.4
Milk per Cow			8.6
Brood Sows per Farm	7.4	9.3	25.0
Pigs Raised (Total)			51.0
Beef Cows per Farm	12.8	15.4	20.3
Calves Raised (Total)			32.0
Chickens Raised per Farm	161	216	34.0
Eggs Produced (Doz.)			36.0

1,907 farmers said soil conservation practices had been effective in controlling erosion on their farms, and nine said "no." 1,881 said the practices increased production, while 35 said they had not. 534 reported they had helped neighboring farmers install conservation practices on their farms, and 1,409 said they had not done so.

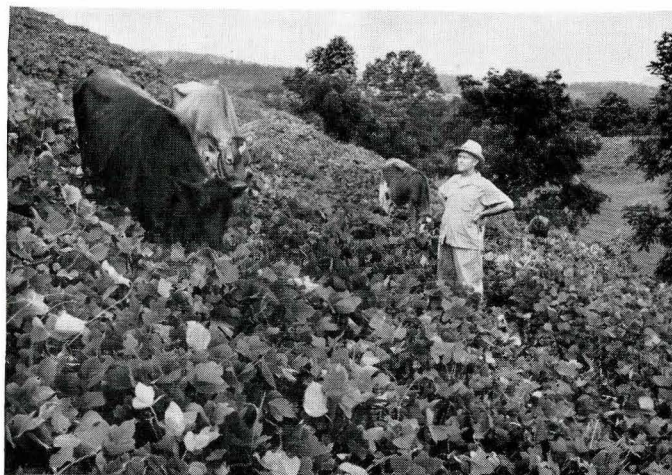
Benefit to Local Business

When farm income increases through better farm practices as correlated with all-round conservation programs local business profits from the increase; and the ultimate result is felt in manufacturing, wholesale,

financial and other business centers, though they may be far away from the producing acres.

Soil conservation practices are speeding over the country, but the conservation job that must be done has just begun. Basic organizational and educational work is well established, and with ever-increasing numbers of Soil Conservation Districts organizing right along, the future of our farm lands is becoming more secure.

There is little likelihood that programs so fundamentally sound as those of soil conservation will fail to succeed and increase. State extension services now include in their specialist personnel an Extension Conservationist who works with all agencies to promote better land use and the conservation of soil and water.



Steep land planted to kudzu provides excellent supplemental grazing.

Cooperation in the Program

As all other business ultimately depends on the business of farming, it is imperative that the guardians of our basic resource be given all possible assistance.



This gully was 25 feet deep, 40 feet wide, and 300 feet long when it was planted to kudzu in 1937. By 1943 it had filled in 5 feet by soil washed into the gully and caught by the dense mass of kudzu.

Soil Conservation Districts, which have already been defined as farmer-operated cooperatives in conservation work, are destined to cover practically all of our farm lands. They present excellent opportunities for cooperation by any organization or industry wishing to assist in assuring the future welfare of business in general. No industry or business can say it is immune to the effects of soil depletion, and increasing numbers are beginning to recognize that cooperation in the program is an essential to their own success.



These long, level rows of soybeans are easy to cultivate.

District supervisors, with the help of SCS, state extension workers and others, develop programs of soil and water conservation and proper land use adapted to local conditions. These programs are then put into practice by cooperating farmers, including the supervisors themselves. After the adoption of local programs the chances of interested parties to help get the practices into operation are almost unlimited.



Properly constructed ponds provide both badly needed stock water and recreation on many farms. Banks should be fenced from livestock and planted to suitable vegetation. The livestock is watered from a tank below the dam. Ponds stocked with pan and game fish furnish a lot of sport right on the farm. In many places, ponds provide some duck shooting, muskrat trapping, and ice skating.

Many large organizations such as railroads, fertilizer manufacturers, seedsmen's associations, oil

companies, mail order houses, financial institutions, automobile producers, farm equipment manufacturers, etc., are evincing much interest in the promotion of conservation practices. Many, if not actually cooperating in field activities, are fostering the conservation program by calling attention to it some way in advertising material. Various civic clubs are taking an active part in the work in many sections. Conservation farmers are practically running their own



Fun and food from a farm fish pond.

programs through the District organizations, with technical assistance from SCS, the county agents, and the agricultural departments of schools.

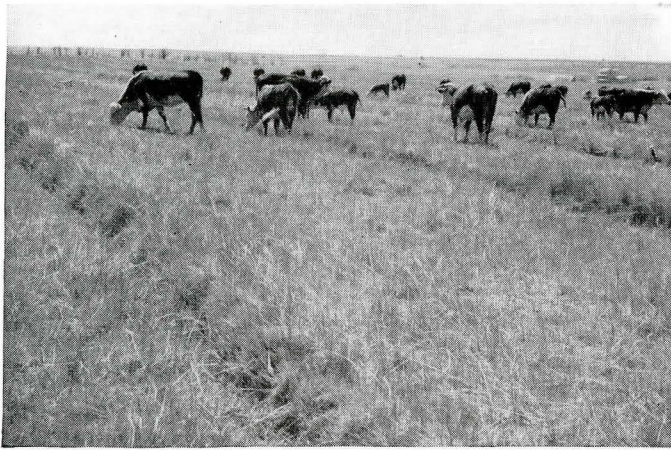
Surely, no industry stands to gain more from increases in farm production, due to better land use and conservation practices, than the manufacturers of farm equipment. That this fact is recognized is evidenced by the growing interest shown in the whole program by most of the implement companies.



A threat to both farm and highway—overall sheet erosion on a gentle slope.

Unquestionably, the problems of conserving our productive soils will continue to receive increasing support, and certainly they deserve the wholehearted backing of everyone interested in the future of America and the American people.

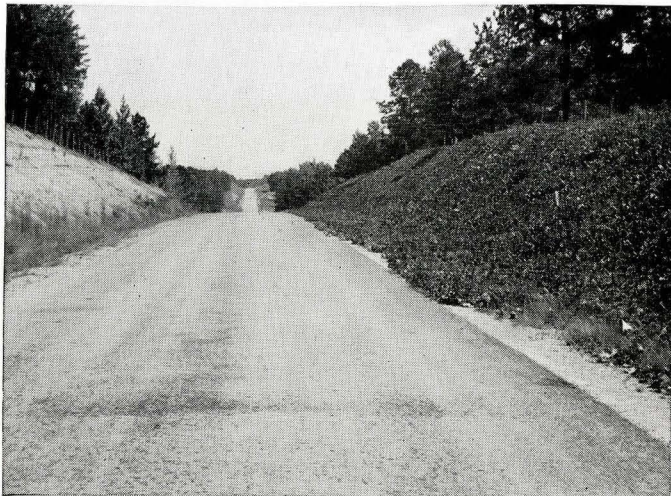
The future condition of American soil will determine the destiny of the country.



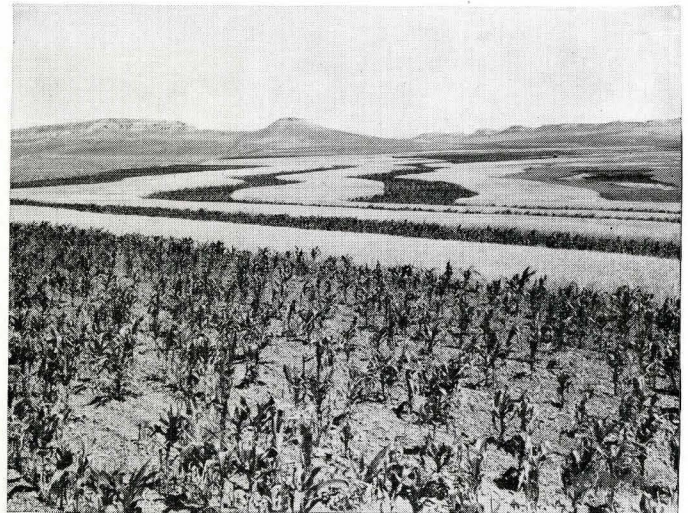
Contour-furrowed range land checks erosion and increases the carrying capacity by conserving moisture.



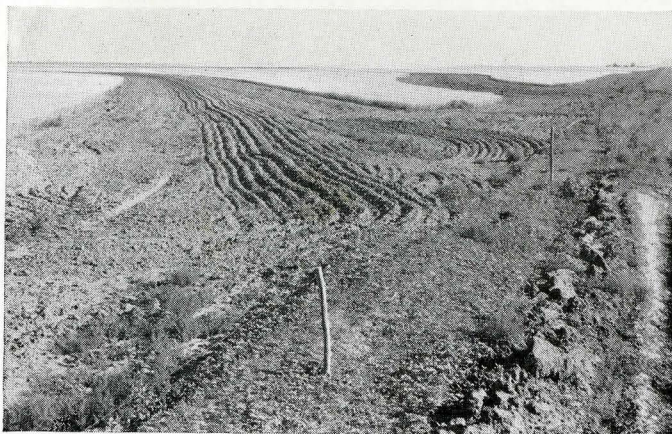
Planting in crop residue protects dry land crop—corn listed in tall combined rye stubble, some of which is still on the ground.



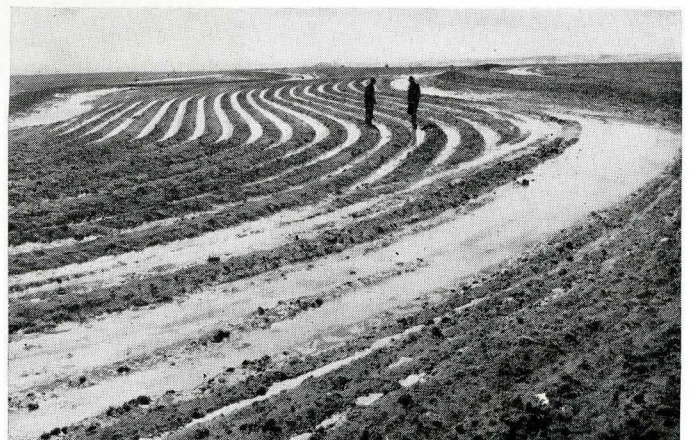
Slope of highway cut at right is covered by dense cover of kudzu in its second growing season. Left-hand slope sodded to grass failed to grow, leaving the bank exposed to erosion and consequent damage to both highway and adjacent land.



Contour strip-cropping of corn with small grain.



Strip-cropping of wheat and summer fallow in the Western Plains. Wheat, which was summer-fallowed the previous year, produced 18.8 bushels per acre; an adjacent field not tilled on the contour produced only 8 bushels per acre.



Midwinter scene on contour listed field in Great Plains region. Melted snow stands in the contours where it remains to store up reserve moisture for the next year's crop.



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