

MAY

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Soil Stewardship Week May 3-10

Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson made the following statement in behalf of Soil Stewardship Week, May 3-10.

"WE DEPEND ON soil and water for much of the food, clothing and raw materials needed to maintain a strong nation. It is fitting, therefore, that all citizens and organizations join in the observance of Soil Stewardship week, sponsored by the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and various national church organizations, May 3 to 11 inclusive."

The 8-day period, which opened with Rural Life Sunday on May 3, is the time when farmers and ranchers, churches, soil conservation districts, schools, urban people and many organizations are joining in emphasizing that soil is a God-given resource. The observance stresses that man is merely the steward of the soil while he uses it and that he must pass it on in as good or better condition than he found it.

Soil and water conservation is an integral part of modern agriculture. Farmers and ranchers in more than 2,800 soil conservation districts throughout the nation each year join with the clergy in emphasizing the spiritual as well as the material values of soil and water. They themselves set an example by recognizing that "the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" and by heeding the Crea-

tor's command "to dress it and to keep it."

But because we all depend so much on the land for our high standard of living, non-farmers, too, have a place in such an observance. I hope they will join with our rural people in increasing numbers in this recognition of the obligations and opportunities for soil stewardship.

This week, May 3 through 10, the soil conservation districts in our country observed Soil Stewardship week.

The Hardin district is assisting with observance, according to Chrm. Dean Kelsey of Iowa Falls, by furnishing materials to ministers of the county as an aid in bringing the stewardship message to their congregations.

THE THEME OF Soil Stewardship week stresses "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Attention is called in the week's observance of man's obligation in his use of soil, water, plants and wildlife.

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