

Clarke County Soil Conservation District



Parallel, tile outlet terraces are a modern method of complete water control on farm land. These terraces are adapted to today's large equipment by allowing straight or gently curving rows. All

runoff water is trapped by the terrace and then taken underground by tile lines to a safe outlet. This terrace system, constructed last fall, is on the Henry Staibus farm in Jackson Township.



This ground level picture of one of the terraces shows the steep backslope which will be permanently seeded. The intake pipe has holes in it to

allow the water, trapped by the terrace, to enter the tile lines.



This aerial view of East Lake Park, shows the park as it is today. The County Conservation Board, with assistance through RC&D, is making plans to develop picnic and recreational facilities on

both sides of the lake. The dam will also be rebuilt to up grade it to present standards. Costs for the improvements will be shared by the County Conservation Board and RC&D.



The Outdoor Classroom, just west of the Clarke Community High School, was set aside for use and development by all students and classes. The pond was built to eliminate two deep gullies. The cost of

the structure was 100 percent funded by the RC&D. Approximately four acres of land donated by Charles Morgan made it possible to build the dam in this location.

RC&D Watershed Activities Increase

Development of East Lake Park and County Wide Rural Water are two of the most active Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) projects at present.

Recreation planning for the park development and the design work for the dam reconstruction at East Lake is almost completed. The plans call for starting construction work in the summer of 1976 or 1977.

An emphasis in 1974 on sign up for rural water resulted in a large increase in the number of applications in Clarke County. Approximately \$60,000 in grant funds was received for developing a rural water plan. A consulting engineering firm has been contracted to do the plan and they have started their work.

Many other social and community development programs are funded and administered by RC&D. Examples are the grant funds for Woodburn's town water system, applications for a sewer system in Murray, transportation and meals for the elderly and many others.

The watershed programs in White Breast and Long Creek still continue to be held up by environmental planning. Several planning steps were completed this year in the White Breast watershed and it is hoped that an acceleration of activities will occur soon.

The Long Creek watershed is still on the priority waiting list

and until it is chosen for a priority, planning can not start. Even though the progress is frustrating at times, the White Breast and Long Creek watershed projects are very much alive and locally the Boards of directors must keep their organizations together so that they will be ready to act when government activities pick up.



Save Our Soil!



PASS LEGISLATION

The State legislature passed legislation effective July 1, 1975 that placed District Commissioners elections in the general election, which is held in November. The Commissioners will now run on a non-partisan ballot and their names will probably be placed on the ballot in the same area as hospital trustees or library trustees. This legislation will change

the terms of office of the present District Commissioners. Phillip Henrichs and Glen Kimes, elected in May 1975 for a six year term, will have the option of letting their terms expire January 3, 1977 or extending their terms until January 3, 1983. The present District Commissioners and their terms of office are as follows:

Commissioner	Term Expires as Per Previous Law	Term Expires as Per New Law
Phillip Henrichs	4-3-81	1-3-77 or 1-3-83
Glen Kimes	4-3-81	1-3-77 or 1-3-83
Richard Gonseth	4-3-79	1-3-81
Merrill Thornton	4-3-79	1-3-81
Adrian Fuller	4-3-77	1-3-79

75% Cost Share Funds Available for Agreements

Long Term Agreements (LTA) under the ACP cost-share program are proving to be a valuable conservation tool. The LTA program was a new cost-share program offered for the first time in 1974. It allows landowners to identify all of the conservation problems on their farm and then enter into a cost-share agreement so that they are guaranteed 50 percent of the cost of doing the conservation work

over a period of three to 10 years. The work is scheduled so that one or more practices can be completed each year until all of the conservation practices have been applied.

The Soil Conservation District Commissioners have contributed an additional 25 percent cost-share funds to the Long Term Agreements. Therefore, 75 percent of the cost of applying the conservation practices is paid by

Federal and State funds.

The LTA program allows a landowner to develop a complete conservation plan on his farm and be assured of financial assistance to complete the plan on schedule. With the threat, each year, of discontinuing the ACP program by our administration, the guarantee of cost-sharing to those with LTA's becomes even more attractive.

The LTA program makes possible a planned approach to the use of cost-share funds in contrast to scattering the funds in a piece meal manner. At the end of the contract period, a unit of land adequately treated to meet all soil loss and conservation standards will result.

A high interest in the LTA program was shown by the large number of applications received when the program was first announced in 1974. With the funds available, six LTA contracts were established. In 1975 funds were even more limited and only two LTA contracts were started. Funds are being made available again this year and those landowners interested should make application at the ASCS office or for more information, contact the SCS office.

District Fund Covers Variety Of Activities

The District fund is not appropriated, so we have to depend on donations from Cooperators, businessmen and our friends to supply this need.

The District fund is used to pay our State and National dues, educational materials for schools, membership in the Soil Conservation Society of America, awards for contests, membership in local organizations, District equipment and other expenses which cannot be taken from the state budget.

The balance on hand July 1, 1974 was \$124.81, receipts were \$1459.14 expenditures, \$1315.48, leaving a balance on hand June 30, 1975 of \$267.67.



Soil Conservation Pays Dividends!

District Operates With 3 Budgets

I M Budget	
1974-75 Allocation	\$ 1,370.00
Commissioners expenses	\$ 888.47
Office Supplies	253.45
Printing	150.00
Prizes for contests	115.82
Office expense	182.22
Total expended	\$ 1,370.00

II M Budget	
1974-75 Allocation	\$17,419.00
Gross Salaries	13,373.90
District share - FICA	782.73
District share - IPERS	468.30
Health Insurance Credit	372.00
Life Insurance Credit	86.00
Travel	89.09
Release to Wayne County	2,090.00
Release to State	\$ 170.98

III M Budget	
1973-74 Allocation	\$13,700.00
Obligated or paid on erosion control practices	\$12,822.23
Unobligated balance June 30, 1975	\$ 877.77

1974-75 Allocation	\$13,700.00
Funds set aside for Long Term Agreements	7,000.00
Paid or obligated on erosion control practices	\$ 6,411.25
Unobligated balance June 30, 1975	\$ 288.75
Budget for Long Term Agreements	\$ 7,000.00
Paid	\$ 2,850.31
Balance June 30, 1975	\$ 4,149.69

District Accomplishments

Activity	Fiscal 1975
District Cooperators	35
Landowners Assisted	389
Landowners applying practices	263
Conservation plans prepared	57
Resource plans prepared	9
Critical Area Planting	55 Ac.
Diversification Terraces	6800 Ft.
Ponds & Erosion Control Dams	77 No.
Grassed Waterway	67 Ac.
Pasture Planting	2860 Ac.
Drainage Field Ditch	1800 Ft.
Parallel Terraces	2500 Ft.
Subsurface Drain (Tile)	19,057 Ft.

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSIGNED

Keith A. Ticknor..... District Conservationist
T.J. Laing..... Conservation Technician

AREA PERSONNEL

Erwin O. Aust, Shenandoah..... Area Conservationist
Richard W. Birchmier, Shenandoah..... Civil Engineer
Lawrence L. Dorgan, Creston..... Civil Engineer
Herbert M. Kaysner, Creston..... Project Coordinator
Marjorie Meyer, Shenandoah..... Area Clerk

STATE EMPLOYEES

Mrs. Arlene Garner..... Clerk, Secretary, Treasurer

DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Richard Gonseth..... Chairman
Adrian Fuller..... Member
Merrill Thornton..... Member
Phillip Henrichs..... Member
Glen Kimes..... Member

ASSISTING THE COMMISSIONERS

Doyce Miller..... Ass't Commissioner
Maxine Kimball..... Ass't Commissioner
Fred Wood..... Ass't Commissioner
Alan Teel..... County Extension Director



Instructor, Dave Johannes, is assisting his high school science class with care of newly planted seedling trees. During the last two years, fifth and sixth grade students, with assistance from the Youth Conservation Board, have planted several hundred evergreen and hardwood trees in the outdoor classroom.



Environmental education has never been more important than it is today. Shortages and pollution are every day words that were only occasionally heard in the past. In order to maintain a satisfactory quality of life and avoid catastrophic environmental accidents, we must thoroughly evaluate all actions we take that affect our environment.



water has a magnetic attraction to all of us. Paul Chesnut, sixth grade science teacher, has no trouble keeping the attention of his students as they collect a water sample for further study. The bridge was designed and built by the sophomore Vocational Agriculture class. The outdoor classroom provides a place for students to work, observe and learn, therefore all projects are planned and carried out by the students. There may be as many failures as there are successes, but what better way is there than "learning by doing"?