

Argyle farmer wins merit award for conservation work

James Hawkins, Argyle, was awarded the Merit Certificate by the Lee Soil Conservation District in November, 1967. This is sponsored by the District and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Each District participating in the Goodyear program sends in its yearly accomplishments and is then judged on them. The Districts are judged on their work of planning, organizing, giving and measuring service. The District picks out one outstanding cooperator in conservation and recognizes his efforts through the Merit Certificate.

The following is a brief history of the conservation efforts of Mr. Hawkins:

James, or "Jim," has been a Soil Conservation District cooperator since April, 1951. A farm plan was developed with him that year. In 1964, it was necessary to revise this plan.

He lives ½ mile south and almost a mile west of Argyle on a 240 acre farm with his wife, Edna.

The soil type on the level flats is Edina. The sloping ground by the level ground is Pershing and Weller. Slopes vary from 3 to 8%, most averaging 6%.

The main line of the Santa Fe railroad bisects the farm. With the railroad and county road, there are only about 221 acres to the farm.

There are 190 acres of crop-



James Hawkins

land and rotation cropland. Intensive cropping is done on about 85 acres and the remainder is rotated. Thirty-two acres of permanent pas-

ture and 11.5 acres of wildlife area comprise the land use on this farm.

To control soil erosion and to conserve water, he has in-

stalled the following conservation practices:

66 acres of contour farming.

1.4 miles of terrace.

2 acres of waterway shaping.

4 livestock ponds (one with a corrugated pipe drop spillway).

32 acres of permanent pasture planting, plus seeding of rotation cropland.

4 and ¾ acres of wildlife developed around ponds.

Stocking ponds — pond built in 1962 was stocked with bass, bluegill, and channel catfish in 1964.

The livestock enterprise consists of hogs, beef cattle, and sheep.

To achieve these accomplishments it has taken hard work, endeavor, and planning. This is one man's endeavor in discharging his responsibilities as a steward of man's precious heritage—the land.