

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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INFORMATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Surely, we can

*VOICE OF
OPINION*

Conservation of soil and water resources is one of the important missions of man, particularly those in rural areas where farming is the base of the economy.

This week is Soil Stewardship Week, held each year to help point out man's responsibility in conservation of our soil resources. As the idea behind the week would suggest, all of us need to be conscious of efforts to retain fertile top soil for the future—both for our own good and those of future generations.

Davis County has a good record of soil conservation work and as farming has changed, so has the various conservation practices. New and better practices are being installed all the time as evidenced by local construction of tile outlet terraces, erosion control structures and diversion structures along with the increased number of improved pasture acres.

C. Iles Heady, chairman of

the Davis County Soil Conservation District commissioners, points this out in the foreward of the 1972 annual report of the district.

Heady also notes that there are some adverse effects on soil conservation such as the loss of the REAP program, but he points out that the loss of these funds "in no way lessens the need for soil conservation in Davis County. The need is even greater today."

Heady continues, "If we review ancient history, we find many affluent societies have become decadent or have disappeared entirely—simply because water and wind erosion destroyed the fertility of their soil.

"We read of the vast sums of money that we spend for

National defense. I would be the last to question the need for a strong army, navy and air force in the world we live in today. Yet is it not possible that we may wake up tomorrow and find while we are defending our borders so well, we let our more priceless heritage—our top soil—go down the creeks and rivers and we were conquered from within by means of our oldest enemy—water erosion?

Surely an affluent society such as ours can afford a small fraction of what is spent on national defense to prevent this from happening. The loss of our topsoil effects the property of the businessman, the worker, the professional man as well as the farmers who live on the land."