



JAMES R. HAWKINS

Jim Hawkins Receives Conservation Award

James Hawkins of Argyle received his merit certificate from the Lee County Soil Conservation district in November, 1967, but according to Franklin H. Mullen, work unit conservationist in the Donnellson office, that's only a part of the Hawkins' story in conservation.

Hawkins had been a conservation cooperator since April, 1951.

As Mullen recalls, Hawkins started with a plan developed by the Donnellson office in 1951 and that plan was revised in 1964. Thus, by the time the district and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber company which sponsors this award, with the Soil Conservation district, were ready to hand it to Jim Hawkins in 1967, work had progressed well and it was easy for the district to pick out the outstanding cooperator.

The Hawkins farm is located a half mile south and almost a mile west of Argyle, on a 240-acre tract which is "home" for Jim and his wife Edna.

The soil type on the level is Edina — the sloping areas are Pershing and Weller and the slopes vary from three to eight per cent, averaging six per cent.

Santa Fe Bisects Farm

The main line of the Santa Fe railroad bisects the farm and so with the county road and the railroad, only about 221 acres remain.

But there are 190 acres of

cropland and rotation cropland. Mullen says intensified cropping is done on about 85 acres and the remainder is rotated. Thirty-two acres are in permanent pasture and 11.5 acres of wildlife area comprise the actual land use on this fine farm.

To control soil erosion and conserve water, Hawkins installed the following conservation practices:

- Sixty-six acres of contour farming;
- One and four-tenths miles of terracing;
- Two acres of waterway shaping;
- Four livestock ponds were constructed, one with a corrugated pipe drop spillway;
- Thirty-two acres of permanent pasture planting, plus seeding of rotation cropland;
- A wildlife area of 4¾ acres was set aside around the ponds for the development of wildlife program;
- And the stocking of a pond built in 1962 with bass, blue gill and channel catfish in 1964.

Hogs, Cattle, Sheep

Today the Hawkins farm is a livestock enterprise consisting of hogs, beef cattle and sheep.

Mullen says that to achieve these accomplishments, Hawkins has worked hard and the results show clearly that hard work, endeavor and planning get man's responsibilities as a steward of man's most precious heritage — his land, taken care of.