

Conservation Cooperators Honored By The World's First Soil Stamp

Will Be Issued At
Annual Meeting In
Rapid City, S. D.

Cooperators of the Hardin Soil Conservation District are among those honored by the issuance of the world's first soil conservation stamp, according to Dean Kelsey, chairman of the Hardin soil conservation district.

The stamp, to be issued August 26 at Rapid City, S. Dak., is "a tribute to the nation's conservation farmers and cooperators of the local district," which has been operating since 1945.

The 4-cent conservation stamp will be formally released at the annual meeting of the Soil Conservation Society of America at Rapid City, Aug. 26. It will go on sale the following day at post offices throughout the country.

The stamp, which was developed in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, portrays a modern farmland setting signifying that conservation farming brings beauty as well as bounty to rural living. Soil conservation practices portrayed include contour stripcropping, terracing, pasture improvement, tree planting, and a farm pond. In addition, the silhouette of a city in the background symbolizes that urban as well as rural people are highly dependent upon the care and wise use of land as a principal source of food, water, shelter and clothing. The stamp will be printed in three colors, yellow, green and blue.

A total of 120 million stamps has been ordered. The artist is Walter Hortens of New York, a native of Vienna.

"The conservation stamp is in



recognition of the farmers who are demonstrating good soil stewardship," Kelsey said. "It is a salute to their soil conservation district, and to the professional workers of State and Federal government who help them."

First-day "covers" containing the stamp are available through the Postmaster at Rapid City. Upon request and receipt of addressed envelopes and a remittance to cover the cost of the stamps, the post office at Rapid City will place the new stamp on the envelopes, cancel them with a special cancellation mark used only on that day and at that place, and mail the envelopes on the first day of issue.