

Soil Stewardship 4-27-67

It is the time of year when the conservation minded observe soil stewardship week. It is unfortunate there must be a week for such things, as soil conservation is a full-time job.

Three out of every four acres of America's soil is privately owned. Yet, land owners are a minority of today's population. But these few landowners must have a great consideration and a sense of duty to the rest of the population.

To let a field wash away and fill up a river is part of man's inhumanity to man. In the future, other men will need these fields and the streams will have to continue to carry water for drinking purposes.

THE CONSERVATION of soil and water is every citizen's responsibility. The farmer's conservation practices are extremely important. But so are the practices of the rest of the population as much of the silt in our streams comes from non-agricultural land.

Three out of every four raindrops fall on the land of a private citizen. How he handles this water makes a difference in what its condition will be when the next user gets it. Loaded with silt, water is costly to reuse. Uncontrolled, water scours the land and causes floods. Soupy with soil, it fills the streams and reduces available flows. The gully it leaves on the land is monumental to poor stewardship.