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ANNUAL REPORT  
1950

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Greensburg, Pa.

68990

Following is a report of the activities of the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District since its organization.

The District Board of Directors organized April 13, 1950 and the following members served during 1950: J. Calvin Turner, County Commission Member; Mortie Gongaware, Irwin, Pa., Chairman; Robert Z. Torrance, Export, Pa., Vice-Chairman; Robert McAleese, Secretary, Belle Vernon, Pa., and Eugene Cairns, Ligonier, Pa., Member.

The Directors held nine meetings with all members in attendance and taking an active part in the District work.

The District Board of Directors, with the assistance of the State Soil Conservation Commission, entered into a three-way Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters; the Pennsylvania Game Commission; the Pennsylvania Department of Highways; the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

The activities of the District have been confined to two major phases:-

- 1) Getting people acquainted with the District program and its activities;
- 2) Getting conservation on the land.

Getting People Acquainted with the District Program and its Activities:

A planned program consisting of news articles; talks; Fair exhibits; and tours, was carried out by the District. Twelve news articles were submitted to 10 County papers and the majority

of the papers published most of the articles.

The District furnished speakers and presented talks or illustrated lectures or motion pictures to the following with an attendance of 210 at two Grange meetings; 250 at 12 Gi-on-the-farm training groups; 90 at four Vo-Ag classes; and 11 at six PMA Group meetings.

A model conservation farm was exhibited at four local fairs. The exhibit was viewed by several hundred people and created much interest. One tour was held with twenty-one in attendance, to study farm planning and contour strip layouts.

Getting Conservation on the land:

The Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters assisted four cooperators with woodland problems such as marking trees to be cut, and planting trees for

reforestation.

The Pennsylvania Game Commission has supplied 2500 pounds of ryegrass and 6900 tree seedlings to farmers in farm game projects; two of these farmers are cooperators of the District.

The Pennsylvania Department of Highways has cooperated in checking drainage along the new Route 30 east of Greensburg, and has visited several farms having highway water problems, making suggestions for correction.

The Army Engineers Flood Control Division has entered into an agreement with the Board of Directors to have conservation surveys and land use plans made for approximately 3,000 acres back of the Loyahanna Dam; and 1300 acres back of the Conemaugh Dam.

The Soil Conservation Service has completed conservation surveys on 103 farms totaling 14,808 acres; and farm plans have been developed on 94 farms totaling 12,546 acres.

Table 10. Land Use and Conservation Practices planned during this period.

Practice	Unit	Planned
Contour Farming	Acres	5505
Cover Cropping	Acres	5439
Strip-Cropping	Acres	4979
Pasture Improvement	Acres	3525
Farm Ponds	No.	38
Tree Planting	Acres	183
Woodland Management	Acres	1923
Woodland Protection	Acres	1730
Woodland Improvement	Acres	1538
Woodland Harvest Cutting	Acres	258
Terraces	Miles	0.38
Field Diversions	Miles	6.3
Farm Drainage	Acres	96
Closed Drains	L.F.	23900
Open Drains	Miles	1
Windbreak Planting	Acres	2
Clearing and Obstruction Removal	Acres	1102
Crop Rotations	Acres	5511
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	622
Fencing, Permanent	Rods	14745
Fish Pond Management	No.Fish	15422
Fish Pond Management	Acres	14
Hedges	L.F.	32550
Mulching	Acres	7
Outlets & Farm Watercourses	L.F.	158300
Pasture Management	Acres	3525
Structures	No.	111
Wildlife Area Improvement	Acres	37
Wildlife Borders	Acres	61
Seeding Pastures	Acres	1493