

WESTMORELAND COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
GREENSBURG, PA.

1952  
ANNUAL REPORT

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This is the fourth annual report of the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District. The following directors served on the Board during 1952: Mortie Gongaware, Irwin, Pa., Chairman; Robert Torrance, Export, Pa., Vice-Chairman; Eugene Cairns, Ligonier, Pa., Member; William Griffith, New Stanton, Pa., Member; Harry Gongaware, County Commissioner .

In 1952 the District worked with eight watershed groups of farmers. The group approach met with varying degrees of success. The District has enlisted the aid of the Vocational Agricultural teachers in the County to assist in locating watershed groups. The results of their efforts are expected to be noticed during the coming year.

Plans of conservation recommendations for both the Loyalhanna and Conemaugh Reservoirs were completed and delivered to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers by the District during 1952.

The Board of Directors of Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District have Memoranda of Understanding with: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service; Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters; the Pennsylvania Department of Highways; the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the Pennsylvania Fish Commission.

During 1952 twelve Board meetings were held, and representatives from the cooperating agencies attended.

Educational Activities

Twenty-one news articles were prepared and appeared in 176 publications of eleven different newspapers in Westmoreland County.

The District and cooperating agencies furnished speakers at 31 meetings with approximately 1,000 people in attendance. One of these meetings was a Conservation Day Program at Mt. Pleasant Township High School; approximately 700 students and guests were present.

Seven tours of cooperators' farms were sponsored, with an attendance of eighty-four. Eight farmer-group meetings were held for the purpose of discussing preliminary farm planning.

The District entered the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Conservation Contest, and cooperated in the Green Pasture contest conducted by the Production and Marketing Administration.

Getting Conservation on the Land

	Farm Plans		Acres	
	<u>This Year</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Cooperators	159	391	17,675	48,895
Basic Plans	30	237	2,533	29,023
Initial and Advanced Plans	154	391	19,872	48,895
Conservation Surveys			17,300	52,588

To combat erosion and improve wildlife habitat during 1952, the District, through cooperation of the Soil Conservation Service, furnished cooperators with 43,000 trees and 47,000 shrubs and hedges.

Soil Conservation Service personnel furnished the District during 1952:

1	Area Conservationist	part time
1	Clerk	part time
1	Farm Planner	part time
1	Conservation Surveyor	full time
1	Agricultural Engineer	part time
1	Farm Planner	full time

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES ESTABLISHED:

PRACTICES	UNIT	ESTABLISHED	
		THIS PERIOD	TO DATE
Contour Farming	Acres	2190	3743
Cover Cropping	Acres	360	464
Strip-Cropping	Acres	2088	3377
Pasture Improvement	Acres	899	1431
Farm Ponds	No.	15	23
Tree Planting (no windbreaks)	Acres	61	126
Woodland Management	Acres	337	534
Woodland Protection	Acres	292	480
Woodland Improvement	Acres	72	109
Woodland Harvest cutting	Acres	43	44
Field Diversions	Miles	0.5	1.12
Farm Drainage	Acres	125	140
Closed drains	L.Ft.	23509	31059
Open drains	Miles	-	0.4
Windbreak Planting	Acres	-	3.
Clearing & Obstruction Removal	Acres	220	375
Crop Rotations	Acres	1385	3000
Establishing perennial hay	Acres	147	270
Fencing, permanent	Rods	859	1954
Fish pond management	Fish	1210	1650
Fish pond management	Acres	1.1	2.0
Hedges	L. Ft.	59000	89400
Outlets and Farm Watercourses	L. Ft.	34428	98778
Pasture management	Acres	1120	2044
Structures	No.	29	45
Wildlife Area Improvement	Acres	1	5
Wildlife Borders	Acres	5.2	8
Seeding Pastures	Acres	138	273

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

Uniontown, Pa.  
January 20, 1953

Westmoreland County  
Soil Conservation  
District Report

Mr. Mortie Gongaware, President  
Board of Directors  
Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District  
% Soil Conservation Service  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Gongaware:

Please find attached a summary report covering the activities of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways in erosion control practices in Westmoreland County during 1952.

Very truly yours,

J. W. Geary, Jr.  
District Engineer  
District 12.

## REPORT OF EROSION CONTROL PRACTICES

During the past year the Pennsylvania Department of Highways has done extensive erosion control work in Westmoreland County. Approximately nine acres of ground, along and adjacent to the highways, were seeded, mulched, and where necessary, planted with trees, shrubs or vines. The purpose of this work is to prevent the sterile subsoils from washing out onto the highways from the cuts and onto farmers fields from the fills.

The results of this work are three-fold; greatly reduced maintenance costs of the Department for keeping highways clear of mud and silt; less damage to cultivated fields of the farmers; aesthetic value to the motorist by providing a highway on which the roadside vegetation blends in with the surrounding countryside.

The following is a partial list of materials used for erosion control in Westmoreland County during 1952:

6,775 Lbs. Slope Grass Seed	24,550 Ea. Vines
1,200 Lbs. Berm Grass Seed	3,000 Ea. Tree Seedlings
203 Ton Hay for Mulching	75 Ea. Flowering Trees
13,500 Ea. Ground Cover Shrubs	12 Ea. Evergreen Trees

These materials were used for extensive erosion control work on the following routes:

Legislative Route	Mileage	Type Roadway	Location
69-15	.4	4 Lane	Delmont
187-70	.6	4 Lane	Delmont
117-7 (T.R. 119)	4.5	3 and 4 Lane	South of Greensburg
119 (T.R. 30)	5.4	4 Lane	East of Greensburg
68 (T.R. 22)	3.5	3 and 4 Lane	West of Blairsville

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION  
Field Service

Ligonier, Pennsylvania  
January 15, 1953

Mr. Harry C. Gongaware  
Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Gongaware:

Listed below are activities effected by the Pennsylvania Game Commission, relative to the conservation program in Westmoreland County:

1. Distributed 25,375 Evergreen and Hardwood seedlings to 51 farmers to reforest areas not suitable for agricultural purposes.
2. Distributed 4,500 Multiflora Rose Seedlings to 9 farmers to reduce soil erosion and provide wildlife food and cover.
3. Distributed 2,250 pounds of Rye Grass Seed to 13 farmers to encourage its use in contoured corn fields as a cover crop.
4. Planted 1,000 basket willow seedlings to reduce stream bank erosion.

Kindly note that the above practices were confined to 6 Cooperative Farm-Game Projects, located within Westmoreland County.

Sincerely yours,

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

G. L. Norris, Supervisor  
Southwest Division

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS  
Forbes Forest District #22  
Ligonier, Pennsylvania

January 21, 1953

Soil Conservation District  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania

Attention Mr. Gongaware:

Your District has requested some information pertaining to public assistance rendered woodland owners last fiscal year.

The writer has made inspections and recommendations on 48 different tracts ranging in area from two or three acres to 650 acres. When making these inspections, we make recommendations for reforestation where necessary, considering the soil site and exposure, age and kinds of planting stock most adaptable, heeling and planting methods. Often inspections follow a year or two after the planting to note the percentage of stand and general condition of the plantation. Under planting may be recommended where the forest stand is widely scattered or sparse.

Our timber marking and forest stand improvement work proves most valuable to the land owner. By marking, young timber of valuable species and good form is saved from premature harvest while mature and over mature stock, as well as trees of poor quality, are marked for cutting. In many instances, small stands of timber have been cruised and estimates worked up for the woodland owner. The owner has also been given names of several places where the timber may be marketed. Erosion reduction, game food and cover are given consideration. Occasionally, the woodland owner or the timber operator is assisted in the selection of a satisfactory site for his saw mill. Four public "Conservation Day Programs" were held. At these meetings, those who plant State Forest seedlings, as well as others known to be interested are invited to come out, observe or assist in the planting of several trees of different varieties and demonstrate and talk methods of planting. One or two public speakers are likewise invited to make brief talks. In one instance, as well as local tree planters and others interested, the school children numbered about 850.

Many public speaking engagements, usually with the showing of films, as well as three high school "Career Conferences", have been made. Personal or telephone contacts are made by this office with owners of large timber tracts and others who have equipment which could be made available during forest fire emergency.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS  
Forbos Forest District #22  
January 21, 1953

The above does not, of course, include work done in the maintenance and development of our State forests, parks, and forest protection system. Aerial survey was made to spot Oak Wilt. Five or six infections were located in Westmoreland County and all have been treated or controlled. Re-inspections will be necessary. In one instance, hemlock looper was subjected to control by spraying from a helicopter. Such treatment is warranted only where the stand is dense enough and large enough to justify the expense of control. This work is done in cooperation with the land owner.

Sincerely yours,

V. M. Bearer  
District Forester

1952 ANNUAL REPORT--WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS FARM TRAINING PROGRAM

In twelve departments of Vocational Agriculture in Westmoreland County, a number of lessons are devoted, during the term, to the Conservation Program. These lessons are supplemented with field trips to outstanding farms to observe the up-to-date practical conservation practices. Outstanding films, relative to Soil Conservation, are shown in the classroom and at times during the regular assembly, in order to make as many people Conservation conscious as possible. During the year, we had several boys in the State Soil Conservation Contest which is sponsored by the National Future Farmers Organization.

Water shed group meetings were conducted by the Soil Conservation groups of Westmoreland County, with our Vocational teachers. The meetings were held to discuss ways and means of working with farmers in order to get them to cooperate in developing a conservation program for their respective farms and their neighborhoods. Reasons for cooperating and developing Soil Conservation on their own farms was given to men in the classes of our Future Farmers training Program.



1952 ANNUAL REPORT--WESTMORELAND COUNTY - contd.

The handbook for 1953 for Agricultural Conservation Program in Pennsylvania was distributed among the pupils of our Vocational departments, as well as Veteran Trainees.

Very truly yours,

Ray E. Seamens, Adviser  
Agriculture Education.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY PRODUCTION & MARKETING ADMINISTRATION

Our program's purpose is to save and improve the nation's soil and to conserve water. This results in more and better food for all of us. The program is, therefore, of direct benefit to the health and general welfare of the nation. Following is a report of assistance granted to Westmoreland County farmers for materials and other practices under the 1952 Program:

21,724 tons of limestone  
3,313 cwt. of 18<sup>00</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Super  
15,496 cwt. of 20<sup>00</sup>/<sub>3</sub> Super  
779 cwt. of 0-20-20  
3,634 cwt. of 0-12-12  
2,639 cwt. of 0-14-14

596 acres of Stripcropping  
1,600 ft. of field diversions  
26,162 ft. of 4" tile  
1,575 ft. of 6" tile  
5 farm ponds

Note: These figures include only materials ordered through the program. It does not include cash payment practices completed by the farmers. Technical practices are only those completed under supervision of the SCS.