THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT
1957

During the year 1957 the following served as directors for the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District:

Chairman - - - - - -William P. Hartman, Ligonier, Pa.
Vice Chairman - - - Charles Kepple, New Alexandria, Pa.
Treasurer - - - - - Joseph Kim, Irwin, Pa.
Member - - - - - - -- Jay Kromer, County Commissioner
Member - - - - - - -- Dewitt W. Rugh, Slickville, Pa.

Ford M. Frank, Ruffsdale, Pa. served as appointed secretary for the Board.

The Directors are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners from lists submitted by county farm organizations. They serve for a period of four years without compensation. The main responsibility of the Directors is to coordinate the conservation activities of cooperating agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service, Department of Forests and Waters, Department of Highways, Fish Commission, Game Commission, Extension Program, and Farmers Home Administration in order that soil and water conservation problems in the county can be met in the best possible manner. The goal of the District Directors is to encourage all Westmoreland County Farmers to become Conservation Farmers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE DISTRICT

Highlights of the districts activities during the year 1957 follow:

As of this date there are 569 farmers developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 72,765 acres, of which 16 became cooperators during 1957.

The district, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 100 news articles, 4 conservation tours, 2 conservation demonstrations and 22 conservation educational meetings.

One of the 4 tours was a three-farm tour for newspapermen, district directors, and representatives of cooperating agencies. The tour was well attended and publicized. The Greensburg- Tribune- Review printed a well accepted picture story of the tour.

The district purchased 500 copies of the pamphlet "Why Soil Conservation" for distribution among the Vocational Agriculture Students in Westmoreland County.

The District furnished a judge for the County Vo-Agriculture Land Judging Contest.

The farm of Levi B. Silvis was entered in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Conservation Contest.

The District was represented at the Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Soil Conservation District Directors by Mr. Kim and Mr. Kepple.

District board members assisted the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee in formulating the 1958 Agricultural Conservation program.

Board meetings were held monthly with one or more cooperating agencies represented at every meeting.

On December 19, 1957 the district directors held a 1958 program planning meeting. During the meeting the directors and the various Cooperating Agencies representatives formulated a schedule of district activities for the coming year.

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF REPORT BY COOPERATING AGENCIES OF 1957 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE DISTRICT PROGRAM:

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

	Farms		Acres	
	This Year	To Date	This Year	To Date
Basic Conservation Plans (Active)	22	327	2,671	38,828
District Cooperators Plans	16	569	1,512	72,765
Conservation Surveys			20,975	143,810

Soil Conservation Service Report (cont'd).

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES ESTABLISHED ON DISTRICT COOPERATORS FARMS:

PRACTICES	UNIT	ESTABLISHED THIS PERIOD	ESTABLISHED TO DATE
Contour Farming	Acres	596	7,732
Cover Cropping	Acres	164	890
Strip Cropping	Acres	570	8,270
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	554	5,834
Pasture Seeding	Acres	287	903
Pasture Improvement	Acres	929	3,236
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	223	651
Tree Planting	Acres	39	284
Hedges	L.Ft.	0	146,950
Closed Drains	L.Ft.	60,282	284,564
Diversion Construction	Miles	6.6	17.7
Farm Ponds	No.	4	51
Constructed Outlets	L.Ft.	400	10,200
Land Clearing	Acres	82	481

In addition to the amounts listed above the following was established on Non-District Cooperators for the A.C.P.: 183 Acres of Strip Cropping 76,660 L. Ft. of Closed Drains, and 3 Farm Ponds.

/s/t/ JOHN R. NEHODA,
Work Unit Conservationist,
Soil Conservation Service

DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The Department of Forests and Waters reports the following:

State seedlings distribution in Westmoreland County for 1957 totals 60,000 trees. Records indicate 44,000 seedlings were planted under the ACP. It is estimated that 25,000 of this number are seedlings secrued from commercial nurseries. Adding this amount to the above 60,000 State seedlings gives a total of 85,000 trees planted. There are no records of Soil Bank planting in Westmoreland County during 1957.

A.C.P. practices 23 and 24 have not been utilized except for one fencing procedure for the protection of a new seedling plantation. This fence did not meet with required specifications. Concerning practice number 23, we expect to have at least two operations underway by March 1958.

The extensive six county European Pine Tip Moth Survey, United States Forest Service and Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters cooperating was completed in November 1957. Indications are that this insect is present in all of the six southwestern counties included in Forbes Forest District #4. A report on the state-wide situation is expected to be published soon. Red Pine tree planters, especially Christmas tree planters should be cautioned that this speci may require spraying prior to crop removal time.

Our understanding is that the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters will place special emphasis on tree planting this spring season of 1958. Extensive preparation for meeting large Soil Bank tree planting demands has resulted in an over supply of seedlings. An effort will be made to unload some of this stock.

The 1957 fire situation in Forbes District #4 consisted of 16 fires with only 135 acres burned. Eighty-seven (87) acres of this amount was timberland.

/s/t/ E. W. BEATTY,
Service Forester
Forbes District #4

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS- - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The following is a list of all materials used for the year 1957 in Westmoreland County by the Department of Highways and Maintenance Forces and for the Department of Highways Landscape Contractors on slopes of newly constructed roads, for the prevention of soil erosion, and to beautify the landscape.

100% State Projects

Route	Seed	Lime	Fertilizer 5-10-5	Fertiliz er 10-6-4	Hay Mulch	Plants
118 (2)	325 lb.	4 ton	32 cwt.		8 ton	
117 (18)	110 lb.	2¼ ton	8 cwt.	4 ct.	3 ton	400 Coralberry Shrubs 200 Forsythia Shrubs
64118 (2)	100 lb.	1 ton	8 cwt.	4 cwt.	2½ ton	150 Ninebark shrubs 150 Forsythia Shrubs 175 Memorial Rose
119 Par.A	25 lb.	½ ton	4 cwt.	4 cwt.	1 ton	400 Honeysuckle
64055	125 lb.	1 ton	12 cwt.		3 ton	
Totals	685 lb.	8½ ton	64 cwt.	12 cwt.	17½ ton	1475 plants

Department of Highways Report (cont'd).

FEDERAL PROJECTS UNDER CONTRACT

Route	Seed	Lime	Fertilizer 5-10-5	Fertilizer 10-6-4	Hay Mulch	Plants
64268(1)	1600 lb.	15 ton	70 cwt.		40 ton	2000 Ninebark Shrubs 1000 Rose AAcacia 1800 Multiflora Rose
302 (1)	216 lb.	4 ton	10 cwt. 8-16-16		5½ ton	
119 Par.B	2140 lb.	39 ton	83 cwt. 8-16-16	25 cwt. 10-6-4	50½ ton	6760 Shrubs 2585 Seedlings 135 Vines 39 Flowering Trees 21 Evergreens 12 Rhododendros
TR.31 Sec. 7	7500 lb.	63½ ton	260 cwt. 8-16-16	156 cwt. 10-6-4	243 ton	2000 Shrubs 4250 Seedlings 12 Deciduous Trees 18 Evergreens
Total	11,456 lb.	121½ ton	423 cwt.	181 cwt.	339 ton	20,632 Plants

Dept. of Highways Report (cont'd).

G. T. 100% State and Federal Projects

Seed	Lime	Fertilizer	Fertilizer	Hay	Plants
12,141	130 ton	5-10-5 & 8-16-16 487 cwt.	10-6-4 193 cwt.	356½ ton	22,107

/s/t/ RALPH H. LIGHTNER
for N. G. BELL,
District Engineer,
District 12

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION - - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

In cooperation with the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Game Commission respectfully reports the following field activities.

1. Distributed 25,600 Conifer and 250 Chestnut seedlings to farmers to reforest approximately 26 acres not suitable for agricultural operations.

2. Clearcut 2,465 lineal feet of woodland border 30 wide to increase crop production and improve wildlife habitat along adjoining fields.

3. Planted 1,600 Conifer and 8,400 Shrub Seedlings on the Loyalhanna Flood Control Area to reduce soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat.

4. Pasture Improvement on State Game Lands and the Loyalhanna Flood Control Area, consisted of mowing 62 acres, liming 2 acres and fertilizing 2 acres.

/s/t/ G. L. NORRIS,
Supervisor,
Southwest Division

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND VETERANS TRAINING PROGRAM--WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The soil--one of our best friends, is a wonderful place because it is the home of plants, animals, and man. The soil provides the necessities of life. Air, water, and soil, very common elements, are essential to plant and animal life. We cannot do without air. Water is also a necessity and the soil provides the material out of which food, clothing, and shelter are made. The soil is clean and full of life. It contains millions of bacteria per cubic foot. These bacteria are our friends just as plants and animals are our friends. There are millions of acres of abandoned farm la nds in the United States, according to reports made by the National Conservation Commission. Every farmer should adopt a system of farming that is permanent---asystem under which the land becomes better rather than poor. Just as nations have gone the road to decay, often individual farmers and occasionally whole communities, have fallen because they did not look well after the one thing from which they derive their prosperity-the soil.

The earth is the home of man, and the soil is one of his best friends. When the soil is depleted, plants cannot be produced. It is well, therefore, to keep a bank account with the soil. Water is more often the limiting factor in plant growth than any other single factor, and for that reason should receive special attention. Soil erosion causes the greatest loss of soil fertility. No other single factor lays such a heavy tax upon the fertility of our soils. Constant cropping of soils and removing the crops reduces the fertility of the soil. It has been said that humus is the life of the soil. When soils are unable to hold sufficient water, it decreases soil fertility. It has a tendency to bake and puddle after each rain. The loss of nitrogen decreases soil fertility four ways -- by plants, by leaching, by gaseous evaporation, and by denitrification. The loss of bacteria in soils causes it to respond in a decreasing way.

Soil improvement agencies are essential to maintain and increase the fertility of the soil and through the Soil Conservation Program as conducted by the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District, under the direction of the Soil Conservation District Board of Directors, this fact has helped the members of the Young Farmers Organization and all the members of the Future Farmers of America to learn a lot toward saving the soil and increasing the farm efficiency in Westmoreland County. The FFA Chapter and the Young Farmers Organization have taken an active part in participating in this program.

/s/t/ RAY E. SEAMENS,
Area Adviser,
Vocational Agriculture

WESTMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

Following is a report of assistance to Westmoreland County farmers for materials ordered through the Conservation Program and assistance on their practices under the 1957 program.

MATERIALS

7,766.6 tons of ground limestone
1988 cwt. of 10-10-10
1043 cwt. of 0-20-20
1339 cwt. of 20% superphosphate
82 cwt. of 18% superphosphate
358 cwt. of 5-10-10
59 cwt. of 0-15-30
151 cwt. of 0-25-25
20 cwt. of 8-16-16

This figure includes only materials ordered through the program. It does not include conservation practices which materials are supplied by the farmer and the government assumes part of the cost-sharing.

PRACTICES

701 acres of strip cropping
35,690 ft. of field diversion
134,248 ft. of tile drainage
5 farm ponds
1,000 ft. open drain

Technical practices are only those completed under the supervision of the Soil Conservation Service.

Our Program's purpose is to provide assistance to aid individual farmers in protecting and improving their land and in conserving soil and water.

SOIL BANK

The following are the number of farms that have participated in the Soil Bank Program:

1957 Acreage Reserve------46
1957 Conservation Reserve- 9

/s/t/ LEVI B. SILVIS, Chairman,
Agricultural, Stabilization & Conservation Committee