

THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NINTH ANNUAL REPORT
1958

During the year 1958 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 Service, 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 1958 follow:

As of this date there are 531 farmers developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 69,021 acres, of which 15 became cooperators during 1958.

During the year 1958, 43 District Cooperators Agreements comprising 5473 acres were cancelled because of death, sale of property etc.

The district, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 18 news articles, appearing in approximately 144 publications, three (3) conservation tours, two (2) conservation demonstrations, and 17 conservation education meetings.

One of the 3 tours was a two-farm tour for County Commissioners, State Legislators, District Directors and Agency Representatives. The County Commissioners expressed a great deal of interest in the conservation activities observed.

Highlights cont'd.

The District sponsored and conducted a local "Queen of the Furrows" Contest in conjunction with the National Plowing Contest and Conservation Exposition.

Miss. Ruth Sekora of Greensburg R.D. and Miss. Gladys Jellison of New Alexandria R.D. were chosen from a field of 16 Contestants as Co-Winners of the County Contest held at Idlewild Park.

Miss. Ruth Sekora was chosen as Region 7 winner and represented Westmoreland County at the National Contest held in Hershey.

The District sponsored the County Vocational-Agricultural Land Judging Contest and awarded the winner, Herman Tewes of Penn Twp., an engraved plaque.

The farm of Sylvester Heinnickel was entered in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Conservation Contest. Mr. Heinnickel was chosen second place winner in the state. Director Joe Kim accompanied Mr. Heinnickel at a State Association meeting where Mr. Heinnickel received official recognition and an award for his accomplishments.

The District was represented at all of the executive council meetings of the State Association by Director Joe Kim. Mr. Kim and Mr. Kepple also represented the district at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Soil Conservation District Directors.

District board members assisted the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee in formulating the 1959 Agricultural Conservation Program.

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

FOLLOWING IS A BRIEF REPORT BY COOPERATING AGENCIES OF 1958 ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN COOPERATION WITH THE DISTRICT PROGRAM:

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE -----WESTMORELAND COUNTY

	<u>Farms</u>		<u>Acres</u>	
	<u>This Year</u>	<u>To Date</u>	<u>This Year</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Basic Conservation Plans (Active)	40	335	5,017	39,926
District Cooperators Plans (Active)	15	541	1,729	69,021
Conservation Surveys			30,728	174,538

Soil Conservation Service Report (cont't).

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

<u>PRACTICES</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>	
		<u>THIS PERIOD</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Contour Farming	Acres	570	8,302
Cover Cropping	Acres	112	1,002
Strip Cropping	Acres	538	8,808
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	562	6,392
Pasture Seeding	Acres	484	1,387
Pasture Improvement	Acres	1,264	5,500
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	276	927
Tree Planting	Acres	67	351
Woodland Protection	Acres	314	1152
Closed Drains	L. Ft.	31,438	315,994
Diversion Construction	Miles	2.0	19.7
Farm Ponds	No.	9	60
Land Clearing	Acres	206	687

In addition to the amounts listed above the following was established on Non-District Cooperators for the A.C.P.: 98 Acres of Strip Cropping, 40,169 L. Ft. of Closed Drains and 2 Farm Ponds.

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

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION - - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

In cooperation with the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Game Commission respectfully reports the following field activities during 1958:

1. 1. Distributed 93,100 conifer, 27,500 Multiflora Rose and 8,200 other shrub seedlings to eligible farmers and various conservation groups to reforest and improve wildlife habitat on areas not suitable for agricultural purposes.
2. Clearcut 2800 lineal feet of woodland border, 40 feet wide, adjoining cropland to increase crop production and improve wildlife habitat.

Please note that under present Commission policy, evergreen and shrub seedlings are available in limited numbers to Farm-Game Cooperators and Conservation organizations - such as Soil Conservation Districts, FFA Groups, Sportsmens' Clubs, Boy Scouts, etc.

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

WESTMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

Following is a report of practices carried out by Westmoreland County farmers under the 1958 Conservation Program.

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participating Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost-sharing</u>
Liming of cropland and pasture	486	5,661	50,381
Seeding of hay and pasture	22	162	2,219
Fertilizing hay and pasture	141	1,790	11,296
Seeding of waterways, terraces, etc.	3	9	214
Cover crops: ryegrass, bromegrass	15	223	715
Green manure	2	20	48
Clearing pastureland	3	10	214
Planting forest trees	12	35	982
Improvement of stand of forest trees	2	14	278

Permanent type practices

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Number Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cu.Yds.</u>	<u>Linear Feet</u>	<u>Cost-sharing No.</u>
Contour Strip Cropping	25	423			1,233
Developing Springs	4				4
Construction Farm Ponds	11				11
Construction Sod Waterways	1		1010		1
Construction Diversion Terraces	9			10,392	9
Tile Drainage Systems	49			81,237	49

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

Soil Bank Program

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

1958 Acreage Reserve Program 65 Agreements
 1958 Conservation Reserve Program 16 Contracts

/s/t/ LEVI B. SILVIS
 ASC County Committee

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

Cooperating activities in Westmoreland County during 1958 in connection with the overall land management program were concerned with reforestation, forest fire prevention and suppression, forest management and recreation.

REFORESTATION

Because of the working agreement between the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters and the U.S. Forest Service the Service Forester is especially charged with furnishing technical assistance for certain phases of the Agricultural Conservation Program relating to forestry practices. Each year the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters ships thousands of seedlings into Westmoreland County to individuals and organizations. Some of the seedlings are planted under the A.C.P. payment practice program and the Soil Bank farm land retirement policy. During 1958 our State nurseries shipped 155,000 seedlings into Westmoreland County. Of this number 48,000 were planted under the Agricultural Conservation Program practice payment procedure 22a. On two Soil Bank planting sites 8,200 seedlings were used. It is estimated that an additional 150,000 seedlings purchased from commercial nurseries were planted for Christmas trees, game management and timber growing purposes. Therefore an estimated 305 acres were reforested in the county during 1958. A total of thirty-one service request Forms No. 247 were received from the Greensburg A.C.P. office mainly concerned with practice 22a.

FOREST FIRE PREVENTION AND SUPPRESSION

Educational activities with special emphasis on forest fire prevention and suppression is an ever increasing effort to keep before the public the importance of holding to a minimum the forest fire damaged acreage. Emphasis is placed on the field personnel in Westmoreland County in order to maintain this program in a high degree of activity the year round. You cannot plan to maintain or improve the quality and quantity of future forest products in an area where forest fires are a frequent occurrence. The future success of the forest industry in the county depends upon the education of its citizens with special emphasis on the young people. The Department's effort in this crusade are ably assisted by 81 volunteer Forest Fire Wardens in the county. These men, located in every township, are called upon to fight forest and grass fires in their communities when and wherever they occur as well as to assist in the continual prevention campaigns. S.C.S. farm plans probably should contain the name and telephone number of one or more of the nearest Forest Fire Wardens.

Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters Cont'd.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

From information available 40% more or less of Westmoreland County is classified as commercial forestland woodland. This indicates the importance and future possibilities of the log and lumber industry in the county. It also substantiates the desirability for more forest and woodland management. The 16,000 acres of public forest lands in the county under forest management will not produce sufficient future quality saw timber to maintain an expanding wood using industry. More private forest lands must come under management if future needs are to be met. The very future of the log and lumber industry in the county, water conservation and erosion control are all factors of great importance in the private land forest improvement effort.

During 1958 selective cutting on State Forests in District #4 amounted to 185 acres. Under the C.F.M. program 210 acres of selective cutting was accomplished on private lands returning stumpage payments amounting to \$10,750. Timber marked under C.F.M. Program totaled 220 acres.

RECREATION

The increasing importance of recreational area in Westmoreland County is emphasized by the growing annual attendance figures recorded by field park personnel. Expansion and improvement of the Department's present park, picnicing and camping sites are constantly under consideration. The State Forest lands serve multiple use purposes including a guarantee that these acreages will supply certain amounts of future quality timber and a maximum of water. Those interested in hiking, hunting, and fishing find the State Forests especially important at a time when the posting of private lands is on the increase. In consideration of the rapidly rising population figures and increasing visitors from the Pittsburgh area it looks as though Westmoreland County may need additional future forest and recreational areas suitably located for servicing the public.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS
WESTMORELAND COUNTY

In order to establish vegetative cover and prevent soil erosion on slopes that have been distributed by Highway Construction, it is the policy of the Highway Department, to lime, fertilize, seed mulch, and plant shrubs, vines, and seedlings that are best suited to the disturbed area.

The following is a list of material used in this work for the year 1958 in Westmoreland County.

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Mulch Hay</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Project</u>
64130	50 lb. Slope Seed	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton	4 cwt. 8-16-16	1.32 ton	0	100% State by Dept. Force
31-8	2970 lb. slope 935 lb. Berm	42 ton	10.27 ton	164 ton	1500 shrubs 500 vines	Fed. Project by contract.
31-9	1480 lb. slope 465 lb. Berm	21 ton	3.89 ton	80 ton	2000 shrubs 1000 vines	Fed. Project by contract
64125	1400 lb. slope	13 ton	3 ton	34 ton	250 shrubs	Fed. Project by contract
69-16	2400 lb. 50 lb. Berm	33 ton	8.66 ton	143 ton	1700 vines 1600 shrub	Fed. Project by Contract
639-17	1375 lb. slope 200 lb. Berm	15 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton	3.7 ton	49.65 ton	300 shrubs 300 Bitter- sweet	Fed. Project by contract

Pennsylvania Department of Highways cont'd.

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Mulch</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Project</u>
<u>64268 - Project completed) Record not complete for 1958 report.</u>						
TOTAL	11,325 lb. seed	125 ton lime	29.72 fertilizer	471.97 ton Hay	9150 plants	

/s/t/ RALPH H. LIGHTNER
Roadside Development Engineer
District 12