THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
TENTH ANNUAL REPORT
1959

During the year 1959 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 1959 follow:

As of this date there are 565 farmers developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 75,282 acres, of which 24 became cooperators during 1959.

The district, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 15 news articles, appearing in approximately 120 publications, two (2) conservation tours, one (1) conservation demonstration, and 16 conservation education meetings.

One of the 2 tours was a tour of several farms for County Ministers in conjunction with Soil Stewartship Week. The ministers attending the tour were quite interested in how soil conservation was being accomplished.locally.

The District sponsored the County Vocational-Agricultural Land Judging Contest and awarded the winner, Harold Peterson of Greensburg-Salem High School, an engraved plaque.

Highlights cont'd.

The farm of Edward Philipp was entered in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Conservation Contest. Mr. Philipp was chosen first place winner in the state. Director Joe Kim accompanied Mr. Philipp to a State Association meeting where Mr. Philipp 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 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 1960 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 1959 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)	30	365	3,603	43,529
District Cooperators Plans (Active)	24	565	6,251	75,282
Conservation Surveys			125,260	299,798

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

Soil Conservation Service Report cont'd.

PRACTICES	UNIT	ESTABLISHED THIS PERIOD	ESTABLISHED TO DATE
Contour Farming	Acres	731	9,033
Cover Cropping	Acres	85	1,087
Strip Cropping	Acres	761	9,569
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	567	6,959
Pasture Seeding	Acres	246	1,633
Pasture Improvement	Acres	345	5,845
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	56	983
Tree Planting	Acres	21	372
Woodland Protection	Acres	32	1,184
Closed Drains	L. Ft.	45,928	361,922
Diversion Conservation	Miles	5.2	24.9
Farm Ponds	No.	1	61
Land Clearing	Acres	80	767

In addition to the amounts listed above the following was established on Non-District Cooperators farms for the A.C.P.: 102 Acres of Strip Cropping, 69,768 L. Ft. of Closed Drains and 1 Farm Pond.

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

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION - - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

As a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District the Pennsylvania Game Commission respectfully reports the following field activities relative to the district program during 1959:

1. Distributed 105,500 conifer and 38,600 various shrub seedlings to Farm-Game Project Cooperators and conservation groups to reforest and improve wildlife habitat on areas not suitable for agricultural operations.

2. Planted 16,700 shrubs on State controlled lands to alleviate soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat.

3. Clear cut woodland borders adjoining cropland for four Farm-Game Project Cooperators to increase crop production and improve wildlife habitat. Total area cut - 8.5 acres.

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

STMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION

The Westmoreland County ASC Committee is glad to supply the District with the following report showing accomplishments in the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District under the 1959 Agricultural Conservation Program. Some of the figures are estimates since our final reports will not be available until early spring.

Following is the report of practices carried out by Westmoreland County farmers under the 1959 Conservation Program:

Practice	Participating Farms	Acres	Cost-Sharing
Liming of cropland and Pasture	368	4,604	45,212.47
Seeding of hay and pasture	29	234	2,984.67
Fertilizing hay and pasture	113	1,346	9,770.78
Seeding of waterways, terraces, etc.	4	9	192.23
Cover crops: ryegrass, bromegrass	9	78	118.30
Green manure	1	9	18.00
Planting forest trees	9	53	1,032.00
Improvement of stand of forest trees	2	11½	124.80

PERMANENT TYPE PRACTICES

Practice	Number Farms	Acres	Linear Feet	No.	Cost-Sharing
Field Strips	4	110			220.00
Contour Strip Cropping	34	745			2,213.00
Developing Springs	4			4	241.97
Construction Farm Ponds	2			2	350.00
Construction Sod Waterways	6		4,265		501.90
Construction Diversion Terraces	13		25,713		3,076.09
Tile Drainage Systems	71		117,319		14,662.43
Drop Structures	9			9	256.62

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:

Number of Contracts in Conservation Reserve Program--43 Farms

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

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS ----- WESTMORELAND COUNTY

The following is the Service Forestry Report for 1959:

TREE PLANTING

During 1959, 94,000 seedlings were shipped into Westmoreland County from State Forest Nurseries. Thirty-eight thousand of this number were planted in cooperation with the A.S.C. Program. Although the 1959 program eliminated Scotch pine from the approved planting list, the revised Conservation Reserve program is expected to make up for any losses that would otherwise have resulted from the elimination of this species.

During 1959 twenty-four acres of site preparation preparatory to planting was accomplished. Twelve acres of this amount was held over for spring 1960 planting.

During 1959 there were no trees planted under the Conservation Reserve phase of the Soil Bank program in Westmoreland County.

Twenty-four 247 forms were received during the year for processing by the Service Forester.

WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

Only two woodland improvement procedures were completed this year in this County, amounting to 7 acres. Accomplishments in Somerset County was 43 acres on 4 widely separated sites.

When basal spraying proves sufficiently satisfactory as a tree killer, woodland improvement activity should increase. At present the power saw is extensively used in this work. It is felt that as soon as basal spraying can replace the power saw, increased interest in this phase of the program will result.

During this year over 285,000 board feet of timber was marked for selective cutting. This is the second cutting occurring on the Stanton Woodlands within the past three years. The 1958 cutting amounted to 265,000 feet. Total returns $15,500.00

FIRE PREVENTION

All foresters in District #4 are required to respond when called upon during fire emergency periods.

During 1959 there were only 7 fires reported in Westmoreland County, burning over 119 acres. This is a low figure when compared with Somerset County where 28 fires burned over almost 1,000 acres. Fayette County records list 76 fires burning over 1765 acres with a suppression cost of $8,150.00.

Decreasing the annual burned acreage is a primary responsibility of all the personnel in the Forbes Forest District #4 area, including 6 of the southwestern counties.

Service Forestry Report cont'd.

The cooperation of every citizen is needed to further eliminate the forest and field fire menace.

ESTIMATE FOR 1960

Present indications are that the A.S.C. forest practice program for 1960 will increase substantially in number of trees planted and acres of woodland improved.

/s/ E. W. BEATTY,
Service Forester,

FOR: STANLEY M. WALTON,
District Forester.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

In order to establish vegetative cover and prevent soil erosion on slopes that have been disturbed 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 1959 in Westmoreland County:

The report was submitted for the Department of Highways by:

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

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS cont'd.

Route	Seed	Lime	Fertilizer	Mulch Hay	Plants	Project
L.R.120	150 lb. Slope Seed	2 ton	800 lb.8-16-16 160 lb.10-6-4	5 ton	260 vines	100% State by Dept.Force
64163	375 lb. Berm Seed	6 ton	2,400 lb. 8-16-16	12.5 ton		100% State by Dept. Force
64055	125 lb. Berm Seed	1½ ton	720 lb. 8-16-16	4 ton		100% State by Dept. Force
64268 188(7)	4,182 lb.Slope 1,530 lb.Berm	56 ton	22,000 lb. 8-16-16	183 ton		Federal Project by Contract.
69-(18)	3,900 lb.Slope	47 ton	18,960 lb. 8-16-16 200 lb.10-6-4	79 ton	600 shrubs 200 vines	Federal Project by Contract.
787(1)	5,200 lb.Slope 1,600 lb.Berm	90 ton	42,000 lb. 8-16-16 180 lb.10-6-4	175 ton	625 shrubs 18 Flowering Trees, 6 Evergreens	Fed. Project by Contract
64181(1)	2,600 lb.Slope	35 ton	14,520 lb. 8-16-16 410 lb.10-6-4	6½ ton	625 shrubs 1,000 vines	Federal Project by Contract.
288 7A	3,605 lb.Slope 1,500 lb.Berm	81 ton	32,400 lb. 8-16-16 150 lb.10-6-4	135 ton	500 shrubs 27 Flowering Trees	Federal Project by Contract.
8 Projects	24,817 lb. Grass Seed	318½ ton	134,900 lb. fertilizer	600 ton Hay	2350 shrubs 1460 vines 45 Flowering Trees, 6 Evergreens.	