THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT 1960

During the year 1960 the following served as directors for the Westmoreland County Soil Conservation District:

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

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 the 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 1960 follow:

As of this date, there are 571 farmers developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 75,667 acres, of which 23 became cooperators during the year 1960.

The district, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 19 news articles, appearing in approximately 120 publications, two (2) conservation tours, one (1) conservation demonstration, and 16 conservation education meetings.

The District sponsored the County Vocational-Agricultural Land Judging Contest and awarded the winner, Tony Debnar, Derry Area High School, an engraved plaque.

Highlights cont'd.

The farm of Harry Marker was entered in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Conservation Contest. Mr. Marker was chosen first place winner in the state. Three Directors accompanied Mr. Marker to the State Association meeting where Mr. Marker 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. Rugh, Mr. Kepple, and Mr. Kim 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 1961 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 1960 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)	45	401	7,556	49,980
District Cooperators Plans (Active)	23	571	2,551	75,667
Conservation Surveys			153,720	453,518

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	795	9,828
Cover Cropping	Acres	102	1,189
Strip Cropping	Acres	795	10,364
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	641	7,600
Pasture Improvement	Acres	673	6,518
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	308	1,291
Tree Planting	Acres	54	426
Woodland Protection	Acres	217	1,401
Closed Drains	L. Ft.	59,660	421,582
Diversion Construction	Miles	2.4	27.3
Farm Ponds	No.	9	70
Land Clearing	Acres	75	842
Pasture Seeding	Acres	363	1,996

In addition to the amounts listed above the following was established on Non-District Cooperators farms for the A.C.P.: 65 Acres of Strip Cropping, 42,918 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 your program during 1960:

1. Distributed 122,000 conifer and 38,500 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 20,000 conifer and 25,000 various shrub seedlings on State controlled lands to alleviate soil erosion and improve wildlife habitat.

3. Clear cut woodland borders adjoining cropland for two Farm-Game Project Cooperators and two private land owners to increase crop production and improve wildlife habitat. Total area cut - -- 27.75 acres.

4. One (1) field trip was conducted on July 21, 1960 to the Loyalhanna Flood Control Area, with the Directors of the District present.

The purpose of the trip (item 4 above) was to show the Commission's Food and Cover Development program on the Flood Control Area. The Directors were also shown old fields planted to food bearing shrubs and evergreens for small game cover and contour strips to be planted to various grasses, clovers and trefoil. Other fields were visited on which no development had been made for Food and Cover Development for these areas were explained to the Directors.

/s/t/ D. W. HEACOX,
Land Manager,
Pennsylvania Game Commission

FOR:

G. L. NORRIS,
Supervisor,
Southwest Division

WESTMORELAND 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 1960 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 1960 Conservation Program:

Practice	Participating Farms	Acres	Cost-Sharing
Liming of cropland and pasture	411	5,663	61,766.45
Seeding of hay and pasture	39	418	5,306.25
Fertilizing hay and pasture	158	2,321	16,095.20
Seeding of waterways, terraces, etc.	4	10	374.50
Cover crops, ryegrass, bromegrass	15	216	403.80
Green Manure	1	12	31.80
Planting forest trees	10	65½	1,146.80
Improvement of stand of forest trees	5	96	1,699.20

PERMANENT TYPE PRACTICES

Practice	Number Farms	Acres	Linear Feet	No.	Cost-Sharing
Field Strips	1	9			18.00
Contour Strip Cropping	26	438			1314.00
Developing Springs	1			1	100.00
Construction of Farm Ponds	8			8	1535.04
Construction of Sod Waterways	2		1250		44.10
Construction of Diversion Terraces	13		13888		1922.19
Tile Drainage Systems	55		101744		13428.95

May 1, 1961 expiration date --- 19 Payments totaling ---------- 2044.41

1960 - 1961 Concurrent Program ----143 farms totaling ---------- 22724.89

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

SOIL BANK PROGRAM

Number of contracts in conservation reserve program ----------80 Farms

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

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

Following is the 1960 Service Forester's Report for Westmoreland County:

TREE DISTRIBUTION:

Records indicate 157,000 seedlings distributed in Westmoreland County during 1960. Of this number 54,000 were planted in cooperation with the A.S.C.P.

Thirty-eight acres of practice 22e was requested and 18 acres of this amount completed.

Thirty-one #247 forms were received from the Westmoreland County A.S.C. office and 21 of this number were satisfactorily completed.

WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

Three farm woodland improvement procedures were completed amounting to 15, 25, and 40 acres respectively.

Timber marking amounted to 254,000 board feet for sale under selective cutting agreement during January 1961.

During the fall season, committee members and project leaders from the S.C.S. and A.S.C. examined a selectively cut-over area of 45 acres located on Chestnut Ridge just south of Derry, Pa.

Monthly accomplishments reported for 1960 indicate that the Service Forester received 260 requests for service during 1960.

During 1960 there were 37 forest fires in Westmoreland County, burning over 1,230 acres at a cost of $7,768.00.

During August a forestry exhibit was presented at the County Fair. Exhibit was manned from the 5th, through the 20th.

/s/t/ 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 1960 in Westmoreland County.

ROUTE	SEED	LIME	FERTILIZER	M.HAY	PLANTS	PROJECT
64071	1400 lb.	20 ton	8,000 lb.	34 ton	----	100% State
64156	10 lb.	200 lb.	120 lb.	.2 ton	----	100% State
64043	25 lb.	300 lb.	250 lb.	.5 ton	----	100% State
64204	10 lb.	200 lb.	125 lb.	.3 ton	----	100% State
64192	25 lb.	300 lb.	250 lb.	.5 ton	----	100% State
64266	170 lb.	2 ton	1,200 lb.	4 ton	----	100% State
64209	900 lb.	12 ton	4,800 lb.	20 ton	----	Federal Contract
119-12B)	3500 lb.	43 ton	17,280 lb.	72 ton	400 vines 300 shrubs	Federal Contract
8 Projects	6040 lb. Seed	77.5 ton Lime	32,025 lb. Fertilizer	131.5 Ton Hay.	700 Plants	

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

FOR: N. G. BELL,
District Engineer,
District 12.