

THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT  
1961

During the year 1961 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, Ruffsedale, 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 1961 follow:

As of this date, there are 585 farmers developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 78,062 acres, of which 33 became cooperators during the year 1961.

The district, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 18 news articles, appearing in approximately 120 publications, one (1) conservation tours, one (1) conservation demonstration, and 12 conservation education meetings.

The District sponsored the County Vocational-Agricultural Land Judging Contest and awarded the winner, James Fox, Hempfield Area High School, an engraved plaque.

A Conservation Display was exhibited by the District at the Westmoreland County Fair during August 1961.

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

Highlights cont'd.

District board members assisted the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Committee in formulating the 1962 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 1961 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)	42	436	4,638	53,529
District Cooperators Plans (Active)	33	585	4,928	78,062
Conservation Surveys			159,960	613,478

THE FOLLOWING IS A COMPILATION OF SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES ESTABLISHED ON ALL COUNTY FARMS WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE:

<u>PRACTICES</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>		<u>ALL FARMS</u>
		<u>THIS PERIOD</u>		
		<u>DISTRICT COOPERATORS</u>	<u>NON-DISTRICT COOPERATORS</u>	
			<u>ACP</u>	
Contour Farming	Acres	670	135	10,610
Cover Cropping	Acres	189		1,378
Strip Cropping	Acres	670	135	11,873
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	716		8,316
Pasture Improvement	Acres	360		6,878
Pasture Planting	Acres	80		1,876
Grassland Renovation	Acres	128		439
Establishing Perennial Hay	Acres	185		1,399
Tree Planting	Acres	84		519

Soil Conservation Service Report cont'd.

<u>PRACTICES</u>	<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ESTABLISHED</u>		<u>TO DATE</u> <u>ALL</u> <u>FARMS</u>
		<u>THIS PERIOD</u>		
		<u>DISTRICT</u> <u>COOPERATORS</u>	<u>NON-DISTRICT</u> <u>COOPERATORS-ACP</u>	
Woodland Protection	Acres	31		1,432
Closed Drains	L.Ft.	48,863	44,286	869,829
Diversion Construction	L.Ft.	9,492	12,178	168,777
Farm Ponds	No.	6	2	97
Land Clearing	Acres	61		903

/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 1961:

Conifer seedlings distributed to six (6) Farm-Game Projects	22,275
Multiflora Rose	2,500
Other Shrubs	1,800
Border Cuttings, Farm-Game Projects	1-1/3 acres
Conifer seedlings planted - Loyalhanna Flood Control	1,200
Multiflora Rose	9,000
Other Shrubs	6,500
Border cuttings - Loyalhanna Flood Control (3 cuttings)	1-3/4 acres
Acreage maintained by mowing	28
Acreage top-dressed with fertilizer	60

Note: All food plots and shrub plantings on the Loyalhanna Flood Control Area are contoured or stripped, and would total approximately 60 acres.

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 1961 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 1961 Conservation Program:

<u>Practice</u>	<u>Participating</u> <u>Farms</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Cost-Sharing</u>
Liming of cropland and pasture	424	6,075	\$57,887.91
Seeding of Hay and pasture	42	380	4,836.51
Fertilizing hay and pasture	126	1,834	13,489.43
Seeding of waterways, terraces etc.	2	2,536	89.65
Cover Crops, ryegrass, bromegrass	7	78	138.00
Green manure	1	10	24.00
Planting forest trees	13	71	1,346.20
Improvement of stand of forest trees	4	82	1,569.60
Fencing of planted trees	2	Rds.-251	69.10

PERMANENT TYPE PRACTICES

Developing spring	1	1 ea.	100.00
Construction of farm pond	2	2 ea.	600.00
Construction of Sod Waterways	1	1,036 L.Ft.	94.50
Construction of diversion terraces	6	16,625 L.Ft.	2,206.88
Tile drainage system	35	63,737 L.Ft.	8,520.43
May 1, 1962 expiration date	3		314.38

1961-62 CONCURRENT PROGRAM

PERMANENT TYPE PRACTICES

Construction of farm pond	5	5 ea.	
Construction of diversion terraces	4	5045 L. Ft.	
Tile Drainage system	57	22,212 L. Ft.	

141 farms participated in the 1961-62 concurrent program totaling \$17,661.55

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

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

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

Following is the 1961 Service Forest Report for Westmoreland County:

TREE DISTRIBUTION:

Records indicate 85,000 seedlings from State Forest nurseries were distributed to planters on April 22, 1961. Delivery was accomplished by direct shipment from nursery to the County Highway Shed. Delivery to applicants was completed in one day, 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.. There were only 31 applicants trees in this shipment of 85,000 seedlings. Species delivered consisted of White and Austrian Pine, Norway and White Spruce, European and Japanese Larch, Black Locust and Multiflora Rose. This system of distribution will be used again during 1962.

Requests for nursery stock should be in District #4 office on or before February 1, 1962.

50,000 seedlings were planted under the A.S.C. Service by 19 co-operators.

247 rods of fencing was constructed for excluding livestock from new plantations.

WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

96 acres of woodland improvement was completed in Westmoreland County. 40 acres of this amount was accomplished by a poisoning procedure using 2-4-5T and #20 fuel oil. A 25-to-1 mixture was used. Application was accomplished by using a back pack spray tank. Results were satisfactory.

9½ acres was completed on sites for preparing areas for planting by elimination of undesirable vegetation.

OTHER

156,000 board feet of timber was marked and sold under competitive bidding for \$4,200.00.

During 1961 Westmoreland County forest fire situation was comparatively light. Only 5 fires were reported having an estimated cost of \$89.00 with a burned area totaling 246 acres.

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

FOR: STANLEY M. WALTON,  
District Forester

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS - - - - - WESTMORELAND COUNTY

It is the policy of the Highway Department to establish vegetative cover, and prevent soil erosion on slopes, along and adjacent to the highways that have been disturbed by Highway Construction.

The following is a list of soil erosion work completed in Westmoreland County for 1961:

(100% State by Department Force)  
8-16-16

<u>Route</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>For.B Seed</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Hay</u>	<u>Sq.Yd. Seeded</u>
64190 Br.#5	State	100 lb.	3 Ton	12 cwt.	3 Ton	4,500 S.Y.
64261 Sec.2	State	50 lb.	5 Ton	24 cwt.	6 Ton	10,700 S.Y.
64006 Br.#2	State	250 lb.	5 Ton	24 cwt.	6 Ton	11,700 S.Y.
		<u>400 lb.</u>	<u>13 Ton</u>	<u>60 cwt.</u>	<u>15 ton</u>	<u>26,900 S.Y.</u>

(Seeding by Contract)

<u>Route</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>For.B Seed</u>	<u>Crown Vetch</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Hay</u>	<u>Sq. Yd. Seeded</u>
64236 Sec.1	Fed. Aid	400 lb.	300 lb.	32 Ton	194 cwt.	40 Ton	81,590 S.Y.

Weed and Brush Spraying by Contract = 162.8 miles

(Karmex) soil sterilant applied under guard fences, along paved waterways, and signs to control unwanted growth. = 2300 lb. used at the rate of 28 lb. to the acre or = 82-1/7 acres.

Topdressing old slopes  
400 cwt. - 8-16-16 Fertilizer applied on old slopes in all parts of Westmoreland County.

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

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