

THE WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
1963

During the year 1963 the following served as Directors for the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District:

Chairman - - - - - Dewitt W. Rugh, Slickville, Pa.
Vice-Chairman - - Charles Kepple, New Alexandria, Pa.
Treasurer - - - - - Clarence Vance, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.
Member - - - - - John D. Brawdy, Champion, Pa.
Member - - - - - Jay W. Kromer, County Commissioner, Greensburg, Pa.

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 the 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 District's activities during the year 1963 follow:

As of this date, there are 670 land owners developing Conservation Plans for their land comprising 85,759 acres, of which 78 became cooperators during the year 1963.

The District, in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service, was responsible for 20 news articles, appearing in approximately 160 publications, and 8 Conservation Education meetings. In addition the District in cooperation with the ASC County Committee sponsored and conducted a Conservation Tour. The tour was attended by 150 people who viewed conservation accomplishments that were installed under the supervision of cooperating agencies.

The District purchased a copy of the film "The Earth Is The Lords". It is available for use by any group within Westmoreland County.

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

Highlights of the District Cont'd.

A Conservation Display was exhibited by the District at the Westmoreland County Fair during August 1963.

The District was represented at all of the executive council meetings of the State Association by Director D. W. Rugh.

Directors Rugh, Kepple, Vance and Brawdy attended the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held in Fayette County during November.

Directors Brawdy and Rugh represented the District at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts held at Denver, Colorado during February.

District Board Members assisted the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee in formulating the 1964 Agricultural Conservation Program.

Five of the seven FFA Chapters in Westmoreland County entered the FFA Soil and Water Conservation Awards Program for the 1962-63 year.

The South Huntingdon High School FFA Chapter was named 1st place winner in the state for which the chapter received \$225.00 in prizes and a large trophy.

One of the major highlights of the year was the submission of the first application for watershed protection and flood prevention assistance under P.L. 566 for a watershed within Westmoreland County. The District co-sponsored the application which was for the Jacobs Creek Watershed.

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)	52	498	3752	58,676
District Cooperators (Active)	78	670	6280	85,759

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>THIS PERIOD</u>	<u>TO DATE</u>
Contour Farming	Acres	850	11,836
Cover Cropping	Acres	105	1,668
Strip Cropping	Acres	850	13,028
Conservation Crop Rotation	Acres	862	9,626
Pasture and Hayland Planting	Acres	150	3,943
Grassland Renovation	Acres	292	997
Tree Planting	Acres	90	1,170
Closed Drains	L. Ft.	39,738	985,443
Diversion Construction	L. Ft.	25,708	213,620
Farm Ponds	No.	15	120
Land Clearing	Acres	71	1,061

s/t/ John R. Nehoda
 Work Unit Conservationist
 Soil Conservation Service

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

The following is a report of the Pennsylvania Game Commission as a cooperating agency with the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District for the calendar year 1963:

Conifer seedlings distributed to six (6) Farm-Game Projects	- -	30,000
Multiflora Rose	" " "	4,300
Other shrubs	" " "	1,900
Border cuttings, Farm-Game Projects	- -	7 3/4 Ac.
Border cuttings, Private Lands	- -	0
Conifer seedlings planted, Loyalhanna Flood Control		600
Multiflora Rose	" " "	35,000
Other shrubs	" " "	29,100
Border cuttings		7.05 Ac.
Acreage maintained by mowing		36.25 Ac.
Acreage limed		11.5 Ac.
Acreage fertilized		4.75 Ac.
Food plots planted		9.25 Ac.
Conifer seedlings planted, State Game-Lands		200
Other shrubs	" " "	2,800
Border and browse cuttings		32.85 Ac.
Acreage maintained by mowing		50.25 Ac.
Acreage limed		12.75 Ac.
Acreage fertilized		50.5 Ac.
Food plots planted		9.75 Ac.

/s/t D. W. Heacox
Land Manager
Pennsylvania Game Commission
FOR: G. L. NORRIS
Supervisor
Southwest Division

WESTMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Westmoreland County ASC Committee is glad to supply the District with the following report showing accomplishments in the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District under the 1963 Agricultural Conservation Program. Some of the figures are estimated since our final report will not be available until early spring.

The following is the report of practices carried out by the Westmoreland County farmers under the 1963 Program:

<u>Practice and Description</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Cost-Sharing</u>
A-2 Seeding of hay & pasture	54	630 Ac.	\$ 8,348.27
A-4 Liming of cropland & pasture	382	5,642 Ac.	53,473.84
A-5 Contour strip cropping	22	698 Ac.	2,094.00
A-5 Fencerow removal	1	260 Rds.	1,300.00
A-5 Cross-slope strip cropping	1	7 Ac.	14.00
A-7 Planting forest trees	5	33½ Ac.	411.62
B-1 Fertilizing hay & pasture	96	1,830 Ac.	14,853.93
B-6 Developing springs	4	4 springs	400.00
B-7 Ponds for Livestock Water	10	10 ponds	3,742.86
B-10 Improvement of Forest trees	5	115 Ac.	1,962.66
C-1 Construction of Sod Waterways	3	3,110 L.Ft.	447.01
C-2 Seeding of diversion terraces	6	11.7 Ac.	337.30
C-5 Construction of Diversions	17	25,278 L.Ft.	3,598.93
C-9 Construction of Open Drains	2	1,920 L.Ft.	454.00
C-10 Installing underground drainage	27	38,565 L.Ft.	5,685.45
D-1 Cover crops, ryegrass etc.	4	85 Ac.	119.00
G-3 Constructing ponds for wildlife	4	4 ponds	1,600.00
TOTAL - - -			\$98,842.87

71 farms participated in the 1963-64 con-current program totaling \$10,766.80.

Our program is to provide assistance to aid individual farmers in protecting and improving their land by 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 1963 Service Forest Report for Westmoreland County:

Seedlings distributed from State Forest Nurseries - - - 46,600

Seedlings planted under the Agricultural Conservation Program - - - - - 15,000

Board feet of farm woodland stump age selectively marked for sale - - - - - 130,000

Total returns - - - - - \$1,500.00

Acreage of Timber stand improvement completed under Agricultural Conservation Program Practice B10 - - - - - 118

During the past three or four years there has been a marked drop in tree planting in Westmoreland County. A special effort will be made to change this situation.

/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 1963:

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Mulch Hay</u>	<u>Sq. Yds. Seeded</u>
64055 Sec. 2	350 lb.	40 Cwt.	6 ton	8 Ton	16,700 Sq. Yds.
64072 Br. 1	200 lb.	40 Cwt.	12 Ton	6 Ton	10,900 Sq. Yds.
64171 Br. 1	200 lb.	40 Cwt.	12 Ton	6 Ton	10,000 Sq. Yds.
639 Br. 13	350 lb.	40 Cwt.	6 Ton	8 Ton	15,000 Sq. Yds.
64226 Sec. 1	3,400 lb.	388 Cwt.	65 Ton	81 Ton	162,385 Sq. Yds.
TOTALS	4,500 lb. Seed	548 Cwt. Fertilizer	101 Ton Lime	109 Ton Mulch Hay	214,985 Sq. Yds. Seeded

Other activities included:

1. Soil sterilant used in all parts of the County to control unwanted growth under guard fences, around signs, on concrete dividers and paved waterways.
2. Additional lime, fertilizer, and seed for top dressing old slopes on main highways in all parts of the county.
3. Tree trimming, dangerous tree removals, and brushing program carried on all year in the county.
4. Herbicide spraying - 465 miles sprayed to control weeds and brush.

s/t/ Ralph W. Lightner
Roadside Development Engineer

FOR: J. H. MIFFLIN
District Engineer
District 12

1. DATE _____ TIME _____ LOCATION _____
 2. NAME _____ ADDRESS _____
 3. PHONE _____ CITY _____

4. DESCRIPTION _____
 5. REMARKS _____
 6. INITIALS _____
 7. SIGNATURE _____
 8. DATE _____

9. REMARKS _____
 10. INITIALS _____
 11. SIGNATURE _____
 12. DATE _____

13. REMARKS _____
 14. INITIALS _____
 15. SIGNATURE _____
 16. DATE _____

17. REMARKS _____
 18. INITIALS _____
 19. SIGNATURE _____
 20. DATE _____