

~~SECRET~~

1964

FIFTEENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Westmoreland County

1040 square Miles of Opportunity

WESTMORELAND COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
FIFTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT
1964 5

DeWitt W. Rugh, Slickville, Pa.	1965	Chairman
Charles Kepple, New Alexandria, Pa.	Gilbert Hutter, D. Mt. Pleasant	Vice-Chairman
Clarence H. Vance, Mt. Pleasant, Pa.	Colwin Gerbach, New Derry, Pa.	Treasurer
John D. Brawdy, Champion, Pa.		Director
Jay W. Kromer, County Commissioner, Greensburg, Pa.		Director
Ford M. Frank, Ruffsdale, Pa.		Secretary
Mae U. Datz, Greensburg, Pa.		Clerk

The Directors of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District are appointed by the County Commissioners to serve for a period of four years. They receive no salaries. The secretary is appointed by the Board of Directors. The clerk is hired on a part time basis and is paid from the district budget. The District operates on an annual allocation from the County Commissioners.

The Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District is a legal subdivision of government. It is organized under the provisions of a state law entitled "The Soil Conservation Law of 1945", "Act 217", and has the legal responsibility for carrying out a Soil and Water Conservation Program in the county.

1964 ACTIVITIES

Early in 1964, the County Commissioners moved the District office to 12 East Otterman Street, Greensburg. The Clerk is in the office three (3) days a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The office is also used as headquarters by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to carry out their operations in the county.

ASSISTANCE TO INDIVIDUAL LANDOWNERS

Forty-three (43) landowners became cooperators with the district during the year bringing the total number to 829 seeking technical assistance in solving their resource conservation problems.

JACOBS CREEK WATERSHED

Jacobs Creek bounds Westmoreland County on the south central border and drains 62,500 acres of land; 45,500 acres of which are in Westmoreland County. This stream has a long history of flooding, with the main damage centered in the Scottdale and Everson areas. The drainage area, or watershed, contains many critical silting sources, developed from past coal mining activity, that deposit tons of sedimentation into the existing stream channels.

Jacobs Creek Watershed (Cont'd)

In seeking a solution to the flooding and watershed treatment problems, local units of government from both Westmoreland and Fayette counties sponsored an application for assistance under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P. L. 566). These sponsors included the County Commissioners of Westmoreland and Fayette counties, the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of both counties, the Borough of Scottdale, East Huntingdon Township, Mt. Pleasant Township and Mt. Pleasant Borough, all of Westmoreland County and Upper Tyrone Township in Fayette County.

After receiving the application, the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters, made a preliminary study of the watershed. A report on the study to the sponsors indicated that a program centered around four flood retention dams and complete watershed treatment, along with channel improvement work in Scottdale, would practically eliminate flood damage in the Scottdale and Everson areas.

Based on this report and along with the other sponsors of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project, the District requested the Soil Conservation Service to proceed with developing the final watershed work plan. This should be completed by July 1965 and attainment of land easements and rights of ways should start toward the end of the year.

The District is responsible for the land treatment phase of the watershed project. A joint meeting with the Fayette County Soil and Water Conservation District was held in July to review critical land treatment problems caused by past coal mining and coke making activity in the watershed. This meeting brought to the attention of the conservation leaders the need to give special attention to these critical areas that are contributing tons of silt to the streams of the watershed.

As a result of this meeting the District sponsored a luncheon tour for all county, township and borough government officials and others associated with the watershed project for the purpose of informing all concerned with the problems that exist.

Other activities centered around the land treatment phase of the project involved a joint meeting with the East Huntingdon Township Planning Commission in October. This was held to acquaint landowners of the Stauffer Run area with the District and encourage them to become cooperators and carry out conservation work on their land.

RESOURCE PLANNING

The District developed a long range planning program that will act as a guide for county-wide resource development in the years ahead.

A series of meetings were held consisting of representatives of the District and representatives of state and federal agencies, utility companies and businesses interested in natural resource development. At these meetings, the resource inventories of the county were reviewed and objectives set forth on the ways and means of developing these resources. This program will be published sometime during the year depending on availability of district funds.

1965 - approved by SSWCC and now plan to publish

YOUTH CONSERVATION CONTESTS

The District sponsored a Land Judging contest for all Vocational-Agriculture departments in the county. Larry Cornell of South Huntingdon Township FFA Chapter won first place and was awarded a plaque by the District.

County FFA Chapters were encouraged to enter state-wide Soil and Water Conservation Awards Contest. A county chapter placed first in the southwest region of the state winning \$75.00.

ACTIVITIES BY THE DIRECTORS

Director Brawdy was elected Chairman of Jacobs Creek Watershed Steering Committee.

Chairman Rugh and Director Brawdy attended the Annual meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at Kansas City early in February.

The District was represented at all Executive Council meetings of the State Association during the year by Director Brawdy.

Chairman Rugh and Brawdy attended the Annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors held at Mt. Airy Lodge in the Poconos. At this meeting, Mrs. John Brawdy was elected President of the newly organized Ladies Auxiliary of the State Association.

Director Clarence H. Vance of Mt. Pleasant resigned effective December 31, 1964.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on Hand - January 1, 1964		201.57
Receipts:		
County Commissioners	1220.00	
Total Receipts		1421.57
Expenditures:		
Expense to National Convention	98.20	
National Dues	75.00	
Clerical Services	438.58	
Expenses to Executive Council	166.77 ^①	
Pennsylvania Association Dist. Dues	35.00	
Plaque	13.50	
Compensation Insurance	16.08	
Conference Luncheon	27.13	
Internal Revenue Service	26.06	
Lunch for Annual Meeting	19.85	
Total Expenses	916.17	
Balance		505.40

Reports from local, state and federal agencies cooperating with the District and assisting in carrying out the Conservation Program in Westmoreland County follow.

① Includes 74.82 paid to Brawdy in Feb. 1964, for attending the National Assoc. SWCD Directors at Kansas City.

②

U.S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE
12 East Otterman Street
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601
Telephone TE-4-3970

Jack C. Davis, Work Unit Conservationist
Joseph M. Obenski, Conservation Technician
David M. Saul, Conservation Technician

1964 Annual Report to Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service is a technical action agency in the field of Soil and Water Conservation. It brings together in one staff the trained conservationists needed to solve land and water problems. The staff includes conservationists; soil scientists; economists; agricultural, irrigation, hydraulic, drainage and cartographic engineers; specialists in woodland, biology, agronomy, plant materials, geology and sedimentation. The service makes its technical assistance available to individuals, groups, local units of government and others through the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

SCS personnel have provided assistance through the District to individuals and groups of Westmoreland County in the following fields during 1964-1965.

WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION

JACOBS CREEK WATERSHED The Soil Conservation Service completed a preliminary investigation of the watershed and reported the findings to the local sponsors of the project. The preliminary study showed that a program centered around four flood retaining dams and complete watershed treatment would practically eliminate flood damages to the Scottdale-Everson areas by Jacobs Creek. The cost was estimated to be approximately two and two-thirds million dollars.

Based on the preliminary study, all local sponsoring groups of the project gave formal approval and requested the U. S. Soil Conservation Service to proceed with the development of a detailed watershed plan. Local interests in the watershed also requested that final plans include a multiple purpose structure that would create a permanent lake for recreation purposes.

Jacobs Creek Watershed (Cont'd.)

Detailed engineering, sedimentation and geology studies by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service are now being made of the watershed in preparation for a final watershed plan.

LITTLE PUCKETA CREEK WATERSHED Located in the City of New Kensington, Lower Burrell and Upper Burrell townships causing annual flood damage to the City of New Kensington. A study was made by Soil Conservation Service personnel during the year that indicated this watershed would not be a feasible project under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P. L. 566). The reason given was the high cost of flood control with water impounding structures due to the mining activity in the upper reaches of the watershed.

FOUR MILE RUN WATERSHED Located in Ligonier, Cook and Donegal townships, causing flooding in the Darlington area. A feasibility study made in 1964 indicated this would probably be an eligible project. The Soil Conservation Service provided technical information to local interests in preparing an application for assistance under P.L. 566 for this watershed.

MILL CREEK WATERSHED Located in Ligonier Borough and Ligonier Township causing flood damage in Ligonier Borough. Studies made during the year showed that the cost of flood prevention would be much greater than the reduction in flood damages indicating this would not be a feasible project under P.L. 566.

COUNTY WIDE SOIL SURVEY

Assistance was given the Westmoreland County Planning Commission in conducting a forum for representatives of the 34 planning commissions in the county on the use of the soil survey in connection with community planning.

Information was provided to the Westmoreland County Planning Commission for publishing a circulating newsletter dealing with the use of the soils survey in land use planning.

COUNTY WIDE NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY

The Directors of the Soil and Water Conservation District requested the U. S. Soil Conservation Service make a county-wide resource inventory to be used as a basis for the District's long range program. An inventory of the geology, the soils, the water, the woodland, the agriculture and the recreation resources of the county was made based on this request during 1964.

County planning officials were acquainted with the inventory and the District's program as an aid in developing community and regional land use plans.

CONSERVATION APPLICATION

U. S. Soil Conservation Service personnel provided landowners with assistance in developing thirty-two (32) conservation plans for their land in 1964. These conservation plans were for recreation areas, strip-mined areas, and farms.

Technical assistance was provided to 217 landowners in applying the following conservation practices on their land.

Contour Strip Cropping (Acres)	1,102	
Diversion Terraces (Feet)	15,686	
Grassed Waterways (Feet)	5,000	
Tile (Feet)	39,868	
Ponds (Number)	5	
Spring Developments (Number)	7	
Drop Structures (Number)	6	
Obstruction Removal (Acres)	4.5	
Land Clearing (Acres)	101	
Conservation Cropping System (Acres)	558	
Crop Residue Use (Acres)	25	
Pasture and Hayland Renovation (Acres)	646	
Pasture and Hayland Planting (Acres)	490	
Recreation Area Planting (Acres)	3.5	
Cover and Green Manure Crop (Acres)	392	
Wildlife Habitat Development (Acres) + <i>Preservation</i>	39	37
Wildlife Hedge Planting (Feet)	7,900	
Fishpond Stocking (Number)	7	
Fishpond Management (Number)	2	

U. S. Soil Conservation Service (cont'd.)

INFORMATION

Personnel of the Soil Conservation Service presented talks on resource conservation in the county to 14 groups consisting of service clubs, scouts, schools and other community organizations in 1964.

Information was made available to local newspapers on the watershed protection and flood prevention projects, the soil survey and other conservation activities during the year that resulted in 176 news releases.

Thirty-eight (38) consultive services were provided to contractors, planning commissions, utility companies, consultants and others during the year. These services were in the form of technical advice and counsel respecting the use or treatment of soil and water situations.

/s/t/ JACK C. DAVIS
Work Unit Conservationist
U.S. Soil Conservation Service

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 1964 Agricultural Conservation Program. Some of the figures are estimated since our final report will not be available until early spring.

	<u>Practice</u>	<u>Farms</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Cost-Sharing</u>
A-2	Seeding hay and pasture	77	966 Ac.	\$13,603.88
A-4	Liming cropland and pasture	375	5,598 Ac.	49,862.10
A-5	Contour and Field Strips	28	961 Ac.	3,513.00
A-5	Fencerow removal	4	340 Rds.	645.25
A-7	Planting forest trees	10	37½ Ac.	588.45
A-7	Fencing trees	1	32 Rds.	32.00
B-1	Fertilizing hay and pasture	82	1,481 Ac.	13,564.54
B-6	Developing springs	6	6 Springs	798.44
B-7	Ponds for livestock water	3	3 Ponds	1,200.00
B-10	Improvement of forest trees	4	80 Ac.	1,600.00
C-1	Construction of sod waterways	4	168.8 Ft.	795.70
C-2	Seeding waterways and terraces	6	348.5 Ft.	314.44
C-5	Construction of diversions	12	13,846 Ft.	2,035.44
C-10	Install underground drainage	28	41,271 Ft.	6,178.44
D-1	Cover crops, ryegrass etc.	9	181 Ac.	384.60
G-1	Wildlife planting	1	2 Ac.	37.10
			Total	\$95,153.38

Thirty-nine (39) farms participated in the 1965 concurrent program totaling \$5,227.15.

Our program is to provide cost-sharing assistance to individual farmers in protecting and improving their land in conserving soil and water.

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

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS

As a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District the following report is submitted.

Total seedlings distributed from State Forest Nurseries	72,000
A.S.C.S. seedlings planted	51,000
A.S.C.S. acres of farm woodland improvement	115
A.S.C.S. acres of farm woodland fencing	40
Board feet of timber marked	190,000
Number of forest and grass fires in county	26
Cost of forest and grass suppression in county	\$6,200.00
Total number of forest and grass fires in Pennsylvania	19,004
Total acres of forest and grassland burned in Pennsylvania	16,350
Total Statewide seedlings distributed	15,000,000
Total Statewide timber sales marked and cut from State Forests	55,000,000 Bd.Ft.

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

FOR: CHARLES MERROTH
District Forester

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION

As a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District the following report is submitted.

Ira E. Moungis, County Supervisor; S. Merrill Watson, Area Supervisor; with county office located at 130 West Main Street, Somerset; telephone code 814 445-7813.

Westmoreland County sub-office; hours 10:00 A.M. until noon, Thursdays, located Room 218, Post Office Building, Greensburg.

Counties served: Somerset, Westmoreland and Allegheny.

The basic objectives of the FHA program are:

1. To extend financial and technical assistance to operators of not larger than family size farms and to assist them to make efficient use of their land, labor, and other resources so as to carry on a sound farming operation.
2. To extend financial assistance to Non-Profit Rural Associations to develop and improve the soil so as to improve the economic, social and environment conditions, thus helping rural people.
3. Assist low income farm and non-farm rural residents to improve living conditions and income through recently enacted "Economic Opportunity Act".
4. Cooperate with government agencies and public and private groups in developing a sound and successful Rural Areas Development Program.

Above objectives are accomplished through the making of the following types of loans:

OPERATING LOANS for purchase of livestock, machinery, current operating needs, Soil Conservation needs.

EMERGENCY LOANS to assist farmers who have been effected by disaster such as drought, flood, windstorm etc.

FARM OWNERSHIP LOANS for construction of needed farm buildings, dwellings.

SOIL AND WATER ASSOCIATION LOANS to develop soil and water resources including recreational uses.

WATERSHED LOANS to assist local groups or municipalities in providing financing for their share of P. L. 566 Projects.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION REPORT CONT'D.

All FHA Loans are made to individuals or associations who meet the eligibility requirements and are unable to secure adequate credit or handle the terms from normal credit sources.

At present 70% of all FHA borrowers are Soil and Water Conservation District Cooperators. The farm plan made by the borrower and Soil Conservation Service personnel are used as a foundation on which FHA loans are made.

Good farm management to-day starts with the best use of soil, water and forest resources.

/s/t/ IRA E. MOUNGIS
County Supervisor
Farmers Home Administration

FOR: S. MERRIL WATSON
Area Supervisor
Farmers Home Administration

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

As a cooperating agency of the Soil and Water Conservation District of Westmoreland County the following report is submitted:

Conifer seedlings distributed to 6 Farm-Game Projects . . .	25,000
Multiflora Rose	1,800
Other Shrubs	550
Border Cuttings, Farm-Game Projects	15 Ac.
Border Cuttings, Private Lands	5 Ac.
Conifer seedlings planted, Looyalhanne Flood Control . . .	0
Multiflora Rose	0
Other Shrubs	0
Border Cuttings	0
Acreage maintained by mowing	76 Ac.
Acreage limed	18 Ac.
Acreage fertilized	0
Conifer seedlings planted, State Game Lands	0
Other Shrubs	0
Border Cuttings	75 Ac.
Acreage maintained by mowing	24 Ac.
Acreage limed	7 Ac.
Acreage fertilized	12 Ac.
Eighteen (18) food plots planted	17 Ac.

s/t/ D. W. HEACOX
Land Manager
Group II

FOR: G. L. NORRIS
Supervisor
Southwest Division

VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT

As a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District the following report of the Vocational Agriculture Department is submitted.

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There are five departments of agriculture and seven agricultural teachers in Westmoreland County:

Randall Campbell, R.D.#1, Blairsville - - - Blairsville 459-6549
Thomas Hughes, R.D.#1, Box 3, Derry - - - Derry OX-2-0981
(Teachers at Derry Area High School, Derry, Pa.)

~~Robert E. Griffith, R.D.#3, Ligonier - - - Ligonier BE-8-4864
(Teacher at Southmoreland High School, Alverton, Pa.)~~

William C. Downs, Box 55, R.D.#1, Hunkers - - - WA-3355
Alex J. Smith, R.D.#7, Humphrey Road, Greensburg - - - TE-4-5979
(Teachers at Central Westmoreland Area Technical School
201 Locust Street, Youngwood, Pa.)

John S. Otto, 48 Richmond St., Loyahanna - - - KE-7-3575
(Teacher at Eastern Westmoreland Area Vocational-Technical
School, Latrobe, Pa.)

Ford M. Frank, R.D.#1, Ruffsedale - - - KI-7-4952
(Teacher at South-West Joint High School, R.D.#1, Ruffsedale, Pa.)

As of January 1, 1964 ⁴ five schools were eligible to participate in the FFA Soil and water conservation awards program. South Huntingdon Township FFA chapter completed the program winning first in the County and first in the Region. Five FFA boys from the county entered in the FFA Soil and Water Conservation Contest. Steve Szabo won first placing in the County and Area in the Soil Conservation Speech contests.

The Vocational Agriculture curriculum in Westmoreland County includes teaching soil conservation activities through class discussions, outside speakers, field trips, films and demonstrations. Soil Conservation practices are also carried out on the home farms of the boys as part of their supervised farming programs.

/s/t/ G. FLOYD DYE
Advisor
Vocational Agriculture
Somerset - Westmoreland
Counties

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

The following report on the activities of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways is submitted as a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

(Top Dressing) 5 Ton of 8-16-16 fertilizer used to top dress old slopes where required. This work was performed by outside skilled operators using a 1,200 gallon Hydroseeder.

(Soil Sterilant) Spray used in all parts of the county to control unwanted growth under guard fence, around signs, head walls, and paved waterways. 1,600 lbs. used at the rate of 15 lbs. to the acre.

(Weed Spraying) Spraying with 2, 4, D. on all grass median strips in the county. Material used at the rate of 1 gallon to 100 gallon sprayer at a tremendous savings to the county.

(Weed and brush spraying) On 895 miles of road. Material used was 2, 4, D. and 2, 4, 5, T. weed and brush killer at the rate of 1 gallon to 100 gallons of water.

All spraying operations performed by outside skilled operators using a 1,000 gallon sprayer at a tremendous savings to the county.

(Tree Work) This work consisted of removing dead and dangerous trees, clearance tree trimming, and cutting brush from curves, intersections, and around highway signs on various roads in all parts of the county. This work was performed by outside Tree Experts at a great savings to the county.

(SEEDING OPERATIONS) - (CONTRACT)

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Crown Vetch</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Straw Mulch</u>	<u>Hay Mulch</u>	<u>Plants</u>
1015-(2) Mt. Pleasant	1785 lb.	340 lb.	80 T.	32 T.	19	65½ T.	22 - Hemlock B & B 20
143-6A-2 Monessen	940 lb.	0	42 T.	17 T.	0	70 T.	500-Deciduous B & B Honey- suckle Vines

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS REPORT CONT'D

PLANTING OPERATIONS (Maintenance Forces)

<u>Route</u>	<u>Plants</u>	<u>Area</u>
U.S. Route 22	75 Crown Vetch Crowns	Slide Area
L.R. 64236 (Above Latrobe)	1,000 Red Osier Dogwood Shrubs	Slide Area

SEEDING OPERATIONS (Maintenance Forces)

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Mulch</u>
L.R. 64248 (Vandergrift)	500 lb.	15 T.	3 T.	24 T.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

37 roadside picnic tables are maintained by department forces. There are 19 areas in which these tables are located in the county. Some areas have 1 table and others have 2 or more at each area.

/s/t/ RALPH H. LIGHTNER
Roadside Development
Engineer
District 12-4

/s/t/ J. H. MIFFLIN
District Engineer
District 12

PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION

Instructions for the application of chemicals for weed control and fish control in ponds and permit for treatment of ponds is available to the public and may be obtained by writing to Mr. Henderson at the address below.

The following are some of the publications available through the Pennsylvania Fish Commission and may be obtained by writing to me. There is a small charge for some of the publications, others are free.

Pennsylvania Angler	Published Monthly	\$2.00 per year
Pennsylvania Boating Guide		
Pennsylvania Boating Regulations		
Fishing and Boating in Pennsylvania		
Fish Culture in Pennsylvania		
Pennsylvania Fishes Age and Growth		.50
Pennsylvania Reptiles and Amphibians		
Fly Tying		
The Age and Growth of Fishes		
Stream Improvement		
Waters Map by County		.35 & .50

In regard to problems of management, water, pollution, and stocking the pond; the owner should contact me for this information.

/s/t/ SAM F. HENDERSON
District Fish Warden
R. D. #8, Willow Crossing
Greensburg, Pennsylvania