

1965

SIXTEENTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

WESTMORELAND COUNTY  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT



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1965

DeWitt W. Rugh, Saltsburg, Pa. - - - - - Chairman  
Gilbert Hutter, Mt. Pleasant, Pa. - - - - - Vice-Chairman  
Calvin Gerhard, New Derry, Pa. - - - - - Director  
John D. Brawdy, Champion, Pa. - - - - - Treasurer  
Jay W. Kromer, County Commissioner, Greensburg, Pa. - - - - - Director  
Ford M. Frank, Ruffsedale, 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. 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 District office is located at 12 East Otterman Street and the clerk is in the office three (3) days a week, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The office is also the headquarters of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

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.

1965 ACTIVITIES

JACOBS CREEK WATERSHED

The District met eight (8) times with other sponsors of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Project located in the south-central part of the county. These meetings were held to develop a final watershed plan based on engineering, flooding and sedimentation studies completed by the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

A final watershed plan is nearing completion and will be finalized in early 1966. The plan will include water storage reservoirs for flood prevention and recreation. Extensive stream channel work through Scottdale and Elverson is also planned for protection from flooding.

District director John Brawdy served as chairman of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Steering Committee. This group is made up of individuals representing the sponsoring units of government backing the project. It is the Steering Committee's responsibility to develop a final watershed plan acceptable to all sponsors.

## FOUR MILE RUN WATERSHED

Along with the County Commissioners, Ligonier Township supervisors, Cook Township supervisors and Latrobe Borough, the District sponsored an application for assistance under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (P.L. 566). This 25,800 acre watershed is located in Ligonier, Cook and Donegal Townships. Four Mile Run causes frequent flooding in the Darlington area of Ligonier Township.

Engineering, flooding and hydrologic studies are now being made for the development of a watershed plan to be completed by the sponsors in 1966. The studies being made are to determine the possibilities of water storage in reservoirs for flood control, water supply and recreation.

## RESOURCE PLANNING

The long range resource development program developed by the District was approved by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission. The program will act as a guide for county-wide resource development in the years ahead. The District plans to publish and distribute the document in 1966.

## ACTIVITIES BY THE DIRECTORS

Calvin Gerhard, of New Derry, was appointed by the County Commissioners to fill the unexpired director's term of Charles Kepple who resigned early in the year.

Gilbert Hutter, R. D., Mt. Pleasant, was appointed to a full four year term as District Director. County Commissioner Jay Kromer was reappointed to serve a one year term as Director.

Chairman Rugh attended the annual meeting of the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at Portland, Oregon in early February, 1965.

The District sponsored a land judging contest for all FFA chapters in Westmoreland County in early May. Larry Cornell of South Huntingdon Township won top honors for the second year in a row.

The District was represented at all meetings of the Jacobs Creek Watershed Steering Committee and the Four Mile Run Watershed sponsoring group.

Director Brawdy attended all Executive Council meetings of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at State College held four times during the year.

The District had an exhibit at the Westmoreland County Fair showing conservation activities being promoted in the County through the District.

Chairman Rugh and Director Brawdy attended the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Association of Soil and Water Conservation District Directors at Sharon, Pennsylvania in November.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Balance on Hand - January 1, 1965		505.40
Receipts:		
County Commissioners	2695.00	
Total Receipts:		3200.40
Expenditures:		
Expense to National Convention		322.80
National Dues		75.00
Clerical Services		1792.74
Expenses to Executive Council		113.25
Pennsylvania Association Dues		35.00
Awards and Contests		18.02
Office Supplies		29.55
Publicity (Newsletters)		131.65
Planning Meeting Expense		34.10
Exhibits		36.51
Compensation Insurance		16.08
Total Expenses		2604.70
Balance		595.70

U. S. SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
12 East Otterman Street  
Greensburg, Pennsylvania 15601  
Telephone - 834-3970

Full Time Employees: Jack C. Davis, Work Unit Conservationist  
Louis C. Beck, Soil Conservationist  
Joseph M. Obenski, Conservation Technician  
David M. Saul, Conservation Technician

Part Time Employees: Robert L. Bitner - Conservation Aid ✓  
Lewis G. Clawson - Conservation Aid ✓  
Harry L. Painter - Conservation Aid ✓  
Ralph Hunter - - - Survey Aid ✓  
Elmer G. Lenhart - Survey Aid ✓  
Richard R. Monticue - Survey Aid ✓

<sup>6</sup>1965 Annual Report to the 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 SCS 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 1965.

WATERSHED PROTECTION AND FLOOD PREVENTION

Jacobs Creek Watershed located in Mt. Pleasant, East Huntingdon and South Huntingdon Townships of south central Westmoreland County and Bullskin and Upper Tyrone Townships of north central Fayette County.

*conferred to*  
The U. S. Soil Conservation Service provided technical and engineering assistance to the sponsors of this project for the purposes of developing a comprehensive watershed plan. This included engineering surveys on three water impounding sites and a similar survey on a section of stream channel through the borough of Scottdale. Detailed sedimentation studies and flood damage studies were also made which were needed for the sponsors to develop the final plan for the watershed project.

This information was presented to the sponsors in the form of various alternative plans for the watershed's development. The local sponsoring municipalities and the two counties involved are now in the process of deciding on the

Jacobs Creek Watershed cont'd.

plan that will best meet the needs of the people in the area. The final plan will include flood control, water based recreation facilities and possible emergency water supply at two or three water impounding structures in the watershed. The plan should be completed early in 1966.

Four Mile Run Watershed located in Ligonier, Cook and Donegal Townships.

The U. S. Soil Conservation Service approved the application from the sponsors for assistance in the development of this watershed under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act ( P. L. 566). Engineers are now in the process of making surveys that will be used by the sponsors in the development of a final watershed plan that will include water storage facilities for flood prevention, water supply and recreation. The plan should be completed during 1966.

#### COUNTY WIDE SOIL SURVEY

INSERT #4

- ② An information and education program was continued throughout the year on the use of the completed soil survey of the county.
- ③ Interpreting information in the soil survey for the non-agricultural uses of land was stressed in working with officials of planning commissions, the Pennsylvania Department of Health, and representatives of townships and other municipalities throughout the county *and individual property owners*

The new director of the Westmoreland County Planning Commission was acquainted with the soil survey. He used it several times in assisting municipalities with recreation and development projects.

Pennsylvania Department of Health sanitarians made use of the soil survey many times in their assistance to municipalities and individuals with waste and sewage treatment problems.

#### INFORMATION

Personnel of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service presented talks and gave information on resource conservation in the county to thirty-two (32) groups consisting of service clubs, scout groups, schools and other community organizations during 1965.

Information was made available to county newspapers on the watershed protection and flood prevention projects, the soil survey and other conservation activities during the year that resulted in 135 news releases.

- ① The soil survey of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania contains information that can be applied in managing farms, ranches, and woodlands; in selecting sites for roads, ponds, buildings, or other structures; and in appraising the value of tracts of land for agriculture, industry or recreation.

### CONSERVATION APPLICATION

U. S. Soil Conservation Service personnel provided county landowners with assistance in developing forty-one (41) conservation plans for their land in 1965. These conservation plans were for recreation areas, strip-mined areas and farms.

Technical assistance was provided to three hundred and twenty (320) landowners in applying the following conservation practices to their land during the year.

Contour Strip Cropping	752 acres	1074
Diversion/Terraces	9,595 feet	24,235
Grassed Waterways	1.5 acres	9.3
Tile Drain	51,243 feet	31,707
Ponds	13 number	12
Spring Developments	3 number	11
Drop Structures	6 number	2
Cover and Green Manure Crop	251 acres	
Conservation Cropping Systems	615 acres	
Land Clearing	24 acres	
Pasture and Hayland Renovation	235 acres	
Obstruction Removal	4 acres	
Pasture and Hayland Planting	598 acres	
Hedgerow Planting for Wildlife	9,840 feet	
Wildlife Habitat Development and Preservation	82 acres	
Field Border Planting for Wildlife	500 feet	
Fish Pond Stocking	2 number	
Cut Back Border for Wildlife	3,500 feet	
Fish Pond Management	2 number	
Tree Planting	52 acres	53
Recreation Access Road	3,950 feet	
Recreation Area Stabilization	6 acres	
Recreation Area Planting	3.5 acres	
Recreation Area Pruning and Thinning	10 acres	

WESTMORELAND COUNTY AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE  
Room 27, Second Floor, Courthouse Annex - Telephone: 834-0830

Levi B. Silvis, Chairman  
Clarence H. Vance, Member

George C. Fretts, Vice-Chairman  
Irene W. Truxal, Office Manager

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 1965 Agricultural Conservation Program. The figures are estimates, since our final report will not be available until early spring.

County Allocation	\$117,000.00
Additional Authorization	\$ 32,408.00
Amount set aside for Soil Conservation Service	\$ 5,850.00
Amount available for cost-share approvals	\$143,558.00
Farms enrolled requesting ACP assistance - - - - -	389 - - - - -
Total amount of practices carried out by the farmers	\$117,962.00

The practices carried out by the farmers under the 1965 ACProgram consisting of seeding hay and pasture, liming cropland and pasture, contour and field strips, fencerow removal, planting forest trees, fencing trees, fertilizing hay and pasture, developing springs, ponds for livestock water and wildlife, improvement of forest trees, construction of sod waterways, seeding waterways and terraces, construction of diversions, install underground drainage, cover crops, ryegrass and wildlife planting.

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



PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS  
335 West Main Street, Ligonier-District #4

As a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District the 1965 accomplishment report of our district follows:

Reforestation with State Nursery Stock increased to 83,000 seedlings being planted on about 75 acres. Approximately 21,000 seedlings were planted on land of Soil and Water Conservation District cooperators.

Forty-eight (48) acres of young woodland was improved with ACP help.

The Service Forester marked 230,000 bd. ft. of timber for sale on one ownership. Fourteen contacts with Soil and Water Conservation District cooperators were made to advise on forestry practices.

Initial contact was made relative to a Conservation Education Project at Camp Aliquippa, Boy Scouts of America, McKeesport District.

The Department was represented on the ASC State tour hosted by the Westmoreland County ASC Committee and the Service Forester attended four regular meetings of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

No serious forest insects or disease were evident. Dutch Elm disease will ~~continue to be a threat to all American Elms~~ of the county.

Three forest fires burning a total of 660 acres occurred in the county. A total of 16 forest fires in Westmoreland County burned 817 acres. The Pennsylvania Railroad accounted for 7 fires while others were of incendiary or accidental origin.

With an additional forester assigned to the District under the "Appalachia" program, more concentration on assisting County Landowners will be possible during 1966.

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS

J. H. Mifflin, District Engineer  
District 12, Uniontown

Ralph H. Lightner, Roadside Development Engineer, District 12.

The following is the 1965 report of the Activities of the Pennsylvania Department of Highways, as a cooperating agency of the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

(Top Dressing) 23 Tons of 8-16-16 Fertilizer used to topdress old slopes on all main highways. Grass interchanges and grass median strips also fertilized.

(Soil Sterilant) Used in all parts of the County to control unwanted growth under guard fence, around sign posts, head walls, and paved waterways.

Karmex soil sterilant used - - - 1,680 lbs.

Hyvar X soil sterilant used - - 480 lbs.

Weed spraying along Right-of-Way, also on grass medians and grass islands. Amount of material used was 5,500 gallons of 2, 4-D.

(Weed and Brush Spraying) 38,500 gallons of 2, 4-D and 2, 4, 5-T weed and brush killer used in all parts of the County.

(Tree Work) This work consisted of removing dead and dangerous trees, and tree trimming.

All topdressing, soil sterilant spray, weed spraying, weed and brush spraying, and tree work was performed by outside skilled operators supervised by the Roadside Development Unit.

SEEDING OPERATIONS BY DEPARTMENT FORCES

<u>Route</u>	<u>Seed Used</u>	<u>Fertilizer Used</u>	<u>Lime Used</u>	<u>Mulch Hay</u>	<u>Sq. Yds. Seeded</u>
119 (14)	250 lb.	1600 lb.	5 Ton	6 Ton	12,500 Sq. Yds.
64181 (1A)	50 lb.	400 lb.	2 Ton	1 Ton	3,000 Sq. Yds.
64282 (1)	250 lb.	1600 lb.	5 Ton	6 Ton	11,700 Sq. Yds.
64118 (Br.3)	200 lb.	800 lb.	4 Ton	5 Ton	8,900 Sq. Yds.
TOTAL	750 lb.	4400 lb.	16 Ton	18 Ton	36,100 Sq. Yds.

PLANTING BY DEPARTMENT FORCES

<u>Route</u>	<u>Plants</u>
119 - Ligonier Storage Yard P.D.H.	85 Norway Spruce - Size 4'-5' B & B

Department of Highways Cont'd.

<u>Route</u>	<u>SEEDING OPERATIONS (Contract)</u>					<u>Sq. Yds.</u>
	<u>Seed</u>	<u>Crownvetch</u>	<u>Lime</u>	<u>Fertilizer</u>	<u>Mulch</u>	<u>Used</u>
64263 (Br.1)		24 lb.	3,600 lb.	1,440 lb.	3 Ton	6,000 Sq. Yd.
1015 (1) Not Completed		300 lb.	45,000 lb.	18,000 lb.	37½ Ton	75,000 Sq.Yd.
64021 (1)	1134 lb.	476 lb.	105,000 lb.	42,000 lb.	87 Ton	175,000 Sq. Yd.
TOTAL	1134 lb.	800 lb.	153,600 lb.	61,440 lb.	127.5 T.	256,000 Sq. Yd.

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.

There are four departments of agriculture and six agricultural teachers in Westmoreland County:

Derry Area High School - Randall Campbell  
Derry, Pennsylvania            Thomas Hughes

Central Westmoreland Area Technical High School - William C. Downs  
201 Locust St., Youngwood, Pennsylvania            Alex J. Smith

Eastern Westmoreland Area Vocational - Technical - John S. Otto  
Latrobe, Pennsylvania

South-West Joint High School - Ford M. Frank  
R. D. #1, Ruffsedale, Pennsylvania

G. Floyd Dye, Advisor, Vocational Agriculture - Somerset, and Westmoreland Counties.

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.

In the Land Judging contest sponsored by the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District for all FFA Chapters in Westmoreland County, Larry Cornell of South Huntingdon Township won top honors for the second year in a row.

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

D. W. Heacox, Land Manager  
123 E. Third St., Derry

J. M. Maholtz, Dist Game Protector  
R. D. #1, Mt. Pleasant

Hans P. Goedeke, Dist. Game Protector  
R.D.#1, Rt. 981, New Alexandria

G. T. Church Jr., Dist Game Protector  
300 Church St., Box 202, Ligonier

1965 Accomplishments in relation to the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Seedlings distributed to Farm Game Projects:

Evergreen - - - - 17,775  
Other Shrubs - - - - 12,450

Seedlings planted on State Game Lands:

Evergreen - - - - 200  
Other Shrubs - - - - 1,100

Border Cuttings on Farm-Game Projects - - - - - 7 acres  
Border cuttings on State Game Lands - - - - - 153.87 acres  
Border cuttings, Private Lands - - - - - 5.71 acres  
Game Food Plots mowed, State Game Lands - - - - - 58.75 acres  
Food Plots mowed, Loyalhanna Flood Control - - - - - 70 acres  
Acres fertilized, State Game Lands - - - - - 26.5 acres  
Food Plots planted, State Game Lands - - 14 plots or 13 acres

WESTMORELAND COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION  
12 East Otterman Street, Greensburg

George E. Evans, Director

Michelle Robinsky, Secretary

John Umstead, Chairman  
Orlando Capretto, Secretary  
Clark Queer, Member  
Paul Bazilwich, Member  
Robert P. DeLotto, Member

C. William Cline, Vice-Chairman  
Albert Chenet, Treasurer  
Ben R. Hebrank, Member  
Steve Cipolla, Member  
Attorney James L. Nardelli, Solicitor

Joint cooperation and coordination were the keynotes of 1965 as the Westmoreland County Planning Commission sought to plan for the over-all progress of the County through helping to implement the plans of the Recreation and Parks Commission in establishing a County Regional Parks System. By concurring in the selection of three sites, comprising some 1300 acres, the Planning Commission provided a necessary element in the application submitted for Project 70 funds to acquire the necessary open space land near the rapidly urbanizing western and central sectors of the County. This concurrence on site selection was facilitated by referring to the soil survey report completed in 1964 by the Soil Conservation Service.

The Planning Commission was also encouraged and aided by the activities of the Service in supplementing the recreational and open space land to be made available to the public through the combined flood control and recreational area programs in the Four Mile Run project and Jacobs Creek.

The Commission's newly appointed Planning Director was also aided considerably by personally conducted tours of these projects and an appraisal of local level leadership, policies, values, goals, and attitudes and aspirations. This information supplied by Soil Conservation technicians, familiar with their areas and clientele, saved many hours of driving and exploratory time by the newcomer, for which he is grateful.

The previously mentioned soil survey report also helped in the review and determination of approval of subdivisions in which developers were unable or unwilling to provide the basic public utilities such as water and sewage. Knowledge of the availability of this data also will help developers of commercial land uses; such as shopping centers and multistory construction projects. It will also serve as a basis in determining relocation of congested roadways to improve the County traffic circulation pattern.

By working with individual landowners and helping them to develop watersheds on their properties, the Soil Conservation Service has augmented both the County and municipalities open space programs, which have become more of a reality with the funds available from Project 70 and the Federal Open Space Land Grant program.

Since a large part of the first year of the new Planning Director's job will be to become oriented to his new surroundings, prior to establishing development goals and specific objectives and alternate means through which they can be obtained, for incorporation into the forthcoming County Comprehensive Plan, the data collected and records compiled by the Soil Conservation Service, and their working knowledge of the area, should be an invaluable aid and save a considerable amount of time as he reviews what has transpired within the County during the past years.

FARMERS HOME ADMINISTRATION  
130 West Main Street, Somerset

R. C. Morse, District Supervisor  
Allegheny, Somerset and Westmoreland Counties

Ira E. Mounjis, County Supervisor  
(Westmoreland County, Thursday,  
10:00 A.M. - 12 Noon, 12 E. Otter-  
man Street). (Greensburg)

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

The Basic Objectives of the FHA program are:

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.

To extend financing to Non-Profit Rural Associations to develop and improve the soil so as to improve the economics, social and environment conditions, thus helping rural people.

Assist low income farm and non-farm rural residents to improve living conditions and income through recently enacted "Economic Opportunity Act."

Cooperate with Governmental 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.

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 the Soil and Water Conservation District personnel is used as a foundation on which FHA loans are made.

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

PENNSYLVANIA FISH COMMISSION

Sam F. Henderson, Fish Warden  
R. D. 8, Greensburg

In cooperation with the Westmoreland County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Pennsylvania Fish Commission respectfully reports the following field activities during 1965:

I have issued permits for the control of weeds in 3 farm ponds, and advised the owners on the use of the chemical.

Permits were issued for the draw down of 4 lakes and ponds, and all the fish removed from the ponds was stocked in other farm ponds, Sportsmens Clubs Ponds, and Westmoreland County Recreation Park Lakes.

The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has stocked 51 miles of streams with the permission of Farm owners, all waters open to the public to fish, all of this stream milage is in Westmoreland County.

With the permission of the landowners, the assistance of Boy Scouts, Sportsmens Groups, Civic Organizations, The Pennsylvania Fish Commission has done stream improvement work in about one and one half miles of streams in Westmoreland County.



