6-Lancaster Farming, Friday, March 21, 1958

Conestoga Farmer **Finds Strips Are Money Savers**

The steeply rolling hills in Conestoga Township, southern Lancaster County, are covered with a loose soil that is especially pione to wash in heavy rains Not only are gutters a fairly common sight, but more important, sheet erosion is gradually washing away land on the top of hills.

John C. Kendig used to see much of his good topsoil on the road after each rain. It bothered him. As a matter of fact, it bothered him doubly

First of all, that topsoil was his, and when it was gone, it meant that his crop yields would

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ON-FARM RESULTS

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THE STORY

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THIS IS THE farmstead of the John C. Kendig farm, R1 Conestoga. You can see some of the strips in the foreground and in the background. The pond is used for fire prevention and for recreation. The soil conserving strips were put on the farm in 1942.

go too. Secondly, it cost the high- satisfied and proudest

way department some \$40 or \$50

to his tax bill. That was in 1940, just after he had started to operate the family, tarm.

the 117 acres in the farm, 90 are in contour strips. An additional pasture and the remaining acres are in the farm homestead, lanes and a new pond.

The strips have been in some 16 years now. Kendig said that he was one of the first in the neighborhood to start using contour strips. From the way he talk. ' nuxture to be used as silage. ed, he is still one of the most

The Kendig farm is operated a rainfall to clean the mud and largely as a dairy enterprise with dirt from the road. This added 32 head of Guernsey cows in the milking barn. A few head of hogs are fattened and he keeps 400

layers. The rotation followed then, is one to provide most of the feed

Now it's a different story. Of and forage needed by the cows. A strip is kept in a legume mixture hay crop for two years, and is 22 acres are in permanent sod then followed by corn and a small grain. Then back to hay again.

Barley is being used as the small grain more and more. This summer Kendig expects to cut his corn acreage somewhat to make way for a sorghum-soybean

(Continued on page twelve)



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