

# Small Watershed - Plains Efforts Lead '58 SCS Work

Programs aimed at the contrasting problems of floods brought led the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service activities during 1958. The year-end summary of SCS activities showed: The number of small watershed projects for which construction was authorized more than doubled; the Great Plains Conservation Program ended its first year with 2.8 million acres enrolled in the program for complete conservation; and technical assistance to soil conservation districts continued to increase.

## C. Campaign Increases School Milk Drinking

Federal subsidy and educational programs worked to increase milk consumption in schools in New York City during the 1957-58 school year according to reports of the Greater New York Program of the National Dairy Council. During the school year the pupils drank over 134,300,000 pints of milk, an increase of more than 10,200,000 half-pints over the previous school year.

Under the School Lunch Program, the United States Department of Agriculture reimbursed local schools for a portion of cost of each complete lunch consisting of a main dish, milk and dessert. The Department also subsidized an average of 10 cents per half-pint of milk served in addition to that included in the lunch at other times during the school day.

Funds provided by dairy farmers in the New York State resulted in the use of educational services and materials of the Dairy Council in 91% of the public elementary and junior high schools and in more than three-fourths of the Catholic and Jewish parochial schools. In addition to the service of nutrition consultants, the Dairy Council program requests from the schools for more than 900 educational booklets for classroom use. It also furnished sixty-five motion pictures, seventy exhibits including model cows, and a variety of posters for the cafeterias and lunchrooms.

In New York City a complete lunch is available to the pupils of 85 per cent of the elementary schools. Milk only is served in 15 per cent of the remaining 15 per cent. Milk or complete lunches are available to the boys and girls attending 161 of the junior and senior high schools. Schools which serve complete lunches usually have additional milk available in mid-morning and at lunch time.

About 190 of the 215 Jewish parochial schools serve a complete lunch, an increase of 92 in the past few years. In this same period, there has been an increase of more than 100 Catholic parochial schools which have milk available to the pupils, bringing the total to 250.

Milk consumption in New York State under the federal-sponsored programs increased 333,830,000 half-pints, an increase of more than 19,000,000 half-pints over the 1957-58 school year.

Complete lunches were served in 3,324 schools and only in an additional 52 schools. The latter schools served 210,054,214 pints, most of which represent that much additional nutrients to the boys and girls as well as the additional market for local dairy farmers.

In the 1957-58 school year the fourth year during which federal funds were available to subsidize the program in schools under the Special Milk Program. On Dec 1, a total of 136

small watershed projects were authorized to begin construction or other operations, outlined in their plans; compared to 60 on Jan. 1. These local projects are receiving Federal assistance in installing dams and other improvements under the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act.

Watershed projects are in-

itiated and administered by local organizations. USDA provides technical assistance, cost sharing, and credit in accordance with plans mutually agreed upon.

Average cost of the first 130 projects authorized is estimated at \$1,174,583. Of this, \$657,601 is Federal and \$516,982 non-Federal. The non-Federal costs include such things as land, easements, rights-of-way, administration of contracts, and water rights.

The Soil Conservation Service has approved 396 watersheds for planning assistance out of 1,001 applications received from 46 States, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii.

In the critical wind-erosion

areas of the Great Plains, 939 farmers and ranchers have developed plans and signed contracts to carry out needed land-use adjustments and conservation practices to offset drought hazards. The contracts provide for long-term cost-sharing under the Great Plains Conservation Program.

By Nov 1, the Soil Conservation Service had received 3,109 applications in the 318 counties in 10 States approved for this assistance.

During fiscal 1958, the soil Conservation Service assisted 40 more soil conservation districts than in 1957. The SCS gave technical assistance to 2,791 of the 2,806 districts organized in the

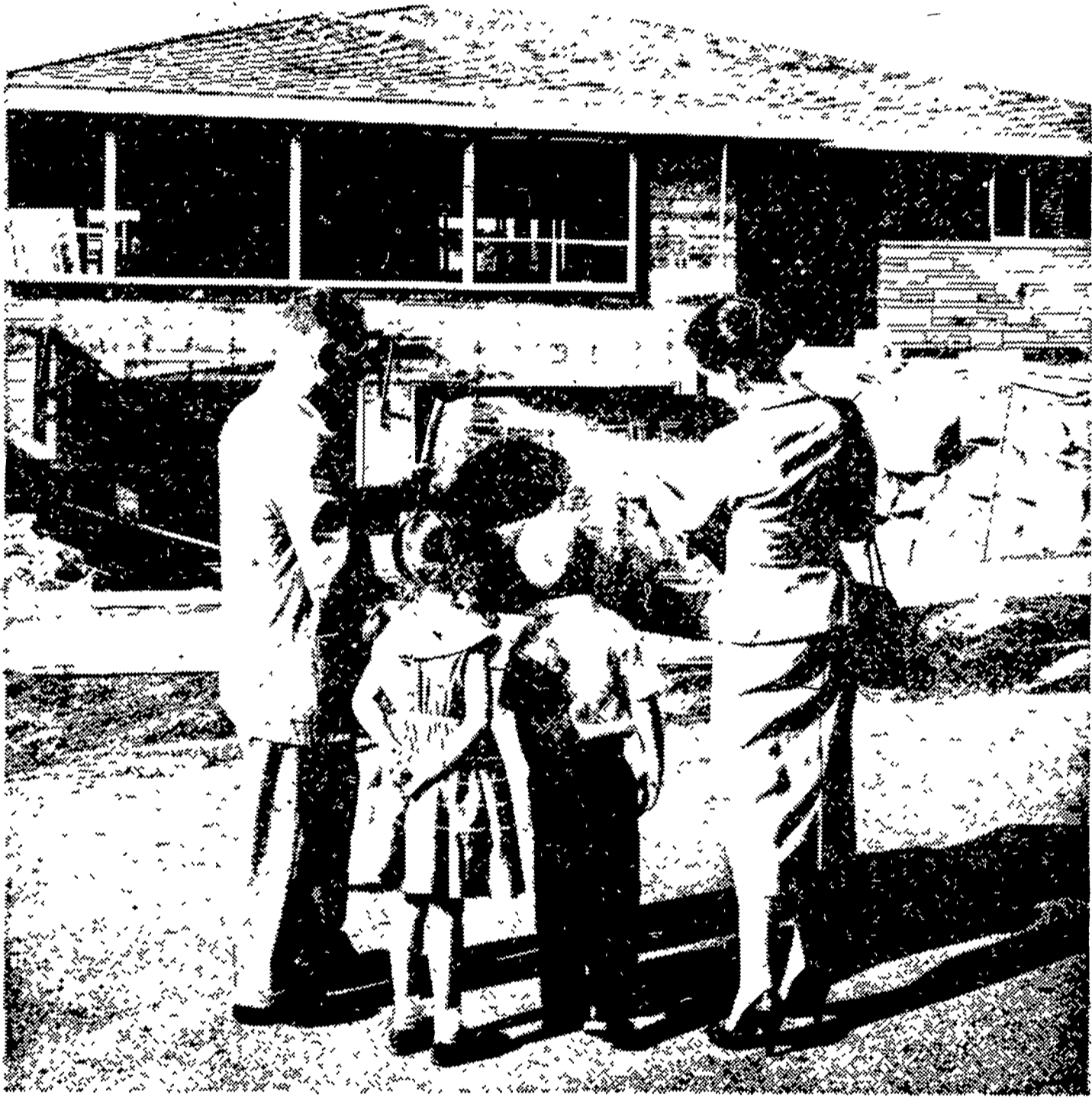
United States and its territories.

These districts include 89 percent of the agricultural land and 94 percent of the farms and ranches in the country.

During the year the districts added 116,303 new cooperators, bringing the total to 1,794,411 farmers and ranchers operating 539,561,777 acres. Service technicians helped 1,180,583 cooperators apply conservation practices. They also helped them prepare 91,335 new basic conservation plans and revise 13,270 old plans.

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