

Pa. Soil Survey Work Is Past Half Way Point

W. Martin Muth, Lancaster County Soil Conservation Service work-unit conservationist, reports that soil surveying of Pennsylvania's 28.8 million acres for agricultural, industrial and government uses continues in 60 counties under the SCS.

To date Muth reports, more than 8.6 million acres of the state's soil resources have been surveyed. Soil survey production reached an all time high during 1958 when more than 1.2 million acres were surveyed, leaving 20.1 million to be completed in the program. Lancaster county's District, as well as Potter, Clinton, Montour, Northumberland, Union, Erie, Clarion and Chester have been completely surveyed. Technicians of

the SCS are continuing operations in districts not yet completed.

The surveys are used by agricultural agency workers, farmers, community planning commissions and real estate developers to reach decisions in their work. Contractors and earth excavators find the surveys useful in planning construction work, road building and land drainage.

One of the greatest uses of the survey, according to Muth, is made by agricultural technicians working with the state's farmers in developing plans for soil and water, woodland and wildlife

conservation. Technicians find the surveys helpful in determining the ability of the soil to produce crops.

The survey also provides information for arriving at the kind of conservation practices needed to protect land from erosion, he added.

In addition, the survey is a valuable tool in selection and development of watershed protection and flood prevention programs, Muth said. Engineers of the SCS make use of the survey in preliminary information to a flood prevention project, in evaluating the soil and vegetative cover conditions and in estimating runoff from

a watershed area. Community planning missions make use of survey in determining suitability of land for residential construction, industrial areas and industrial locations, as well as agriculture.



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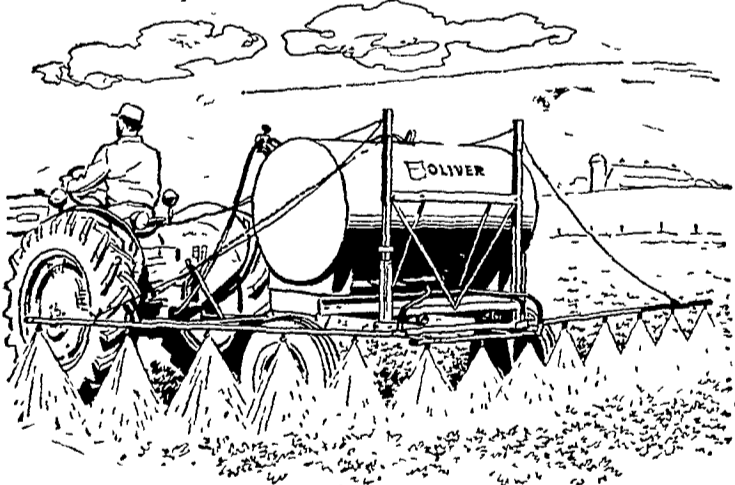
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Migration To Suburbs Poses New Problems Of Water Contamination

Lancaster, Pa. — "The migration to suburbs by thousands of families continues to create new problems in the nature of water supply and waste disposal," according to Cliff Lehman, Water Conditioning Consultant for Century Appliance Co., 15 West Chestnut St. Many suburban and fringe area dwellers live beyond the municipality protected water sources and must rely on their own private water and sewage systems.

With the wide adoption of chlorine-treated water, the civil population have enjoyed a freedom from typhoid and other water-borne diseases. But the rapid shift of population to rural areas has brought back the fearful spectre of typhoid.

U S Public health statistics show the typhoid death rate in 1950 had moved up sharply after some 50 years of relatively few deaths and even now continues to rise. In the past year alone, 17 states show a 50% increase in typhoid cases.

Contamination of water supplies happens in many ways. Most common of these include nearby contaminated wells, excavations, tree roots, faulty and rusted well casings, polluted streams, septic tanks and abandoned wells. It is possible the contamination may be coming from miles away thru underground water channels.

Even a negative result of water purity tests can be far from conclusive. Such a report only proves that the particular sample of water submitted was fit to drink. The fact that harmful bacteria can be detected only with laboratory techniques and never by smell, taste or odor makes it possible for anyone to say that a "tested" well or an aged well can be considered safe.

The amount of coliform, a component of animal and human excretion, found in well water has increased to dangerous proportions in many places.

The secret of having pure sparkling and safe water around the clock is chlorination followed by dechlorination which completely removes the chlorine taste. The basic unit includes an automatic chlorinator for the water pump and a dechlorinator with fine filtration for the kitchen sink.

Only the proper use of chlorination and dechlorination devices available on the market today to home and farm owners, according to Cliff Lehman, can provide constant and continuous protection against the menace of water-borne diseases.

For the answer to your water problems, contact Cliff Lehman, at Century Co., 15 W. Chestnut St., Lancaster Pa Phone EX 4-9365.

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