

● **Nat. Soil**
(From page 1)

stock water and civilization lost irreplaceable natural resources.

A field eroded, a pond silted in, a stream polluted.

Were you responsible?

"Soil is God's most priceless gift to man. Poor stewardship results in abuse of the soil and may force farmers from the land. Good stewardship creates and holds productive soil for the benefit of all mankind," Pennsylvania's Governor adds.

"With the development of agricultural technology, man can do more to change the soil than ever before. He can bring about more rapid deterioration or more rapid improvement. Therefore, the modern farmer has an increased responsibility for soil stewardship."

Mr. Benson adds, "Soil and water conservation is an integral part of modern agriculture. Farmers and ranchers in more than 2,800 soil conservation districts throughout the nation each year join with the clergy in emphasizing the spiritual as well as the material values of soil and water. They themselves set an example by recognizing that 'the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof, and by heeding His command 'to dress it and to keep it.'"

Soil Stewardship Week is a time for all men to face this basic requirement of Christian service. Possibly in no other way is this demonstrated to greater effect than in closely linked statements from Gov. Lawrence and Sec. Benson.

Although a wide gulf exists in their individual political philosophies, they join in political leadership for Soil Stewardship Week. Although one is known as an outstanding Catholic layman and the other is a member of the governing body of the Mormon Church; they are united in Christian belief in the fundamental rightness of Soil Stewardship.

One is an ex-farmer, the other is ex-mayor of Pittsburgh World's apart in background, together in supporting Soil Stewardship.

The History of Man is punctuated with the collapse of civilizations which ignored the fundamentals of Soil Stewardship. The valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, the Yangtze and the Po and the arid sands of the Sahara and Sinai stand as bitter evidence of man's disregard of the land's needs.

The basis for a strong, vigorous civilization is healthy, protected soil.

Conservation farming is the only way to maintain and improve the land.

Within the concept of conservation farming are many

techniques and methods for application by the individual farmer where each is best suited.

By joining with his Soil Conservation District, the individual farmer is enabled to share effectively the observance of His command, "to dress it and to keep it."

The Lancaster County Soil Conservation District is an organization of farmers, established and operated to aid each farmer in this county to obtain information and guidance in conservation practices. Similar districts are established in 50 areas of Pennsylvania and 2,800 areas of the United States.

Membership in the district is voluntary and free of legal involvement.

Each farmer-member may do as much or as little as he desires toward establishing conservation practices.

Membership in the district assists the farmer with obtaining technical assistance from the County Soil Con-

servancy Service, a locally-coordinated agency of the US DA. The SCS personnel are predominately long-term county residents, proud of their place in Lancaster County agriculture and willing to work long hours without pay to help farmers care for their land.

Both the District directors and SCS conservationists know farming as a long-term operation and recognize that changing of practices of necessity must be planned to merge smoothly with the over-all farm program.

As active farmers, the directors are aware of the financial problems in establishing conservation practices and rather than pressure a farmer to make changes which are impractical; help him outline those practices which can be initiated and used as a basis for building a complete conservation program.

The work of these directors, unpaid and rewarded only with feelings of personal satisfaction, this week was

recognized with presentation of a Lancaster Community Council "Community Betterment Citation."

The Citation was given the District for its "outstanding work in undertaking and promoting conservation techniques, and for the dramatic expansion of its program in the past two years."

Soil Stewardship Week, beginning tomorrow (Sunday) and continuing through May 11, provides each farmer with opportunity to study his participation in "dressing and keeping" the land entrusted to his stewardship.

We are aware of the "trademarks" of good stewardship. These are strip-cropping, stubble mulching and cover cropping, beauty-giving farm woodlots—providing timber and wildlife shelter, terracing to prevent soil erosion and excessive water loss, improved pastures to protect the land and the health of your livestock, and grassed waterways to handle necessary water runoff without erosion.

They include water utiliz-

in building the efficient use of water, improved drainage farmland, diversion of soil-building rotation the use of lime, fertilizer to build strength to produce food for a stronger nation. They are the physical expression of man's love and respect for God given and water resources which humanity depends on. Civilization is constant

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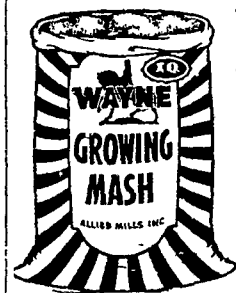
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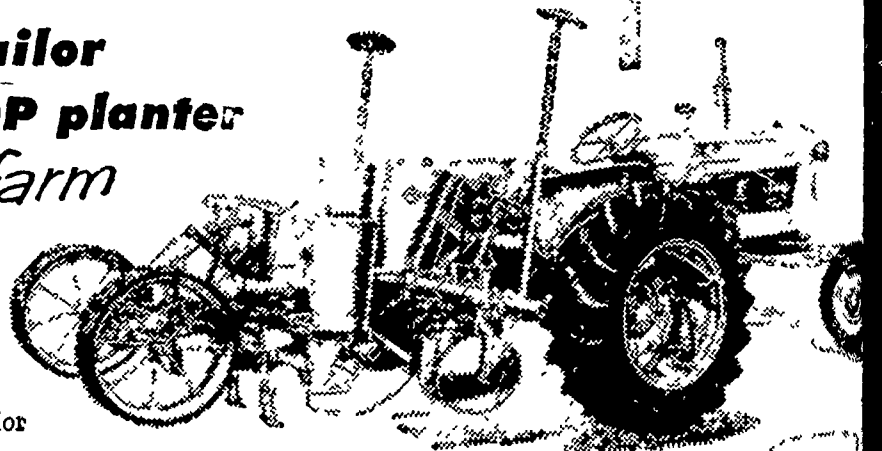
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