

Soil Stewardship

Secretary Asks Observance

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman this week called attention to the annual observance of Soil Stewardship Week, May 7 - 14, 1961, sponsored by the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts in cooperation with church groups.

Secretary Freeman emphasized importance of soil stewardship in view of expected future demands on the Nation's natural resources.

"Soil stewardship, as applied to passing our productive land on to future generations in as good or better condition than we received it cannot be over emphasized when one is aware of the demands (both home and abroad) that will be placed on our land in the future," the Secretary said. As we think of President Kennedy's Food for Peace program, relief for distressed areas in our homeland, and the expected increase in population, we in the Department of Agriculture, as well as the farmer and rancher, become only too aware of the importance of the land to the future well being of the Nation.

"For many years I have been familiar with the conservation programs being carried out by soil conservation districts, and in watershed projects, and I would urge citizens everywhere to join them in this special observance of Soil Stewardship Week

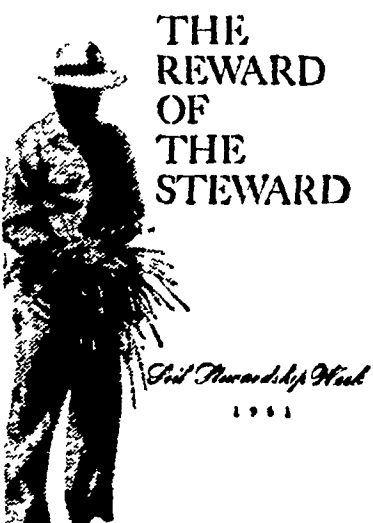
"It is fitting that a week

● **Soil Stewardship**

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Interest in this observance was fostered in the United States by the publishers of Farm and Ranch magazine. They suggested to a few religious leaders that one Sunday in each year be recognized nationally as a time to remind all church congregations of man's obligations to his Creator in being a good steward of the soil.

This idea was so warmly received by ministers and laymen that by 1954 the observance had grown to nationwide proportions. Among the leading laymen who worked for this goal were the non-salaried Soil Conservation District officials in all the states. That year, the publishers of Farm and Ranch magazine offered to relinquish their sponsorship of Soil Stewardship Sunday, later Soil Stewardship Week, to the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts an organization whose prime purpose is the conservation and development of land and water resources of the nation through organized community effort.

Lancaster County Soil Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Soil Conservation Districts and is in charge of Soil Stewardship Week activities in this county. Elmer V. Good of Lititz R1, heads the District's Soil Stewardship Week Committee



Farm Work Still In Arrears But Growth Is Beginning

Harrisburg — Chances appear good for a full show of apple blossoms in Adams County on May 7, the date of the annual Apple Blossom Festival, the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service said Tuesday in its weekly crop and weather summary.

Peaches, cherries and pear are in full bloom in extreme southern Pennsylvania and are coming into pink in oth-

er southern counties. Some frost damage is evident in the peach bloom, but the real damage cannot be evaluated until later in the season.

The cool wet weather that persisted in Pennsylvania last week retarded plant development and limited field work.

Farmers had only one good day for plowing. Work was limited to ordinary chores, fence building and machinery maintenance. Heavy rains in the north caused some local flooding and damage to recently planted fields. Disabling rains in orchards and vineyards and spraying of trees was pushed when possible. Lifting of tree seedlings in nurseries and field

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