

**Soil Conservation**

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Some of the early methods of conservation were impractical on a working farm, but the basic ideas were sound, and the principals are still pretty much the same — keep the soil in place and use every acre to the maximum of its potential.

After coordinating the day's work with the other three men in the Lancaster Work Unit in the Lancaster office, Muth took me to the farm of Robert Brubaker at Belleaire, North of Elizabethtown, to show me some preliminary work on a conservation plan.

Brubaker, who now farms at Mount Joy R1, recently purchased the farm and plans to move onto it in April. He first contacted the Lancaster County Soil Conservation District Directors and signed an agreement for a free conservation plan for the farm.

Muth had been on the farm and had made some preliminary plans for controlling the water, but now had to check further to find if the soil surface sloped in the direction he wanted to move excess surface water. His 28 years in the work has taught him that the eye is not reliable when it comes to judging the exact slope of a field.

Before we got out of the car, Muth went over the county soil survey map with Larry Corson, soil conservationist who works out of the Lancaster office. They studied the soil types on the farm carefully since the type of subsoil as well as the topsoil will determine what practices will work or won't work. This part of the work is easier since a complete soil survey was completed just a few years ago.

Muth also had an aerial photograph of the farm with the soil capabilities plotted in color — green for the soil that could be cultivated intensively with very little danger of erosion, yellow for the soil that

could be farmed with a minimum of erosion, red on the steep slopes where extreme care must be taken to prevent the soil washing down the a low area where it did not streams.

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USING AN INSTRUMENT much like a surveyor's transit, Martin Muth, Work Unit Conservationist, checks the grade on a field to check the feasibility of constructing a water drainage along a road. The drainage terrace, when completed will keep runoff water from the road from spreading out across cropland.

L. F. Photo.

**● Pennbel 69**

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preferred such as from a hay drier or other fan-type heater, operate the heater at night when normal humidity is higher. If using forced, unheated air, it is best to run the fan during the afternoon and evening when the humidity is the lowest. Either the forced air or the heater method can be started as soon as one section of the shed is filled with tobacco.

Many of these suggestions are applicable to other varieties of cigar-filler tobacco as well as Pennbel 63. However, to those growers who are

planning to grow the new variety, we recommend they follow these recommendations.

**Creeks, River Stocked With Trout And Bass**

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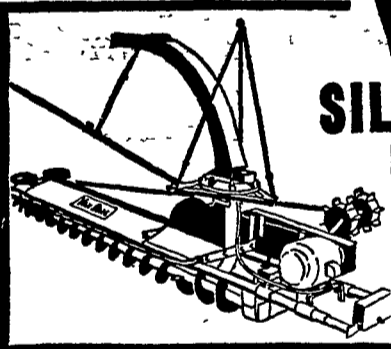
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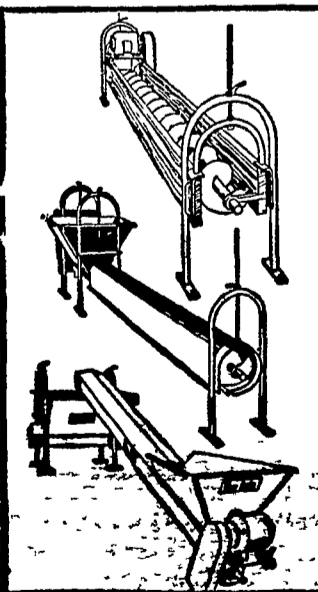
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