HERE IS WHAT MUTH SAW. Larry Corson, Soil Conservationist, holds a surveyor's rod on ground level so that Mart can check the per cent of slope. As Corson walks downgrade, Muth reads higher and higher numbers on the rod since the transit is set to see only on a level plane. L. F. Photo.

PART OF THE JOB of the conservationist is studying maps of the farm and the soil types to be handled. Here Martin Muth, right, and Robert Brubaker of Mount Joy R1, look over the aerial photograph of the farm Brubaker recently purchased at Bellaire in Northern Lancaster County. Muth plans and lays out conservation practices on the map before any actual work on the farm is begun. L. F. Photo.

Soil Conservation

(Continued from Page 6)

drain away readily during periods of heavy rain.

Muth used a surveyor's transit to check the slope of the field along the road. He found enough slope all the way, and planned to build a waterway along the road to carry excess runoff down to the creek That would take care of the water that fell on the land above the road, but what of the rain that fell on the low spot during heavy downpours The soil was not porus enough for the water to percolate down through the subsoil. Something else had to be considered Muth suggested to the farmer that he lay out contour strips in 50 foot lands with a very gentle slope toward the natural outlet from the field Through several years of plowing, Brubaker could plow gentle ridges in the field that would act as natural drainage ways for the excess water. The use of tile drainage under the field was considered, but it was agreed that they probably were not necessary. Muth does not believe in applying more severe measures than necessary to correct conditions.

On many fields the problem is preventing runoff rainwater, but here the problem was the opposite. This was another example of making every acre produce up to its potential.

With snow on the ground it was impossible to lay out accurate waterways or contours, but Muth found out his preliminary plan could be worked

CONSERVATIONISTS AND FARMER talk over the problem of disposing of the water that collects on the roadway and runs down across the cropland. The work of the conservationist includes explaining the idea behind proposed plans and securing the cooperation of the highways department and other interested parties. Martin Muth, Work Unit Conservationist in Lancaster, left, talks the problem over with Robert Brubaker, the land owner, center, and Larry Corson, a soil conservationist on the staff. L. F. Photo.

WITH AN INCREMENT BORER, Martin Muth, right, checks the rate of growth in the woodlot as landowner, Robert Brubaker, looks on. Muth does not recommend how to cut timber from the woodland, but he can determine if the trees are making satisfactory growth, and recommend other possible uses for land now in woods. L. F. Photo.

He would come back later to do the final checking and laying out strips according to the map he could now lay out in the office.

Before the final plan is completed, every acre on the farm will be checked to see if the best use is being made of it. Woodland might be cleared t omake contour strips more practical in some spots, trees might be planted on others where cropland would be hard to hold in place, but all this might take several years to accomplish. Conservation of the soil is a continuing process, Muth believes

Muth has his own farm at Lititz under conservation practices and knows first-hand the value of keeping the soil where it belongs.

He checked the farm boundaries on a map with Brubaker and went over the results of soil tests and we drove back to Lancaster. I had missed my morning coffee, but I had thoroughly enjoyed the ride

Soil Conservation, too, is agriculture, I thought