

Depts. Of Forests & Waters And SCS To Combine Conservation Efforts For Better Forest Mgt.

tary Maurice K. Goddard of the Department of Forests and Waters and State Conservationist Ivan McKeever of the Soil Conservation Service recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding which should be a boon to forestry conservation activities throughout Pennsylvania.

The Soil Conservation Service will encourage all private forest land-owners to apply the latest and most scientific forestry practices to their forest lands. The Department of Forests and Waters through its extensive staff of professional foresters throughout the state will give professional and technical advice and assistance to the private forest landown-

Farm Woodlot; A Liability Or An Asset?

In these cost-conscious days of high land values and low profit margins many farmers are faced with the decision of what to do with their farm woodlot. Should it be converted to other purposes, or would the farmer be justified in managing his woodlands more intensively?

An article appearing in the January issue of *Soil Conservation* magazine published by the Soil Conservation Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture discusses some of these questions, and suggests methods of analyzing costs and returns to find out whether any particular woodlot is an asset or a liability.

First of all, the farmer needs information on soil types and characteristics of his woodlot area, and he needs to know to what alternative use he can put that land.

In this area most woodlots may be used only for farm firewood, plus perhaps, some small local firewood sales. But some farm income may be slipping away unnoticed. If the wooded areas are extensive enough there may be some income-producing recreational use for the land — private hunting, camping, etc. All these benefits should be figured in the total value of the woodland. Any income from sales of pulpwood, poles, or saw logs is credited as income as it occurs.

In the traditional economic analysis, land is normally valued at its bare cost (without timber cover). At harvest, it is credited at the same value as originally. Land prices however have been steadily increasing. In many instances, land prices have increased several hundred percent during a long (50 to 100-year) timber rotation.

In effect SCS says if the accumulated values are greater than the accumulated costs the owner recaptures his investment.

Using a typical woodlot example the article illustrates the methods used in computing all costs and returns and shows how to project these figures when considering other possible uses for the wooded area.

A free copy of the January issue can be obtained by writing Soil Conservation Service, USDA, Room 6110 S. Washington, D. C. 20250.

ers upon request.

The Memorandum of Understanding, as agreed upon by Goddard and McKeever, will increase the efficiency of both agencies and avoid any possible duplication of efforts.

It is believed that this move is the most comprehensive of its kind throughout the nation and it is expected that it will be a nationwide pattern for other states.

Goddard and McKeever pointed out that there are 6.5 million acres of small privately-owned forest land throughout Pennsylvania. If our society is to be fully benefited by our forests they must be under scientific management practices. Then they will produce the maximum amounts of wood products, water, recreation and wildlife.

• DHIA

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merman, Ephrata R1, placed second. This herd with 252 registered Holstein cows averaged 1,548 lbs. of milk, 64 lbs of butterfat with a 4.1% test.

Miniature Hogs Being Developed For Research

Miniature white hogs are being developed by scientists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration for use as research animals.

Besides aiding FDA's drug testing program, the miniature animals — about a third of the weight of normal hogs — may help USDA learn more about hog nutrition, physiology, and biochemistry. Any they offer some farmers a way to increase income by raising research animals for investigators at many research, testing, and assaying laboratories throughout the United States.

Why hogs as test animals? Dr. Francis L. Eal, FDA veterinary toxicologist, explains that hogs are physiologically much like humans — subject to many of the same maladies. They have about the same food requirements, digest food in much the same way — even suffer from peptic ulcers. And a hog's heart and major blood vessels also resemble that of the humans.

Small hogs also require smaller doses of costly experimental drugs, are less expensive to house, and are easier to handle.

Jack C. Taylor, USDA geneticist, is in charge of developing the miniature hog herd, which was started 2 years ago at Beltsville, Md. "Learning how selection

brings about small size will add to our basic genetic information about hogs," Taylor said. It will, for example, provide knowledge on such economically important hog traits as reproductive performance, litter size, body conformation, and deposition of tissue, he said. Miniature hogs were first bred at the Hormel Institute of the University of Minnesota, starting with various wild and semi-domesticated strains.

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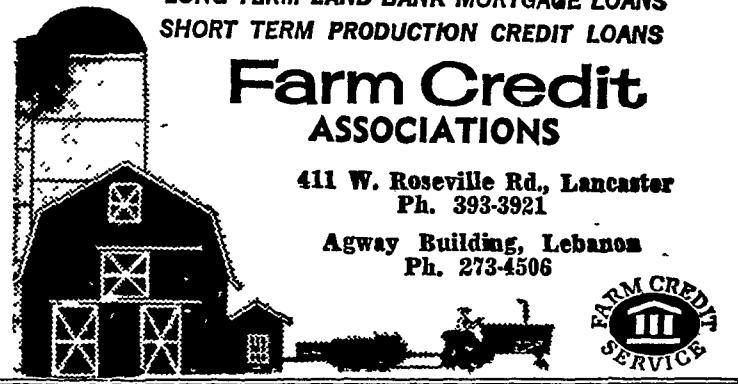
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