

Highway Dept. Aids Conv. Dist.

The Pennsylvania Department of Highways cooperated with the Lancaster County Soil & Water Conservation District in the following conservation practices, according to District Roadside Engineer H. P. Kaufman.

Contract Seeding and Mulching

A total of 140,535 square yards (29 acres) of seeding and mulching cut and fill slopes was done by contract along 471 miles of new road construction. The routes involved were L.R. 36061 and 792 (T.R. 30 By-Pass).

Revitalization

The grass on cut and fill slopes as well as on median and interchange islands was revitalized along 110 miles of State Highways in various sections of the County. Materials used included 19,280 tons of 8-16-16 fertilizer, 1,025 lbs. of grass seed and 125 lbs of crown vetch seed.

Chemical Spraying

A total of 650 gallons of Herbicide (2,4-D & 2,4,5-T) and 1480 pounds of Soil Sterilant was applied along 650 miles of State Highways. Vegetation sprayed with a 1000 gallon rig included brush poison ivy and noxious weeds. The herbicide was applied at the rate of one gallon to 100 gallons of water and the soil sterilant was applied at the rate of 10 pounds to 100 gallons of water.

Tree Trimming and Removal

A total of 522 large, dangerous trees were removed from the Highway right-of-way. In addition 39,985 lineal feet of traffic views were cut. This included the cutting of trees on curves and the removal of lower branches to increase height clearance. A total of 23 large dangerous stumps adjacent to the roadway were chipped out and removed.

A grand total of 3,000,000 lineal feet of roadside treatment of all types was accomplished during 1965 in



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Lancaster County. It is anticipated that this amount will increase to about 3,100,000 lineal feet in 1966.

SCS Reports On 1965 Activities

The Soil Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture furnishes technical assistance to landowners and operators through the Soil and Water Conservation District. This assistance is given to help them develop, apply and maintain soil and water conservation practices on their land. Included is a complete inventory of soil resources and a plan for the wise use of soil, water, plant and wildlife resources.

The following practices were applied by landowners and operators with SCS assistance in 1965: Conservation Farm Plans, 78; Conservation Farm Plans Revised, 11; Diversions, 14,125 Lineal Feet; Farm Ponds, 12; Grassed Waterways, 14.6 Acres; Pasture and Hayland Planting, 38 Acres.

Contour Stripcropping, 1642 Acres; Cropland Terrace, 60,565 Lineal Feet; Tile Underdrain, 15,643 Lineal Feet; Tree Planting, 95 Acres; Wildlife Habitat Preservation, 267 Acres; Land Adequately Treated, 4,052 Acres.

The staff of the Soil Conservation Service consisted of Wayne F. Maresch, work unit conservationist; Ruben C. Keesee, soil conservationist; Abner J. Houseknecht, conservation technician; and Harry E. Kordes, conservation technician. The SCS Office is located at 439 North Duke Street, Lancaster, phone 394-0681 Ext. 61. Ralph E. Matticks, Area Conservationist is located at Lebanon, phone 272-6621 Ext. 404.

FHA Objectives Expanded In '65

According to County FHA Supervisor Richard W. Hoover in his annual report to the Conservation District, the objectives of the Farmers Home Administration have been broadened to extend services and financial assistance to:

The family farmer — to purchase livestock and equipment; to purchase and develop farms and buildings; refinance and consolidate debts; the development of soil and water conservation practices; forestry, and the development of recreation enterprises to supplement farm income.

The rural community — to assist rural communities, including towns and municipalities of not over 5500 population, to plan and install water supply systems, sewage systems and community recreation facilities. Rural Housing loans to individuals to construct or repair homes; or to purchase an existing home; Senior Citizen Housing loans to individuals as well as for senior citizen housing rental units. Assistance is also available for farm labor housing.

The rural poor — to assist farmers and other rural residents that have incomes too low to meet basic needs to increase their income through a small amount of credit plus aid in management. Association type loans are also available, Hoover said.

During 1965 the Farmers Home Administration extended services to more people than ever before in the Lancaster, Lebanon and Chester County area. A total of over \$706,000 was loaned and other services extended to farmers and other rural residents

Included in the above loans

to farmers were made for the adoption of important soil and water conservation practices which are a must for the development and efficient management of land and water resources, crucial in the successful operation of farms. Over 75% of farm ownership borrowers are district cooperators. Soil and water association loans are also available to watershed organizations to carry out plans to protect, develop and utilize the land and water resources in small watersheds.

The Farmers Home Administration again took part in a county-wide tour in 1965 that illustrated soil and water conservation practices on farms. "We would like to express appreciation to the local Soil Conservation District for their assistance to borrower families," Hoover said. The local office, serving Lebanon, Lancaster and Chester Counties, is located at Room 222, Post Office Building, Lancaster, Pa. In charge — County Supervisor, Richard W. Hoover. Telephone 717-394-0681, Ext. 57.

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