

EQUIPMENT used for cut and fill method of construction. This type of equipment competes with a bulldozer as far as cost of constructing terraces is concerned.

These carryalls need to be used to transport the soil from one end of the terrace to the other in some instances.

Rapid Change In Cropping Methods Brings Erosion Hazards

By Orval A. Bass
District Conservationist

Lancaster County farmers are undergoing a rapid change in cropping programs. The need for more and more corn is quite apparent with the appearance of more silos on the horizons. With the erection of silos more acres are being devoted to corn, increasing the hazard of erosion considerably. Some of the more conscientious farmers are turning to the U. S. Soil Conservation Service for advice in controlling this erosion.

We in the SCS are recommending terraces and grassed waterways as a complete water disposal system. Complete terrace programs are being installed on numerous farms in Lancaster County. To make these terraces more appealing to the farmer we are doing all we can to make them parallel. In some cases these terraces can be completely parallel. By parallel we mean eliminating the point rows between terraces. These terraces will work very well where the terrain has an even slope usually in one direction. Where most of the problems occur is on

fields that have slopes in almost every direction. Sometimes a little movement of soil from one end of the terrace to the other pays off in the long run by getting rid of the point rows. These terraces cost more but pay off in the long run.

One thing we point out at the beginning during the planning portion is the use of all the natural draws as grassed waterways. The more grassed waterways used, the more parallel a terrace system will run. Another possibility is a variance in the grade in the terrace channel. All of these things help the farmer get more parallel terraces. On most farms we can get three terraces parallel with the point rows falling between the terraces above and below these three. All of these are alternatives that can be investigated to give the farmer a better terrace layout.

An interesting sidelight that brought terracing to the attention of some urban people occurred in 1967. A farmer close to Lancaster installed some parallel terraces on his farm. The Planning Commission for that Township saw this work and sent one of their members out to check out this new "housing development" that did not have a building permit. These terraces were perfectly parallel and very straight across the field. After the "volunteer" found out what the farmer was doing and what good these terraces were doing, he felt this should be carried out on all farms. "This could stop a lot of erosion and pollution if the farmers had these installed," he said. He reported back to the Commission that this man was not in "violation" and expressed his enthusiasm for this practice.

One doubt expressed by farmers toward terraces is that they feel their large equipment will not fit these terraces. We are

Farm Prices Up

Although U.S. farm prices increased 4 percent in May, prices received by Pennsylvania farmers averaged the same as those received in April, according to the State Reporting Service.

The Service attributed the unchanged price situation in the state to lower milk and egg prices which offset higher prices for crops and meat animals.

The May price for a hundred-weight of milk was \$5.85, down

5 cents from April. The average price for a dozen eggs in May was 32 cents a dozen, down 6 cents.

Steers and heifers at \$29 a hundredweight were \$2 higher than in April. Cows for slaughter sold for \$21 a hundredweight, up \$2. Hogs at \$22 a hundredweight were \$1.08 higher than the April price.

Flying Farmers

Flying Farmers will visit the Piper Aircraft Company factory at Lock Haven, Penna., on Friday, June 20. Fifty airplanes with more than 150 pilots are expected for a tour of the factory and box luncheon to be served at the airport.

Flying Farmers are invited from New England; New York; Ontario, Canada; New Jersey; Delaware; Maryland; Virginia; and Pennsylvania. Interested pilots can contact Leehart E. Logan, West Chester, Regional Director, International Flying Farmers.

designing very broad baseteraces on which four row equipment will work nicely. A sixteen foot cut slope, a sixteen foot front slope and at least a sixteen foot backslope fit four row equipment very well.

If you are wanting more and more corn and some of your strips in your strip-cropping system are getting narrower and narrower or even disappearing, contact your U.S. Soil Conservation Service office to see if they can help you.

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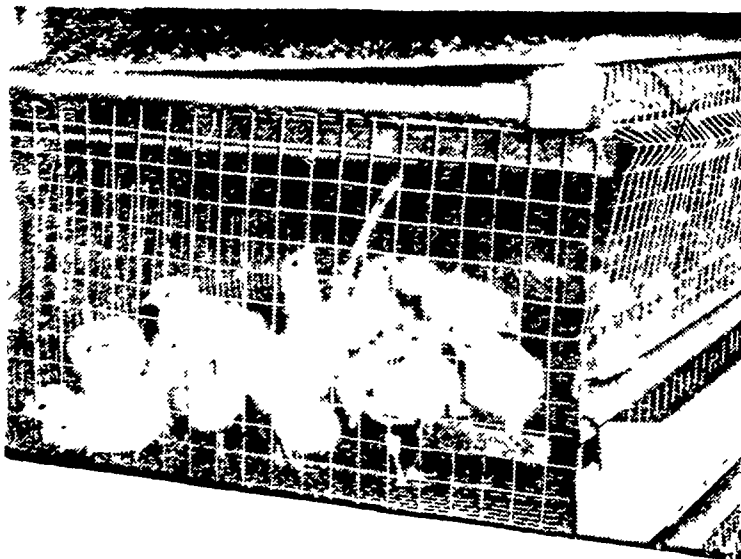
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