

# SCS Aids 25,000 Landowners in '72

The end-of-the-year report of the Soil Conservation Service showed that more than 25,000 landowners received technical help last year in solving land use problems in Pennsylvania.

The report released by State Conservationist, Benny Martin, showed that over 1500 local units of government were assisted in selecting and improving land for new developments including schools, parks, residential areas and sites for industrial centers and solid waste disposal.

In 1972 five flood prevention dams in small watershed projects were completed by the SCS. Seven other dams were partially completed. Several of the dams will create recreation lakes for public use.

During Hurricane Agnes the

small watershed project dams and conservation practices on the farmlands of Pennsylvania prevented \$15 million in damages. The 47 dams completed, to date, under the small watershed program also trapped thousands of tons of sediment and significantly reduced crop and land damages.

The SCS reviewed 60 requests for local flood prevention projects following Hurricane Agnes. Emergency Flood control funds were used in stream restoration work and over 4,000 farmers were given on-site assistance in restoring their land damaged by the storm.

Environmental improvement work, popular among farmers during the year, included the establishment of 24,000 acres of

strip cropping to control erosion, construction of 800 small water supply sites, planting of 8,000 acres of trees and building 120 miles of terraces. And, hundreds of acres were managed for upland game and waterfowl habitats.

During the year one million acres of land in the Commonwealth were surveyed to determine the soil types and potential uses of the land. The information will be used by planners, land developers and consulting firms in planning and designing roads, recreation facilities, water supply dams and in other land use planning in the rural and urban areas of the state.

In two multiple-county projects covering nine counties in northern Pennsylvania the SCS assisted the local people in working on their area's social, economic and natural resource problems. The Service joined with other USDA agencies in improving water supply, housing, flood prevention, and community facilities including sewage disposal and fire protection.

Martin pointed out that in 1972 the bulk of the technical assistance was provided through Pennsylvania's 65 county conservation districts. Today more than 50,000 Pennsylvania landowners are working with districts in improving farmlands, controlling erosion, reducing stream sedimentation and managing their woodland, grassland, and recreational areas.

## Feed Stocks Way Under '72 Figures

Harrisburg - Farm and off-farm stocks of corn, oats and barley in Pennsylvania totaled 66.8 million bushels on January 1, down 19 percent from a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Service. The biggest change is oats stocks at 10.4 million bushels, down 25 percent followed by barley at 3.8 million, down 21 percent, and corn at 52.6 million down 18 percent.

Wheat stocks at 7.0 million bushels on January 1 were down 12 percent from a year ago.

Hay stocks on farms as of January 1 at 2.4 million tons were

down 16 percent. In addition, quality has been below average, adding to the problems faced by Commonwealth farmers.

A similar situation exists across the Nation as total grain and soybean stocks are below a year ago, except corn which was slightly above last year. Percentage changes, nationally, are oats down 17 percent, barley 3 percent less, sorghum grain down 11 percent and soybeans 2 percent below last year. All wheat stocks were down 10 percent.

## FFA Club Meets

The morning FFA (floriculture and horticulture) club held their monthly meeting at the Brownstown Vo-Tech School on Wednesday, January 31.

The club spent a day at the Harrisburg Farm Show, followed by an afternoon at the FFA convention.

Group advisors were Miss Judy Levine, and Mr. and Mrs. James Kerr. J. Irvin Shelley accompanied the group on the trip.

Purchasing of uniforms and the FFA banquet were discussed at the meeting with the date of the banquet set for March 15

## Honey Dealers Name Gamber

W Ralph Gamber, president of Dutch Gold Honey Inc., 911 State St., Lancaster has been elected president of the National Honey Packers and Dealers Assn. Other officers are Robert Steel, Sioux Honey Co-op, Sioux City, Iowa, vice president, David McGinnis, Tropical Blossom Co., Edgewater, Fla., secretary-treasurer and Howard Graef, of Graef Honey, Spokane, Wash., executive secretary. Members of the association pack about 225 million pounds of honey annually.



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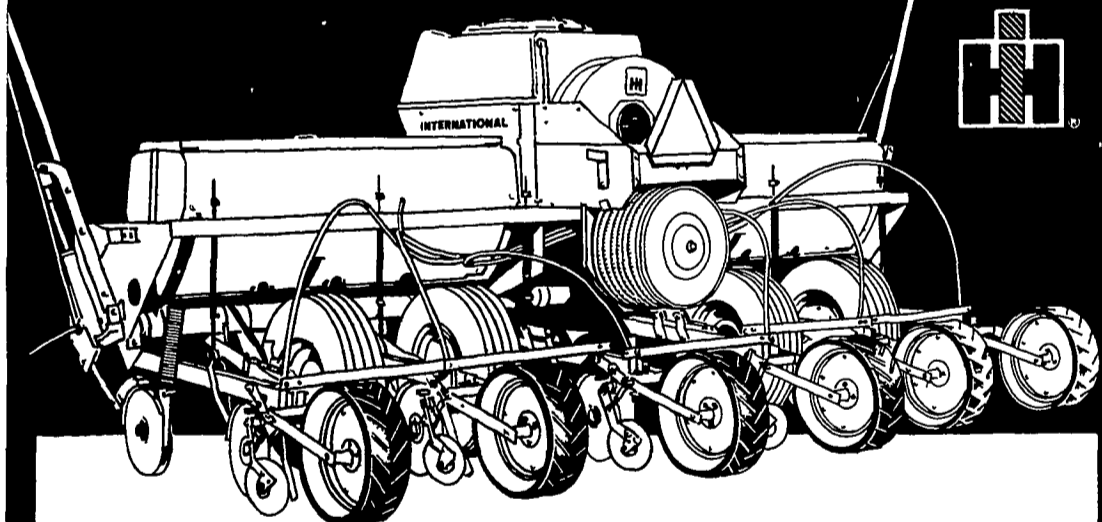


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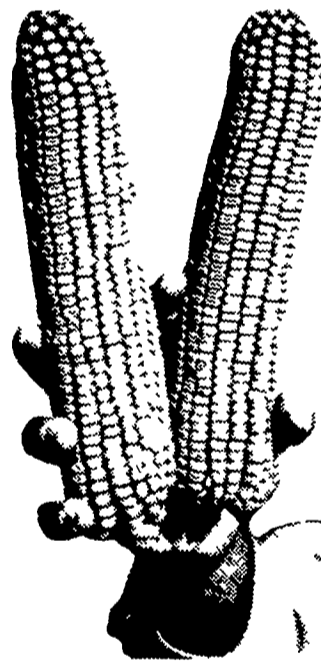
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