

## Farmers, District Conservationists Play Key Role In Tomorrow's Agriculture

"Without decades of solid conservation work on American farms, we would never have been able to meet the exploding demands of today for our agricultural production," under Secretary of Agriculture J. Phil Campbell told a banquet of the Little River Soil Conservation District in Thomson, Ga. last week.

"It seems fair to state that nearly every acre of rural land in America has benefitted from the conservation activities of our farmers. More specifically, however, how many Great Plains farms would be part of a great

desert now without intensive conservation work? Or, closer to home, how many acres of good Georgia soil have been saved from washing down the river by sound conservation practices?

"Beyond the saving of land—how many millions of acres have been improved by sound conservation practices? Millions, I am sure.

"There is no doubt in my mind that the conservation movement has made it possible for America to meet the unprecedented demand of today and will help her meet the dynamic needs of an ever-expanding agriculture in the years ahead.

"We have today a demand situation that no prognosticator had predicted. It caught everyone off balance. U.S. agricultural exports rose to an all time high of \$12.9 billion in fiscal 1973. That's 60 percent higher than the \$8.05 billion exported in fiscal 1972 and more than double what it was a decade ago.

"Georgia farmers have felt the pull of world demand. The value of their exports shot up nearly 20 percent in fiscal 1973, reaching a value of \$207.1 million.

"Without question, weather imbalances caused some of the new demand for American farm goods. But most of the demand is traceable to the increased money in the pockets of consumers in Japan, in Europe, in the United States and in many other countries.

"Freed by the Administration and the Agricultural Act of 1970,

American farmers responded to this demand by planting millions of additional acres in heavy-demand crops.

"By diverting as few acres as possible in set-asides this year, American crop plantings went up by 25 million acres.

"Conservation made this quick and effective response possible.

"Next year, we will set aside no acres.

"The roles of the farmer and his partner in conservation, the district conservationist, are all-important in meeting tomorrow's opportunities.

"It was the farmer who set up conservation districts all across this land and found dedicated people for supervisors to work with others in watching over and conserving the resources of those districts—with little or no compensation other than the satisfaction of serving their community.

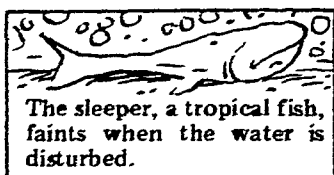
"The conservation supervisors are as important in a community as school boards, boards of deacons or any other local body of dedicated persons.

"This team isn't going to throw away all of its fine accomplishments of the past."

Turning to another aspect of conservation, Campbell said, "The democracy of the conservation movement is one of the

keys to its success. Interested farmers, getting involved in the processes which affect their lives—that's what has made conservation work.

At the same time, farmer involvement in other activities which affect their lives and their livelihood—such as government programs—is essential to the future well-being of farming in America."

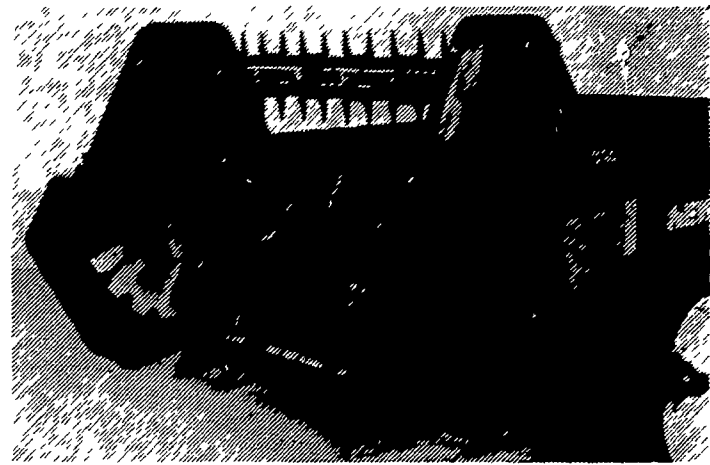


The sleeper, a tropical fish, faints when the water is disturbed.

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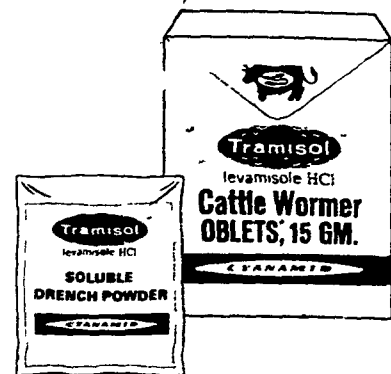
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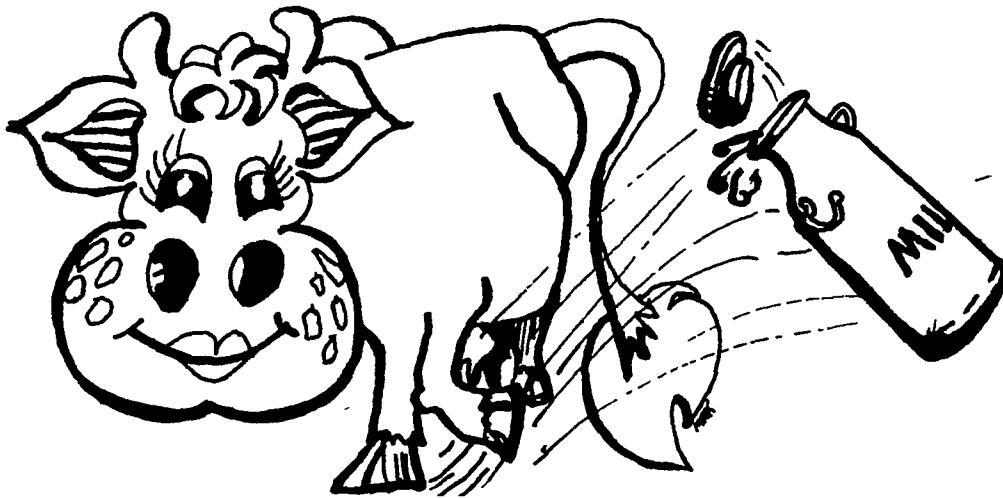
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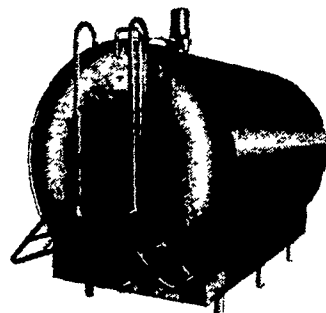


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