

# Harnish

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to grow continuous corn, especially if we were using no-till methods."

Is it economical to employ both terraces and no-till methods? "Getting both at the same time was kind of accidental," Harnish said. "We had already decided to get the terraces installed, and then we decided we needed a new plow, too. I had been reading about no-till, and I figured we'd be better off getting a no-till planter instead of a plow. I'm glad we did. I wouldn't want to be without the terraces or the planter."

Terraces slow the movement of rainwater through Harnish's corn fields, and the ground cover which is a feature of no-till farming retards evaporation. "Our corn holds up very well in dry weather," Harnish commented.

Corn is grown on about 45 acres, with the rest of the acreage given over to hay and pasture for the 100 head of breeding ewes on the farm. In addition to the lamb operation, Harnish contracts some 27,000 broilers.

Harnish discs his corn fields either in the spring or fall. He uses Paraquat as a preemergence herbicide to kill vegetation before planting, and also sprays for weeds. Since each crop requires only four trips through the field, Harnish figures he's saving a considerable amount of field work, in addition to conserving soil and water. He makes one trip to disc, one to plant, one to spray and another to harvest. While he hasn't run any yield checks lately, Harnish feels his average corn yield is about 100 to 125 bushels to the acre.

While some of Harnish's

corn crop is fed to the sheep, most of it is sold either as ear corn or as grain. All the stover is left in the field as a ground cover. An attachment on the planter allows Harnish to knife in liquid nitrogen as he plants the crop. Phosphorus and potash are broadcast in granular form.

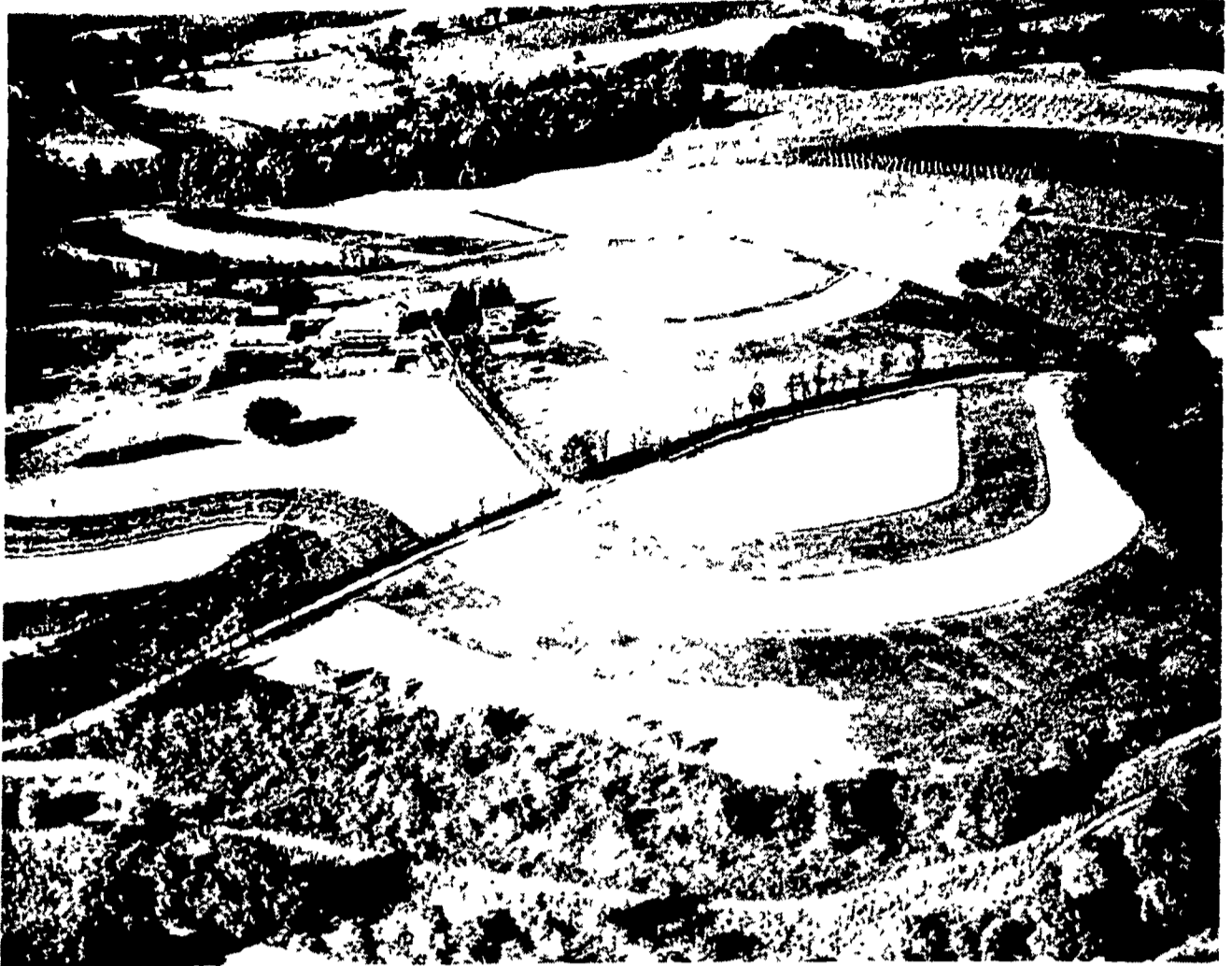
If he could, Harnish would plant a rye crop after taking the corn off. "Farmers who cut their corn for silage can plant rye as a winter cover, and this helps even more to conserve soil. We can't do that, though, because by the time the corn dries to the point where we're able to pick it, it's already too late to plant rye."

Harnish recalled that the terraces were constructed after fall harvest without any disruption at all in the farm program. Sheep manure is spread on the corn land, and Harnish says they have very little runoff, even in heavy rains. Grassy strips next to the stream that runs through the farm help save even more soil.

Within the next few years, all farmers in Pennsylvania will be required by law to adopt a certain level of conservation farming. Robert Harnish has been ready for that day since 1966. In fact, his program may well exceed the state requirements. Even so, he wouldn't want to be without any of his conservation practices. Law or no law, Harnish is a conservation farmer because he feels conservation farming keeps more soil on the land and puts more money in the bank.

#### Crop Rotation

Think of the goodwill, progress and increase in productivity we've brought about in backward countries through our technological advice and assistance. As a result of our instruction, one little Asian country is practicing crop rotation - Opium one year - hashish the next



This 1956 aerial photo shows the strip cropping different layout, with a mobile home park in the lower left, and terraces instead of strips. The late 30's. An aerial view today would show a much

## Red Rose Farmers, Officers Announced

Red Rose Farmer degrees were conferred on 49 Lancaster County FFA members on Monday, and officers for the coming year were selected at the same time. The new officers will assume their posts in May during a leadership training conference. On Thursday, the winners were announced in the county FFA project book evaluation contest.

The officers named, and their respective chapters, were: Barry Wissler, Cloister, president; Don Weaver, Grassland, vice-president; Jeff Glackin, Solanco, recording secretary; Brian Ober, Brownstown Vo-Tech, corresponding secretary; Dwight Hauser, Lampeter-Strasburg, treasurer; Kevin Rohrer, Manheim Central, reporter; Bob Buckwalter, Penn Manor, sentinel; Nelson Martin, Pequea Valley, chaplain; Dwight Martin, Elizabethtown, parliamentarian.

Red Rose Degrees went to the following members of each chapter:

#### Brownstown Vo-Tech

Barry Smith, Brian Ober, Keith Herr.

#### Elizabethtown

Dwight Martin.

#### Ephrata

Leonard Martin, Barry Wissler, James Felpel, Rick Gensemer, Tom Horst.

#### Lampeter-Strasburg

John Harnish, Timothy Wilson, Dwight Houser, Jeff Cramer.

#### Manheim Central

Roy Sauder, Joe Snaveley, Robert Hershey, Kevin Rohrer, Doug Layton, Darryl Ebersole, James Heffley.

#### New Holland

Lloyd Hoover, Scott Steffy, E. Clair Martin, Keith Fiester, Glenn Hursh, Don Weaver, Jerry Long, Tom Martin.

#### Penn Manor

Wendell Kibler, Richard Burkholder, Charles Kauffman, Gary Long, Robert Buckwalter, Mark Farmer, Randall Hunt, Carl Gerlach, Marlin Harnish.

#### Pequea Valley

Thomas Denlinger, John Beyer, Nelson Martin.

#### Solanco

John Zander, David Reath, E. Robert Peifer, Gary Wells, David Young, Joseph Winter, Thomas Galbreath, Jeff Glackin, Dave Geihart.

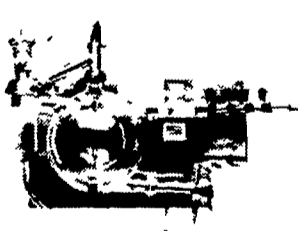
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