

County, SCS Retain Conservation Planner

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service and the Lancaster County Conservation District entered into an agreement Wednesday night to provide for the joint hiring of a soil scientist to aid primarily in preparing conservation plans of county

farms. Orval Bass, district conservationist, explained there is presently a backlog of 300 applications for agricultural conservation plans. This is a direct result of the Clean Streams Law which

requires all Pennsylvania farms to have a conservation plan implemented by July 1, 1977.

In addition, explained Bass, the local SCS staff has been cut from four persons to two, including Bass. The other conservation technician is planning to retire within a couple of months.

It is the Soil Conservation Service that is the local working arm of the District. SCS employees, following District guidelines, prepare the various conservation plans.

The agreement signed Wednesday night provides for the county to pay 51 per cent of the cost of the additional man with the SCS picking up the tab for the remaining 49 per cent.

The new employe, Dale Burns, who is currently working for the SCS in Bellefonte, will start his duties here on March 18.

The district board also laid the groundwork for obtaining a replacement for the retiring worker, Abner Houseknecht. A job description was approved by the board which will allow the county to rehire Houseknecht upon his retirement from the SCS. His functions will remain the same.

This will then put the number of conservation workers at three. It is then expected that the SCS will replace Houseknecht with another worker bringing the staff back up to four.



Paul Paes, chairman of the Lancaster County Commissioners, looks on as Aaron Stauffer, left, and James Olson sign an agreement which will add an additional soil scientist to the local Soil and Conservation Service staff. The new man will be working primarily with farmers in the

preparation of farm conservation plans. Stauffer is chairman of the Lancaster County Conservation District, while Olson is the SCS district director responsible for Lancaster and 17 other counties in southeastern Pennsylvania.

workers when they were available.

As it was explained, the district presently does nearly all of the inspection work anyway. Henry Hackman, executive assistant, agreed to handle the inspection duties.

Under this arrangement, DER would not come to the county for erosion and sedimentary control problems unless called in as

a special request by Hackman.

"I think you can correct 80 per cent of the problems just by letting the person know he has a problem," explained Schadel.

In other business, the board also agreed to sponsor

another plowing contest and Conservation Field Day. The date and location will be announced later.



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