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Erosion Control Tips From MF

In the all-out push to soils where moldboard produce more food this year, many farmers will be returning erosion-prone land to full production. The USDA estimates 4.3 million "new" acres fit this category.

"This marginal land can be productive this year and remain productive for the says Darwin Kettering, Massey-Ferguson senior president vice operations.

He offered these tips from Massey-Ferguson agricultural engineers:

1. Have a conservation plan. Take time to survey your fields and plan your crops suited to the land. Don't plant row crops on inclined land, unless you plant a nurse crop, like rye, to hold the soil.

methods. For dry and sandy topsoil, too.

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plowing can cause wind erosion, adapt a form of minimum tillage. (You'll save fuel, too.) Where water Soil Conservation Service runoff causes erosion, caddycorner plowing is best, creating cup-shaped soil boxes that hold water. Other modes of conservation tillage: contour farming, strip cropping, and rotation planting.

3. Use ground cover. Plant a nurse crop to hold the soil through spring rains. Use a cover crop to prevent winter wind and water erosion. Rye, oats, and other small grains can be harvested in the early summer or grazed through the spring.

4. Never plant steep, hilly cultivation practices. Plant land to anything but grass or trees. Choose a good-rooting pasture grass mix like fescue and bluegrass.

5. Use irrigation water efficiently. Puddling and 2. Use the most effective run-off run up your water bill soil and water conservation and waste irreplaceable

6. Cooperate in the national "Produce and Protect" program sponsored by the USDA Soil Conservation Service. Consult your local SCS own farm.

Erisman Gets Sales Award

Mr. Gordon Erisman, Agent for the Farm Family Life Insurance Company has qualified for the Company's Rookie Club and \$750,000 Production Club based on his 1973 production. He was recognized for these achievements at the Third Annual Mid-Winter Sales Conference held recently in New Hampshire. At this time he was named one of the top ten agents Companywide for

Mr. Erisman became an agent for Farm Family in January of 1973 and was an honor graduate of the Career **Agents Training Conference** given by the Company. Prior to his present position, he was a sheet metal worker.

He and his wife Ann Marie have four children. The Erisman's live in Columbia, Pennsylvania.

- TRY A **CLASSIFIED** **USDA Study Examines** Differences in U.S., Chinese Agriculture

technician or county Ex- Grain output in the United States and the People's Republic tension agent for further of China is about the same, but because China has roughly information tailored to your four times more people, it emphasizes grain for human consumption, rather than for use as livestock feed. This and other differences between U.S. and Chinese agriculture are pointed out in a study released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

In China, 55 percent of total grain area is planted to food grains, while in the United States, 65 percent is in feed grains. Diets in the two countries differ accordingly: starches account for almost 80 percent of average daily caloric intake in China, but for only 23 percent in the United States.

U.S. crop yields, benefiting from a high level of capital and technological inputs, are generally twice as high as yields in China, where agriculture is labor-intensive. One tractor per 58 sown acres is available in the United States, but in China, there is one tractor for every 2,000 or more acres. U. S. farmers use about four times more fertilizer to raise crop yields.

China, with half as many cattle, uses them primarily for draft purposes instead of for meat and livestock products. There are nearly three times more hogs and sheep in Chinadespite the low levels of feed grain production.

Farm commodities are more important for earning foreign exchange in China, accounting for 35 percent of the country's imports and over 50 percent of its exports. For the United States, these shares are about 15 and 18 percent, respectively.

A copy of "Agriculture in the United States and the People's Republic of China, 1967-71," FAER-94, is available free on postcard (please include zipcode) or telephone (447-7255) request from the Office of Communication, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250.

Manure Use

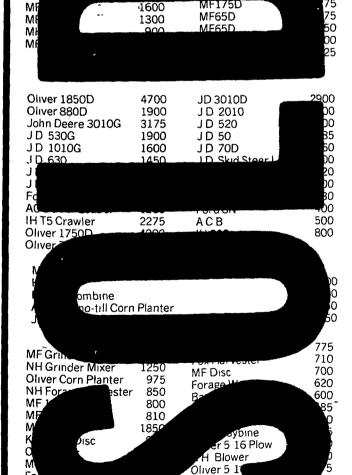
The use of livestock and poultry manure has always been a common practice in this part of the country; this continues to be a very good fertilizer practice and this year will reduce the amount of commercial fertilizer needed; However, I'd like to

caution gardeners and farmers about the danger of burning crops and plants with too much poultry manure. This material is much higher in nitrogen than livestock manure and will burn plants and seeds if applied too liberally. Some kinds of poultry manure that is dry and has been protected from leaching may contain as high as 90 pounds of nitrogen per ton of manure; wet and sticky poultry manure usually runs about 30 pounds of nitrogen per ton. Poultry manure applications should not exceed 4 to 5 tons per acre. The common rate of 10 to 15 tons per acre, as with livestock manure, will surely cause trouble, and especially in dry weather. Go easy with poultry manure applications.

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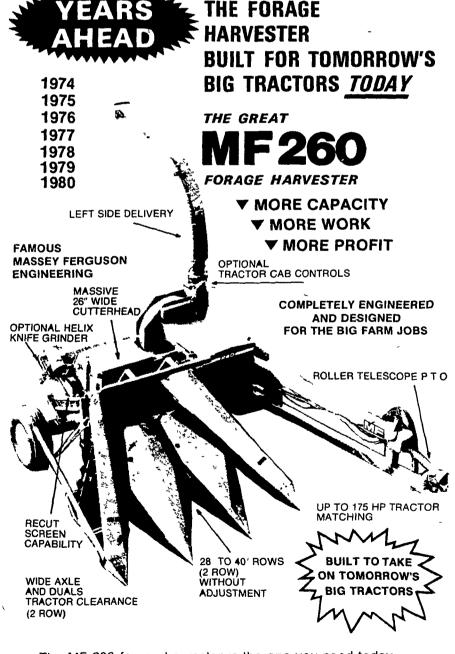
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