

Butz calls for more conservation

WASHINGTON — Secretary of Agriculture Earl I. Butz called on America's farmers to make a personal commitment to apply soil and water conservation practices during the coming year.

"Soil erosion from wind and water is still a serious threat to stepped up food production so essential to this country and to the world," Secretary Butz declared. "Though hundreds of thousands of farm operators already have become voluntary 'conservation cooperators' with their local conservation district and have applied conservation practices on the land, thousands more farmers need to take this step this year," he said.

To preserve and improve our capacity to produce food and fiber and to help clean up our lakes and streams is

the goal of the USDA Soil Conservation Service, stated Benny Martin, State Conservationist SCS and other USDA agency personnel have the research, experience and technical know-how. What is needed now is the determination of the men and women who use the land to apply conservation practices - strip-cropping, contour farming, terracing, minimum tillage and pasture improvement. Farmers also need to till their land within its capability for use and to protect it against excessive erosion, added Martin. He also, like Secretary Butz, called on Pennsylvania's farmers to make a personal commitment to reduce soil loss by installing soil and water conserving practices on their farms. Martin said that a commitment to conservation is also needed

from land developers, builders and urban landowners since construction areas and urban land are subject to severe erosion if left unprotected.

Unfortunately, soil erosion does not affect just the land where the erosion occurs, it lowers the water quality of our streams and lakes and results in the siltation of our reservoirs and navigable waters. State Conservationist Benny Martin declared that he was in agreement with Secretary Butz in calling for the protection of our most valuable resources, our soil and water. Martin praised the many farmers who have applied conservation practices on their farms. He urged these farmers and conservation district leaders to renew their efforts in encouraging others to practice soil conservation. It

everyone did his part, an estimated one to two billion tons of soil erosion could be prevented each year.

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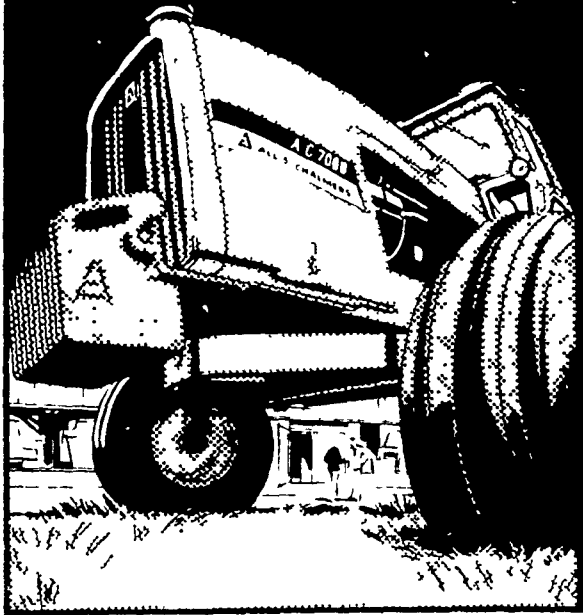
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