

Chisel plowing gaining interest

Chisel plowing, a method of tilling the soil that keeps much of the crop residue on top, thus conserving soil and moisture, is gaining in use today. Quoting a recent Illinois survey, Clair Gerberich, Executive Assistant, Lebanon County Conservation District, said that 45 percent of this corn belt states farmers are using chisel plowing. The farmers surveyed grow more than half of their corn and soybeans using a chisel flow tillage system.

The reasons given for this shift to chisel plowing by the farmers interviewed was the saving of time, fuel and reduced cost of seed bed preparation. Also high on the list of reasons for the shift was the availability of better herbicides, former crop yields were maintained, or improved, and a substantial reduction in soil loss from erosion was cited by the farmers.

Of the farmers owning

both chisel plows and the conventional moldboard plow 86 percent said they intend to do more chisel plowing.

Karl Hellerick, District Conservationist, Soil Conservation Service in Lebanon, tells me that at least 30 percent of the farmers of Lebanon County are using chisel plowing today. He also stated that soil losses may be reduced by 50 percent by chisel plowing compared to conventional mold board plowing. This is a considerable savings of production inputs, fertilizer, lime in addition to the top soil he added.

But he cautioned chisel plowing must be done with caution to be effective. Gerberich added that farmers wanting to start using this soil conservation practice should call the Conservation District at 272-4618 for assistance in starting this practice.

NPPC initiates job placement service

The National Pork Producers Council, Des Moines, has begun a "summer job placement service" for students in selected agriculture schools from across the country who are interested in finding summer jobs on a swine operation. The program will also help producers find good summer help.

The NPPC has requested a list from several universities of four students who would be capable and interested in working with a pork

producer for the summer. Each applicant has been recommended by his school.

A list of prospective student employees is available from the NPPC. All negotiations from that point on will be at the initiative of the prospective employer.

All interested pork producers should contact the NPPC. Their address is: NPPC, 4715 Grand Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa.

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Weiser. In the four to six division, first place went to Leon Ohlinger, Conrad Weiser, and first runner-up was Lisa Gerhart from the same school. Lori Swavely came in to take first place in the seven to nine division for Daniel Boone and Mark Owens from Conrad Weiser was first runner-up in that division. Cindy Buchanon of Daniel Boone captured first place in the 10-12 division and Sharon Freeman from Conrad Weiser was first runner-up. The winning posters were on display Friday evening, and as students' names were called to accept the awards, each had the opportunity to show his or her poster to the audience.

John P. Schueller, Bern-

ville RD, received a plaque for Outstanding Cooperator of the Year from Mark Wolfskill, a Director of the County Conservation District. A similar plaque was presented to Laverne A. Barrett, Womelsdorf, an agriculture instructor at Conrad Weiser, who was named Outstanding Conservation Educator of the Year. Conservation Cooperator Sign Winners were: John P. Schueller; Joseph D. Gartner, Strausstown; Rev. Ralph E. Starr, Wernersville RD; J. O. Younker & Sons, Bethel RD; and Richard C. Faust, Sinking Springs RD. Floral arrangements were presented on behalf of the District to Mrs. Helen Ann Kratzke, District Secretary, and Mrs. Joseph Linedecker.

The entertainment portion of the program, James's illustrated talk on the 500 acre nature center he helped build in the N. W. corner of Philadelphia, was mainly light and often witty. But he ended his presentation on a more serious note, pointing out that it will not be the farmer or the conservationist who will decide how much land will remain open in Pennsylvania, but by their very numbers it will be the urban dwellers who will have the final say. He considers the education of the urban people to be vital to the preservation of the remaining open space, and the Schuylkill Valley Nature Center is right there, four miles from city hall, to show the city dweller what open space is like.



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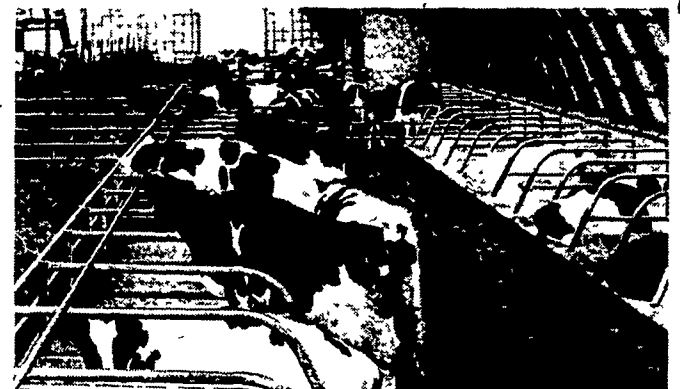
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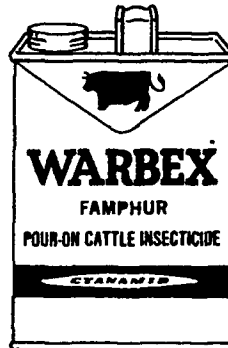
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