

Carroll SCD receives presidential award

WESTMINSTER, Md — The Carroll Soil Conservation District in Maryland received an award for energy efficiency from President Carter Monday, at a White House ceremony.

Wilson Lippy, board chairman, will accept the award in recognition of the district's outstanding accomplishments in promoting no-till farming, a fuel and soil saving practice.

The district is one of 128 organizations in agricultural, residential and transportation areas to be recognized under the President's energy ef-

iciency awards program. It was nominated by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

According to Gerald Calhoun, SCS state conservationist, the Carroll District is an outstanding example of conservationists who knew a good thing when they saw it, practiced it on their own farms and promoted it in the community.

Basically no-till is planting without plowing. A hay or small grain crop is killed off by a herbicide in the spring. Then a special no-till planter is used to slice an incision in the ground,

deposit seed and fertilizer, and then cover it back up with soil. The hay stubble protects the soil from erosion and conserves moisture.

Because fewer trips are needed across the field, no-till can save up to 80 percent of the fuel needed with conventional tillage. Erosion can be cut by up to 90 percent.

The District began promoting no-till farming in the early 1970s. Since then the amount of cultivated land in no-till has jumped from practically none to over one-third of the 88,000

acres cultivated for corn, soybeans, and small grain last year. Another approximately 37,000 acres was planted using minimum tillage techniques.

In the past three years alone in Carroll County, the switch to no-till has resulted in a savings of approximately 268,000 gallons of fuel worth about \$282,000.

Minimum tillage can save about half the amount of fuel as no-till.

The board first started promoting no-till in 1974 with an article in its newsletter and at farm meetings. The real shot in the arm came in

1976, however, when they bought a Zip strip no-till pasture seeder. The Zip planter was rented for a nominal fee so farmers could try no-till on a limited acreage before investing in the equipment.

So successful was that venture, the District purchased and began renting out a 10-foot wide no-till seeder for planting small grains, pasture and hay crops, and soybeans in May 1980.

The District board also promoted no-till through

example. For instance, Lippy, who farms 6000 acres with his father and three brothers, uses no-till and chisel plowing extensively on his corn and soybean acreage.

The Lippys also use other soil and water conservation practices including contour strip-cropping, grass waterways and tile drainage.

They cooperate with the state wildlife administration in allowing the public to hunt free by permit on their land.

Drought emergency kit available

HARRISBURG — To aid residents of areas in Pennsylvania where drought emergencies have been declared, the Department of Environmental Resources is making home water conservation kits available at cost to public water suppliers for resale to their customers.

Delivery began last Wednesday, of 3000 kits ordered by water suppliers after DER announced in November that they would become available. DER has an additional 5000 kits in stock to help till future orders.

DER is mailing sampling kits to drought area water suppliers that have not yet taken advantage of the offer.

The kits include a flow restrictor for the shower, two water displacement devices for toilet tanks, two dye tablets for detection of leaks in toilet tanks, and instructions on installation and use of the devices and tablets.

Installing these devices will save the average customer from 12 to 13 gallons of water per person daily without requiring any

change in water use habits," explained John McSparran, director of DER's Bureau of Resources Programming.

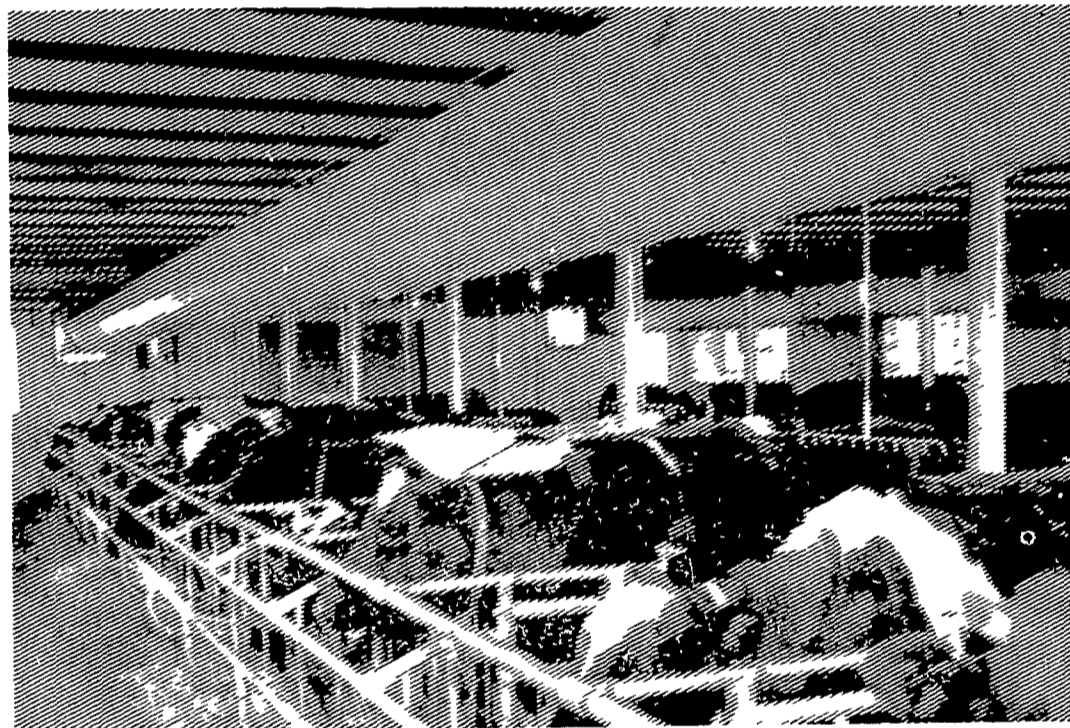
Under most rationing plans now in effect, customers are limited to 40 gallons of water daily per person. Since the average per capita use is about 50 gallons per day, using these conservation devices is a painless way of reducing water consumption while coming into compliance with rationing restrictions, McSparran noted.

In addition to saving on water usage, the devices should result in a savings of about \$65 annually on the typical household energy bill from reduced hot water use.

Customers should contact their local water suppliers for more information on the kits.



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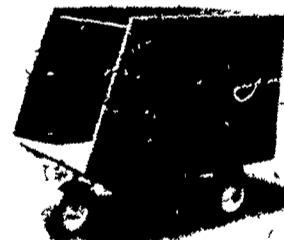
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