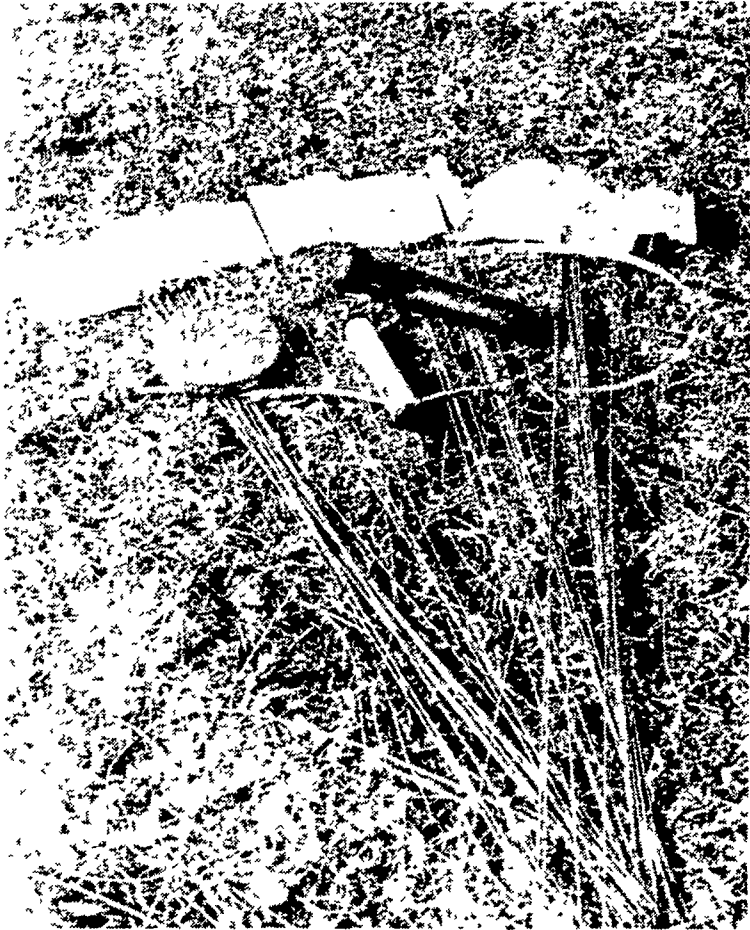


## Soil-saving recipe calls for strips

LITITZ — Here's a money-saving recipe to save precious topsoil for farmers concerned with turning over their cropland fields economically. Most of the ingredients will be on hand. Time in preparation can vary depending on whether you want to make the contour or even-width version of the recipe.

**SOIL-SAVING STRIPCROPPING**  
 1 farm in need of conservation  
 1 farmer who sees topsoil washing away  
 1 hand level  
 1 100-foot measuring tape or equivalent in binder twine  
 several bundles of marking flags (two color minimal)



Marking flags, hand level, and measuring tape make cooking up strips on farm land a fast, easy task.



Follow the flag markers and the recipe for conservation and you'll learn just how good stripcropping can be — good for you and your land. It's no new recipe, just one that's time-tested and true, and can be varied somewhat to suit each farmer's taste and operation.

1 helper or Soil Conservation Service technician (optional for contour strips)

1 tractor

1 plow

With the basic ingredients gathered together it's time to start cooking.

The first step is to study the crop field and decide where the most limiting point is (such as a rock outcrop, access lane, etc.). Then, with flags and hand level in hand, strike off across the field, marking the line with one color of flags. If

you're by yourself, keep sighting back on the flag you just stuck in the ground — the bubble should be on the level-line when sighting from top of flag to top of flag.

If you're planning to lay the field out in contour strips, you can do the job solo since all the lines will be running on the contour without one strip width. However, keep in mind, depending on the field's slope, the recommended width of the strip varies. Just how wide your strips should be can be determined by the SCS technician

— basically they range from 80 to 100 feet wide and are geared into the farm's planting and harvesting equipment widths.

For even width strips, the process starts off the same with an initial contour line being staked. This line serves as a base for the rest of the strip boundaries. The width is taped and marked by two people — with one person walking the base line and sighting in the other person at right angles. Even

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