

Md. farmer featured in conservation movie

COLLEGE PARK, Md — If American agriculture is going to continue to lead the world in production, it's going to have to lead it in soil and water conservation.

That's the conclusion of a new documentary film called "Conservation Down on the Farm," recently released by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service and Stuart Finley, Inc.

Every year in the United States, rain and melted snow washes nearly 2 billion tons of productive topsoil off unprotected cropland. Much of the nation has already lost half its topsoil in its first two hundred years. If this trend continues, predicts an SCS study, erosion in the next 50 years could reduce crop yields in many parts of

the country by 20 percent or more.

Reversing this trend is possible, according to the film, through a coordinated effort by the landowner, the local soil and water conservation district and cooperating agencies such as SCS. The film focuses on a dairy farmer in Cecil County, Md., and the help he received from the Cecil Soil Conservation District.

Technical experts in soil conservation, engineering and forestry helped the farmer identify and analyze erosion, drainage and animal waste problems on his 800-acre farm. Taking his production goals and method of operation into account, they helped him design a coordinated set of best management practices to solve those problems.

A combination of diversion terraces, no-till cropping, grass waterways and contour strip-cropping reduced erosion to about half the rate considered 'tolerable.' An animal waste management facility kept manure and dairy parlor wastes from polluting a nearby stream. The facility also saved labor and fuel.

Equally as important as maintaining productivity is the effect these practices have on protecting and improving water quality. Sediment is the nation's leading cause of nonpoint pollution

and about half comes from farmland. Of the one and one-quarter billion tons of animal waste produced every year in the United States, only about half is properly utilized.

The 1977 Clean Water Act established a timetable for controlling agricultural nonpoint pollutants including sediment and animal wastes. Conservation districts have the lead for insuring that the deadline is met and are working with landowners to meet the law's requirements on a voluntary basis.

Although the setting for the film is in Maryland, the principles and practices discussed apply nationwide. There are nearly 3000 conservation districts in the United States. Each provides free technical help to landowners in designing conservation practices and often can help arrange cost sharing assistance.

For more information about the color, 16mm film, contact your local Soil Conservation Service office or Stuart Finley, Inc., 3428 Mansfield Rd., Falls Church, Va. 22041.

Livestock dogs

(Continued from Page D18)

ewe can bring \$125, a dog only has to save four to be worth its investment," says Judith N. Nelson of Bethesda, Md.

She and her husband, David, breed akbash, a dog they discovered while working for the State Department in Turkey.

The 1980 sheep population showed a 2 percent increase over 1979—the first such rise in 20 years. An expansion program is afoot in the New England area, once home of millions of sheep and still, on a per capita basis, one of the country's biggest consumers of lamb.

The expansion into the East "is all part of the reason for looking at dogs to put them in at the same time we put sheep there," says Green.

car window and saying, "Look, there's sheep out there," and having some little black box in the dog say, "I love sheep and I'm not going to let coyotes hurt them." It's a management system and it takes some knowledge."

There have been great successes, he says.

"We had one little Shar Planinetz out in Utah last summer with a flock of 1000 ewes with their lambs—almost 2200 head. She only lost four sheep for the summer."

"That's one end of the spectrum," he adds. "At the other end, dogs have killed sheep." Then researchers try to keep it from happening again.

The livestock-guarding dogs cost from \$200 to \$700 a puppy. "When you consider that a good working

HARRISBURG — The Pennsylvania State Grange is embarking on a new cooperative-buying service, the Pennsylvania Grange Exchange, to begin service to members May 7.

The program has been designed, in part, to replace the old Keystone Grange Exchange, which served Grange members for over 50 years in the early part of this century. The Exchange was the forerunner of the modern cooperative movement in Pennsylvania.

"This is a program that is really going to grow," said State Master Charles E. Wismer, Jr. "It's a terrific undertaking for the State Grange in providing benefits to our members."

The Exchange will handle such products as honey, maple syrup, hot dogs, pizza shells, canned vegetables and dairy products.

The program is non-profit, and goods will be sold at approximately 15 percent under grocery store prices.

"Our goal is to sell top quality goods at a reduced rate to our members," Wismer said. "We are emphasizing that our produce is of the highest quality."

Delivery stops have been set by Grange Deputies in each county. All ordering is being handled by mail through the Exchange's headquarters based in Canton.

Order blanks, which include a delivery schedule, are being sent out to the State Grange's 44,000 members throughout the state on a monthly basis.

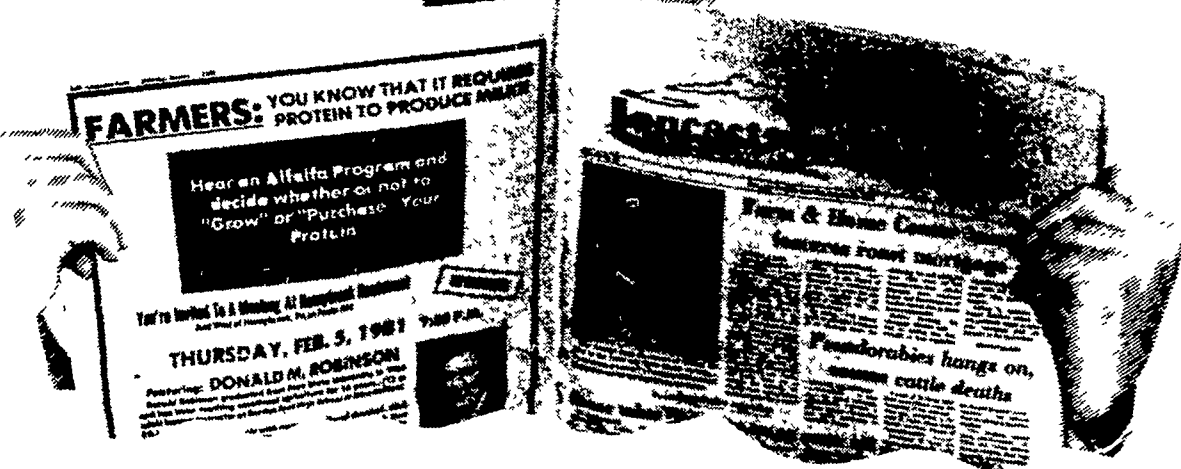
The Exchange delivery truck will reach the Eastern part of Pennsylvania May 7, followed by the Central and Western sections. An entire round of the state will be completed in a six-week period.

Arrangements have been made possible through an agreement with Eastern Milk Producers.

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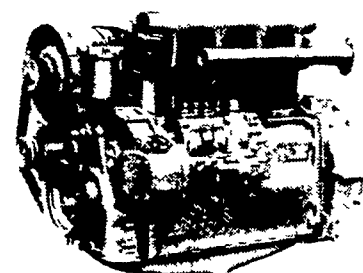
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