

## Assistant Secretary

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careful planing of highways, for example.

Acid rain is an interstate problem, but Crowell backed away from the problem.

"I don't think we know enough about acid rain," the Harvard Law School graduate said.

Before assuming the assistant secretary position Crowell was general counsel for Louisiana-Pacific Corporation, a major purchaser of federal timber in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska.

"Is acid rain really caused by coal-burning power companies?" he asked.

"There may be other causes and the problem may not be as serious as we believe," he said.

Crowell said he couldn't say he had any specific goals to reach in the next four years in the area of conservation.

He said conservation is an ongoing program to increase the level of awareness among farmers and the general public, and to put

more practices on the ground.

Rich Duesterhaus, assistant chief conservationist from Washington, D.C., noted the total budget cuts of \$40 million in the SCS budget were roughly six percent of the total.

"We have reason to believe they may not be so severe when they come through the Congress," he said.

Duesterhaus was one of several national and state conservation figures travelling with Crowell on his trip.

"The President is interested in the bottom line, not individual items," Duesterhaus said, explaining funds could be taken from less critical areas and channeled into top priority programs.

In addition to touring state farms, Crowell met with most of the state's agriculture and conservation officials.

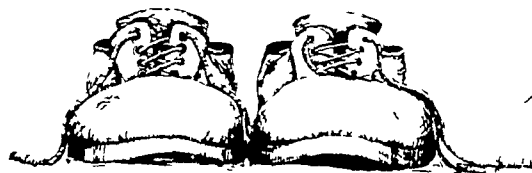
While in Lancaster he took a tour of the Farm and Home Center and met with a number of local farm and conservation officials.



Assistant U.S. Secretary of Agriculture John Crowell, far right, took a helicopter tour of several Lancaster County farms Tuesday. Posing with Crowell, from left, are SCS District Conservationist Warren Archibald, Area Conservationist Richard Kirk, and Lancaster County Commissioner James Huber.



The Robert Kauffman farm, R2 Peach Bottom, was one of several farm stops made by the touring conservation officials. Kauffman, last year's Conservation Farmer award winner, pointed out a number of improvements made on the farm to save soil and keep water clean.



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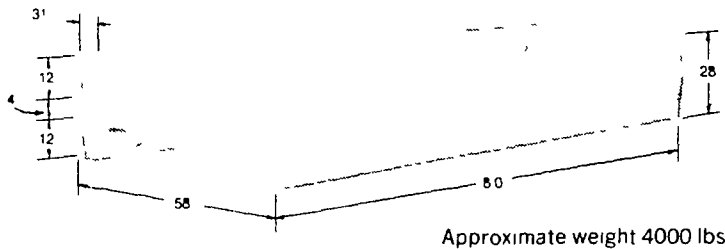
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