

Nancy Burkhart makes soil conservation her career

BY DEBBIE KOONTZ
LANCASTER — "Thanks to you we still have a home" is the brief message written across a bird and animal poster above the door at the Lancaster County Conservation District's office at the Farm and Home Center.

The message, so full of meaning for Soil Stewardship Week and yet actually displayed all year long, emphasizes our national observance this week of man's responsibility to protect and conserve soil, water and other natural resources.

The force behind the poster designed to incite all who walk through the door, is Nancy Burkhart, executive secretary for this county's conservation district, and a friendly, interesting character, always ready with a smile and a helping hand.

She hung the poster as her way of promoting a job in which she believes. It is also Nancy who mails and coordinates all the in-

formation you receive from the Conservation office.

But handling conservation matters is not the extent of her work; she also practices and preaches it. She says that through the years she has learned enough to be able to answer the majority of the calls the office receives.

"They trust my judgement enough that often I'll get calls at home from people wanting to know what to do about erosion or water drainage."

Nancy's interest in soil conservation began through her husband, Don.

"He worked at conservation work, excavating and landscaping, for 25 years in his own business. I just picked up on all the proper practices and the lingo through listening to him. It interested me."

It interested her so much in fact, that she has worked for the district for 15 years. She recently was honored for this attribute at their

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Nancy Burkhart reads a copy of the Soil Stewardship Week booklet, one of 31 she will send to area ministers. She serves as executive secretary for the Lancaster County Soil Conservation district.

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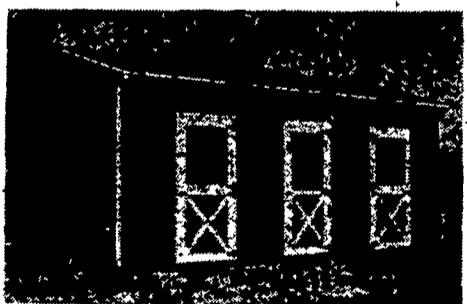
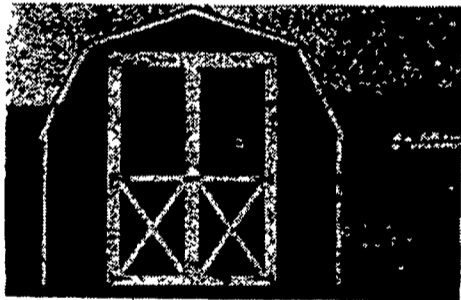
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