

Farm Credit names ass't. VP's

BALTIMORE — The Farm Credit Banks of Baltimore, the area's leading agricultural lending institution, has announced the promotions of Clayton R. Owens and Cynthia K. Thornhill, both to Regional Assistant Vice President. Owens began his Farm Credit career as an Assistant Manager in the Banks' affiliated Meadville

(Pa.) Farm Credit Association in 1965. In 1970, he transferred to the Butler (Pa.) Associations as Associate Manager, and was named General Manager in 1975. A graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University, Thornhill joined the Roanoke (Va.) Associations in 1977 as Marketing Manager/Loan

Officer and, in 1981, transferred to the Richmond (Va.) Associations as a Branch Manager. Thornhill is the first woman to hold a Regional Assistant Vice President's position in the Baltimore Banks District, which includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

Erosion unchanged

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Average erosion on America's cropland apparently has changed little since 1977, Peter C. Myers, chief of the U.S. Department of

Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service, reports.

Preliminary data from the agency's 1982 National Resources Inventory show that the average annual rate of sheet and rill erosion on cultivated cropland in the U.S. last summer was 4.8 tons per acre, down from 5 tons per acre estimated during a similar inventory in 1977.

Jerry S. Lee, resources inventory director for the agency, characterized the change as "insignificant." He added that final data from the inventory, including state-by-state data, are expected this fall.

Other preliminary data from the 1982 inventory show that 31 percent of the nation's nonfederal rangeland was an excellent or good ecological condition and 61 percent was in fair or poor condition. About 8 percent of the rangeland has been seeded to non-native grass species and therefore was not classified as to condition.

Lee said these data are the first national statistics on range condition that were collected using national inventory sampling techniques. They show little change from 1977 conditions but represent a significant improvement from conditions recorded in an extensive study conducted in 1963.

For the 1982 inventory, USDA soil conservationists and other trained specialists recorded resource conditions at 1 million sample points across the nation. The Iowa State University Statistical Laboratory is compiling and processing the data.

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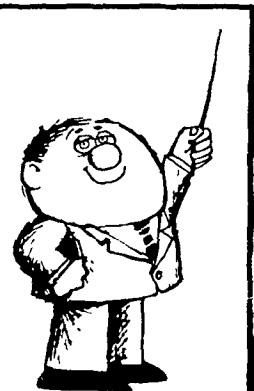
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