

# How to control erosion economically

NORRISTOWN — "Farmers in Montgomery County are finding inexpensive ways to control erosion on their land. They are utilizing their moldboard plows and tractors to plow in cropland terraces," according to Bill Van Fossen, Soil Conservation Technician of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) in Montgomery County. "Farmers are able to do most of the work themselves, and can realize considerable savings in time and money," says Van Fossen.

The Soil Conservation Service will lay out terraces and work with the farmer to plow them in. With a four bottom plow, a decent size tractor, and if conditions are right, one could plow in about 1000 feet of terrace in an hours' time. This would normally take about 6 to 8 hours with a bulldozer building the terrace. After the terrace has been

plowed in, a bulldozer is often required to "touch up" the high and low spots, and to assure the correct grades and size. This would require approximately 2 hours of bulldozer time for 1000 feet of terrace, depending on the extent of "touch up" needed. The total is a savings of 35 to 50% of the normal cost. If a farmer has his own loader to do the "touch up", he could even save more time and money.

"One Montgomery County farmer, Curtis Nice of Souderton, plowed in 1500 feet of cropland terraces on his farm this year. He has some beautiful terraces, and he saved a considerable amount of money in doing the job himself, says Van Fossen. "The terraces that were successful on Curtis's farm, prompted one of his neighbors, Levi Alderfer, to plow in some terraces also," said Van Fossen. Levi plowed in 1500 feet of terraces on his farm, and a farm

he rents. The rented land was experiencing excessive erosion and these "plow in terraces were just the answer to solve this problem with little expense to him.

"Both Curtis Nice and Levi Alderfer are aware of the ever increasing problems of erosion, and they are doing something to control it on their farms," says Van Fossen.

"Plowing in terraces is an inexpensive and effective way of controlling erosion and maintaining the productivity of the land for years to come," says Van Fossen. The Soil Conservation is available for assistance to anyone interested in controlling erosion on their land. For more information on this and other practices, contact the local Soil Conservation Service in your County. In Montgomery County the Soil Conservation Service is located at 1725 Markley Street, Norristown, Pa. 19401 Phone: 279-1178.



Curtis Nice's son, Dennis, plows in a cropland terrace on his father's farm in Souderton, Montgomery County.

## Schlusser gets award

Blaine Schlusser, agricultural extension agent from Crawford County, was honored at the National Association of County Agricultural Agents meeting held last month.

Schlusser received the Distinguished Service Award during the Oct. 8-13 meeting in Wichita, Kan. At the awards dinner, four Pa. agents were recipients of this coveted award. These men all have served more than ten years as extension agents. Along with Blaine Schlusser of Crawford were Dave Gordon, Jefferson Co.; Orville Yoder Bradford Co. and Bill Kelly of Westmoreland Co.

Schlusser has been an agent for 23 years, serving the first two in Warren Co. and the remainder in Crawford. He has been active in all phases of agriculture and is highly respected in the county.

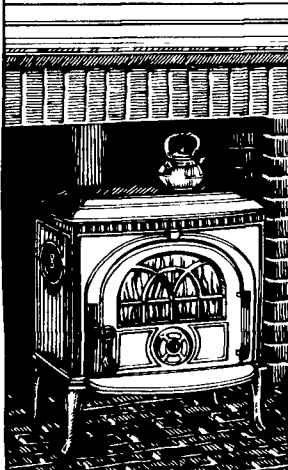
He and his family reside at R3 Saegertown. — NK



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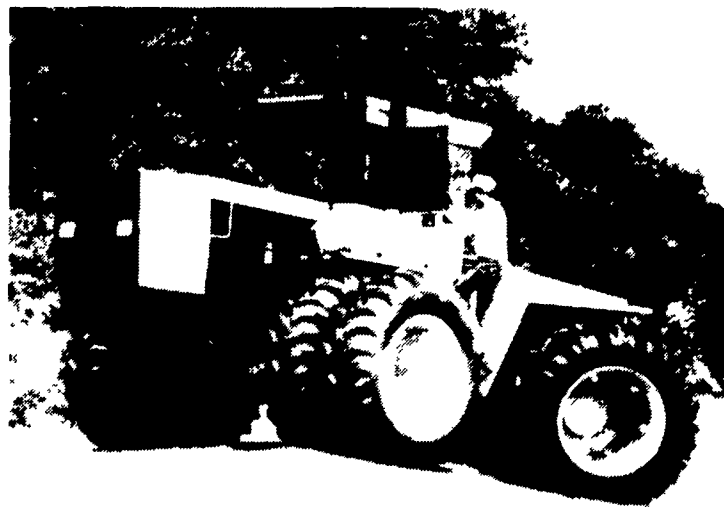
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