

Hess named Outstanding Conservation Farmer for '84

ELIZABETHTOWN — The annual meeting of the Keystone Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America (SCSA) was the setting where York County dairy farmer Charles Hess was named the 1984 Outstanding Conservation Farmer for Pennsylvania.

Hess was selected from nominations submitted by Keystone Chapter SCSA members from throughout Pennsylvania. The award was based on the quantity and quality of conservation accomplishments on the farm and Hess's involvement in promoting conservation in the community.

Hess and his wife Shirley, who reside on their 178 acre century farm at Dallastown, R.D. #1, at-

tended the Chapter's annual banquet to receive the award.

In accepting the award, Hess thanked the Society and voiced his concern over an increasing trend in retiring or absentee landowners renting large blocks of land to the highest bidder, with little or no concern for soil and water conservation. He characterized the renters or leasees as non-local operators, utilizing large capacity machinery to plant wall-to-wall high value erosive crops such as potatoes, soybeans and corn.

This combination of factors is not compatible with the good soil and water conservation measures needed to protect the fragile soils from excessive erosion on the rolling Pennsylvania landscape.

The net result is a steady decline in soil and water resources in the areas where these conditions exist. Hess urged Society members to work harder to educate absentee and/or retired resident landowners as to the seriousness of this growing problem.

The Hess family has practiced conservation on their farm since the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) days of the 1930's. Charlie updated his conservation plan in 1973 and has since gradually applied all recommended conservation practices.

The farm which has been the subject of local farm tours, features contour strips, surface water diversions, tile drains, a spring development, manure

management storage facilities, pasture and woodland management. The Hess operation has also been featured in a Production Credit film and a 1983 slide program on the Chesapeake Bay.

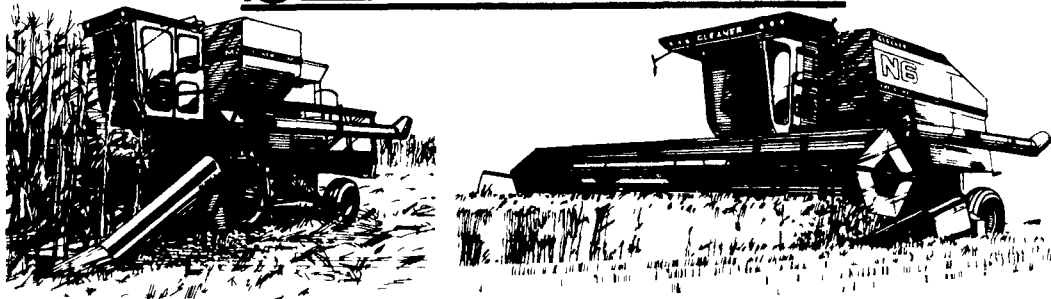
Charlie is Vice-Chairman of the York County Conservation District, where he works actively to promote conservation of soil and water through meetings and tours. His other activities include President of the Agricultural Extension Advisory Board, member of the Pennsylvania Farmers Association, Pennsylvania Corn Growers Association and Pennsylvania and National Plowmen organizations.

Hess was recognized as an outstanding conservation farmer in 1982 by the York Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

The Soil Conservation Society of America is an organization made up primarily of professional soil conservationists, foresters, and resource managers dedicated to the art and science of soil management. Soil Conservation Society membership is open to anyone interested in soil and water conservation.

The Society annually recognizes outstanding individuals and groups that contribute to the conservation of soil and water resources in the fields of agriculture, education, government and community service.

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SCS schedules ground water symposium

NEW CARROLLTON, MD. — The Maryland Old Line Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America will sponsor a symposium, entitled, "Ground Water: Concerns of the 80's," on Thursday, Aug. 23, at the Sheraton Inn in New Carrollton, Md.

According to David P. Doss, program chairman, the purpose of the symposium is to explore the ground water issues facing Maryland and the surrounding area.

"Ground water is a major source of drinking water and most of us take it for granted," Doss said. "We turn on the tap and expect to see clean, clear water. However, in a growing number of communities, ground water pollution and depletion is becoming a problem."

The symposium, he added, will provide policy makers, legislators and the general with information to better understand ground water resources so that they can be managed in the best interest of all.

The keynote speaker will be Dr.

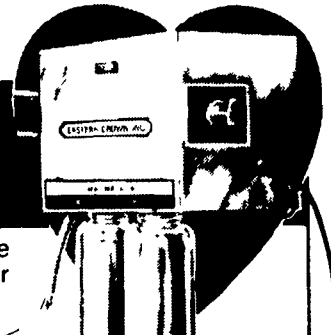
Jay H. Lehr. The most frequently quoted authority on hydrogeology and water well technology in America, Dr. Lehr is currently professor of geology at the Ohio State University.

Other speakers will represent the research community, industry and government. They include Herbert J. Freiburger, U.S. Geological Survey; James W. Peck, Maryland Water Resources Administration; George F. Easterday, L. Franklin Easterday, Inc.; Marian Mlay, Environmental Protection Agency; Richard B. Sellers, Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene; Arthur E. Cohen, Charles County Office of Sanitation; Gerald W. Winegrad, Maryland State Senator; Marland Deen, Charles County Commissioners; and James O. Lighthizer, Anne Arundel County Executive.

Cost of the symposium is \$15 per person. Deadline for registration is Aug. 17. Call 301-344-4180 for more information.

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