Mason-Dixon Project reports soil savings for 1985

LEBANON - Erosion control in southeastern Pennsylvania made dramatic gains in 1985 as the Mason-Dixon Erosion Control Project completed its first full year of operation.

Winsted Burdette, area conservationist, Lebanon, reported that 750,000 tons of soil were saved in the 14 southeastern counties making up the project area. This compares to 382,000 tons saved in 1984. The difference equals a 96 percent increase in tons of soil saved.

The erosion control project began in 1984. "This was the start up year" Burdette said. "Full benefits were not achieved until 1985."

The amount of soil saved per acre also went up in 1985. The per acre rate went from 6.3 tons in 1984 to 8.3 tons in 1985.

According to Burdette these dramatic increases in tons of soil saved were the direct result of many area landowners applying erosion control practices on their individual farms. A Berks County farmer had average erosion rates of about 30 tons per acre per year. Contour stripcropping, diversion terraces, grassed waterways, conservation tillage and a conservation cropping system were implemented to reduce erosion.

This lowered the average 30 tons per acre soil loss on 267 acres to seven tons per acre, a savings of 6141 tons of soil annually.

One York County farmer expects to save 789 tons of soil annually on just one field when all of his planned conservation practices are complete. York County farmers as a whole achieved an average soil savings of 19 tons per acre annually

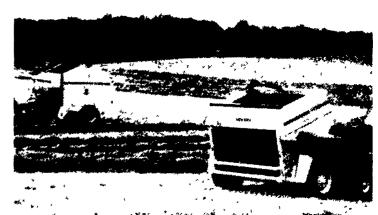
"Similar success stories can be quoted for each and every county in the project area" Burdette said. "Not only is the Mason-Dixon project protecting the land base, but keeping the soil out of the area waterways will really help improve water quality."

Round balers introduced by New Idea

COLDWATER, OH. — The Model 484 and 486 Round Balers are a part of a full line of haytools offered by New Idea Farm Equipment Division. Both baler models are currently being introduced to the public in the company's new equipment color and image for the first time this season.

New Idea Round Balers offer high performance and easy operation for building firm, durable bales. The Model 486 has the capacity of baling up to 24 bales per hour, measuring 6 ft x 5 ft. and weighing up to 1800 lbs. The Model 484 Round Baler handles up to 40 bales per hour with a bale weight of 800 to 1200 lbs.

Roth models feature an open throat design and a fixed bale chamber for superior bale formation Wide, endless belts are used to promote longer belt life. A remote control monitor is available on the 484, 486 Balers. The Model 484 Round Baler can be



Round baler equipment introduced by New Idea Farm Equipment Division.

equipped with an optional bale slicer offered exclusively by New Idea. The Bale Slicer cuts the 5 ft. x 4 ft. diameter bales with a hydraulically driven knife while

484, 486 New Idea Round Balers produce bales of superior quality. The bales are formed with a dense outer shell for protection against moisture and a soft center to allow internal drying.

Chester Farm Analysis Program wins award

WEST CHESTER — Chester County's Farm Analysis Program, has received a Special Recognition award for Excellence in Agriculture Conservation from the American Farmland Trust of Washington, D.C.

Offered free through the Chester County Agricultural Development Council, the Farm Analysis Program promotes farmland conservation by demonstrating alternatives to the outright sale and subdivision of agricultural land.

County Commissioner Robert J.
Thompson said that the program is
usually implemented at the time
farmland is being considered for
sale or disposition.

"At the request of the farmland owner, a team of experts from the Agricultural Development Council is assembled, which consists of land planners, realtors, farmers, and farm appraisers," Thompson explained.

After a site visit and a review of technical data, the owner is presented with a farmland conservation package. Using a combination of land use, estate planning, and tax management

techniques, the package demonstrates how the landowner can realize financial equity from the disposition of his property while conserving the most valuable farmland acreage.

Since its inception in 1983, the Agricultural Development Council has participated in seven farm analysis projects.



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