

Tillage Not Cure-All

HARRISBURG — Constructed conservation practices, which hold rainfall runoff, have taken a "back seat" to no-till and other forms of conservation tillage for erosion control. According to Robert Heidecker, state resource conservationist for the USDA Soil Conservation Service, surface water control is needed in combination with conservation tillage on much of Pennsylvania's farmland.

"Where slopes are long and/or fairly steep, conservation tillage alone will not reduce soil erosion to recommended levels," said Heidecker. "Terraces or diversions are needed to break up the slope and stop overland waterflows which cause erosion."

The basic objective of diversions and terraces is to control the flow of water and to increase the amount that soaks into the ground so it can be used by the crops. When the rainfall is held where it falls, soil stays in place along with the nutrients, herbicides, and insecticides which the soil contains.

Sheet, rill and gully erosion are reduced which lowers wear and tear on farm equipment.

To be effective, diversions and terraces must be built at right angles to the slope to stop the flowing surface water. There must be enough terraces on the slope to prevent too large an accumulation or too fast of a flow of water. The steeper the slope, the closer together the terraces must be built.

Since slopes are not usually uniform, terraces and diversions will curve around the slope to maintain a level profile or low grade. By cutting and filling, terraces can be parallel on many slopes, increasing the ease of farming.

"Terraces have an advantage over diversions," stated Heidecker. "Terraces are farmed in the same crop as the rest of the field while diversions are maintained in a sod cover."

Heidecker added, "Conservation tillage with a good residue cover will reduce erosion under most storm conditions. However, the 'gully washer' storms and rain on frozen ground can only be handled by terraces or diversions."

Farm operators who feel that they have a need for some type of surface water control should consult with the Soil Conservation Service office in their county. Cost share for construction may also be available from the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office.

New 'Quick-Tach' Loader from Farmhand

EXCELSIOR, Minn. — A new Quick-Tach Loader, designed to mount to many two wheel drive and front wheel assist tractors in the 40 to 70 horsepower range, has been introduced by Farmhand, Inc.

The new Dunham Lehr Model 222 Loader features two "double acting" bucket cylinders and a new single handle lever for increased bucket leveling control. Mounting or dismounting the 222 is a one-man job that is done in minutes. Parking stands are standard equipment and fold flat to lift frame for convenient out-of-the-way storage.

Lift capacity of the new loader is 2500 pounds to its full lift height of 10 feet 6 inches; breakout capacity is 4000 pounds. Optional attachments include a 66-inch combination bucket (which can be converted to a manure fork bucket), 65, 76, 84 and 96-inch

rolled back buckets.

The 222 Loader is available from Farmhand dealers and distributors throughout the United

States and Canada. For more information, contact Farmhand, Inc., 6421 Hazeltine Boulevard, Excelsior, MN 55331.



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