

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS: Now Is The Time To Act

Soil erosion is a serious problem in America. It is estimated that more than three billion tons of cropland soil are lost each year. In 1985, Congress took a dramatic step towards controlling the problem. The Food Security Act of 1985 contained progressive initiatives targeted at farmers to take highly erodible land out of crop production.

The provisions, called "Sodbuster and Swampbuster Rules", mandate conservation practices which will remove cropland from production where current conservation techniques cannot adequately protect the soil. The rules disallow farmers from

including crops produced on highly erodible lands and newly converted wetlands as part of their base acreage for various farm support programs.

Under the law, "Sodbuster", refers to land that was not cropped during the five years before the Food Security Act (Farm Bill) was enacted in 1985.

"Highly erodible land", is defined by a criteria established by the Soil Conservation Service using acceptable and recognized methods to predict potential erosion caused by wind and water.

The water erosion formula relates the effects of rainfall, soil

characteristics, and length and steepness of slope to the soil's tolerable erosion rate. The wind erosion formula relates wind speed and soil characteristics to the tolerable rate.

The mandated conservation regulations affect any farmer who presently or in the future, plans to participate in any U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) farm program, including loan and crop insurance programs, price and income supports, disaster payments, Farmer's Home Administration loans, Commodity Credit Corporation storage payments, farm storage facility loans, and other programs under which payments are made with respect to commodities produced by the farmer.

Farmers producing crops on land deemed to be highly erodible by Soil Conservation Service have until January 1, 1990 to develop and begin to actively apply a conservation plan. They must have the plan approved and in effect by January 1, 1995.

To assist farmers in determining whether the requirements apply to their farmland, the Soil Conservation Service is developing a list of highly erodible soil types, using both existing soil maps and onsite inspection of farmland. They are encouraging all farmers to consult with the Soil Conservation Service or the ASCS in

their county to determine whether they have an erosion problem as defined by the Act. Farmers will need a greater level of commitment and understanding of the importance of conservation, as well as recognizing that failure to make a commitment could have an adverse impact on their involvement in future government programs.

Presently, there are more than 5 million acres of cropland in use in Pennsylvania. Fifty eight percent of that land is not practicing, nor are they seeking any type of guidance for developing a conservation plan.

The USDA has indicated that there are more than 12,000 Pennsylvania farmers presently participating in government programs which would be directly affected by the "Sodbuster" regulations, yet, less than 520 farms have enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program for 1987. That's a mere 16,645 acres out of 1.4 million eligible acres.

While 1990 may seem too far off into the future for some farmers, to pay heed to the warnings, the USDA is emphasizing the need for the immediate development of a plan. They also caution that the development of an acceptable conservation plan should be done with great care. It will require an evaluation of your croplands, a review of slopes and drainage potential, a look at your long-range plans for cropping and the submission of a plan which meets the regulatory criteria of Soil Conservation Service and ASCS.

Waiting until the last minute will only assure that you will be added to the "waiting list", and possibly jeopardize your participation in a much needed USDA-sponsored program.

The Farmers' View is a column that is compiled by the Public Relations Division of the Pennsylvania Farmers' Association (PFA). It expresses the views of PFA's policy positions on key issues as adopted by the organization's 23,313 family members.

Worldwide

(Continued from Page A24)

James R. Donald, World and U.S. Agricultural Outlook, said, "The sharp decline in U.S. agricultural exports in the 1980s, thus, has been due to developments abroad related to: expanding agricultural output, especially the growth in productivity; dampened consumption expansion, caused by the worldwide recession of the early 1980s; and increased self-sufficiency in food production, resulting from policy changes. Over the next several years, competition will remain intense for world markets, but lower prices should slow productivity gains and market growth should pick up as global economic growth recovers."

U.S. farm income has come increasingly from the government in the 1980s, with the decline in agricultural exports and in farm prices. Direct payments alone in 1986 are expected to amount to \$12 or \$13 billion, accounting for over one-fourth of net cash income of some \$44 billion. In the 1970s, direct payments accounted for about 7 percent of cash income.

The outlook for the next few years is for a continuation of large government payments. Market prices likely will remain under pressure because of slowly growing demand and relatively large commodity supplies.

Public

Auction Register

DECEMBER

WED. DEC. 10 - 5:30PM
Groceries, Paper Towels, Paper Cups, Cat Food, Dog Food. Located Bareville Fire Co., 211 E. Main St., Leola, PA.

THURS. DEC. 11 - 10AM
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AUCTION

Farm Machinery
3 Tractors, 1973 Ford Pick-Up
Tools, Furnishings
TUES., DECEMBER 16, 1986

10:00 A.M.

Farm Machinery at 11:00 A.M.

FARM MACHINERY — John Deere 2020 WFE, gas, 1488 hrs. w/New Idea Loader; Oliver 770 Tri-Gas w/New Idea Loader; Oliver 77 Row Crop Tri-Live PTO, good rubber w/cultivator; J.D. 3-bottom hyd. plow; J.D. 3-bottom pull plow; J.D. 10' Transport Disc; Chattonoga 10' Transport Cultimulcher; 10' Cultivator; Woods Cadet #84 Mower; Fox Field Chopper #F546 windrow & corn hd; 200 gal. tank sprayer; I.H. roll, Side Del Rake, auger unload dumping grain wagon, 2 sect. spring tooth; Oliver hyd. cyl; walking plow.

AUTO — 1973 Ford Custom Pick-up F-250 Camper Special V8, 89,521 miles; Pick-up Mower Ramp.

TOOLS — Win. Power 12KW Generator; 5 h.p. & 7½ h.p. elec. motors; air compressor, 40' mag. ext. ladder; water bowls, hay racks, platform scale, 6 rolls sheep wire, grindstone, anvil, field tiles, cement block, lumber, misc. hand tools.

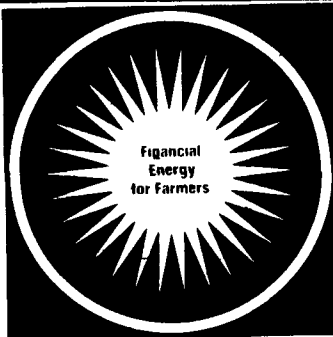
FURNISHINGS — Coal range, fireplace mantel, pickle barrel, school desk, table, chairs, bureaus, jars, farm signs, misc. household goods & collectibles.

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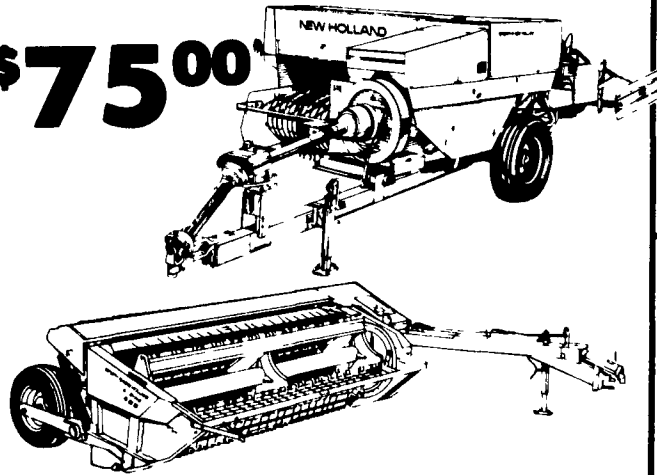
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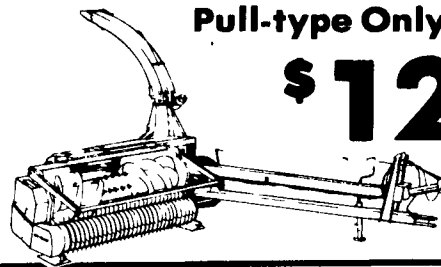


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