

Juniata Conservation

(Continued from Page A1)

ly owned by her parents, Edward and Anna Guss.

Guss families have owned the farm since 1856, and it is expected to remain in the family, because they have two sons, Joe and George, as well as four grandchildren. Known as "The Guss Farm" for many past years, it now has the name, "Springwater Farm." The Tabbs' conservation plan was done in 1989, even though they actually began doing conservation work on the farm in the 1970s. The farm has 38 tillable acres plus pasture, and they farm with a rotation of corn and soybeans, with all residue remaining. A year of small grain and three or four years of alfalfa-grass hay follows the corn and/or soybeans. Chicken or steer manure is applied to the grass fields in the fall prior to doing no-till or minimum till in the spring to corn or soybeans.

Although 100' wide strips were laid out in the early 80's, these were replaced with 50' wide strips due to erosion problems. These strips have been maintained, and there are 2,422 feet of subsurface drains and a grass-lined 2,200 foot open field ditch.

Joe mentioned that one of his first conservation practices was to place breakers in roads on the farm.

It is evident that the Tabbs

love their farm, which is located along the Hammer Hollow Road, just off the Licking Creek Road in Milford Township. They have remodeled the farm home and have done some landscaping.

One of their most difficult accomplishments was building a stone wall along their lawn. Artistry as well as hard work went into this, as they included local rocks with fossils in them, and also special sections where such items as pieces of petrified wood from South Dakota were worked into the design.

Although planning retirement, the Tabbs said they do not expect to be idle as they remain active in this community. Their church, St. Stephen's Lutheran, is nearby. The "Zook's Dam" area adjoins their farm, and the Tabbs and others in the community look forward to the completion of a skating rink.

Joe has been a Milford Township supervisor for seven years, and said it is a real satisfaction to have their requested project completed, cooperating with U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Mid-State RC&D, the Soil Conservation Service and the Juniata County Conservation District.

Gary and Shirley Imes, 1994 outstanding large cooperators, have been on their farm along Route 35, south of Mifflin, in Milford Township, since 1978. It

was originally the Ed Sterrett Farm.

Gary was born in Beale Township and then his family moved to the Honey Grove area. He has been farming all of his life and said he truly enjoys it. In his youth he was kept quite busy on his father's dairy farm.

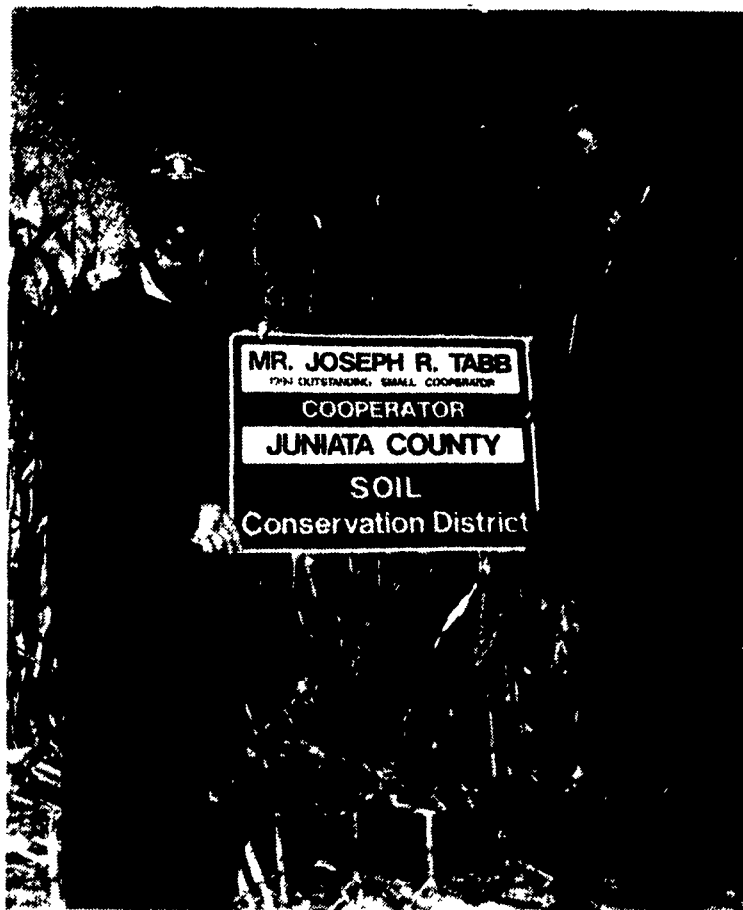
Shirley also has a background of dairy farming and was a big help to Gary when they had dairy cattle in the earlier years of their farming. They changed to beef cows and calves in 1991 and have about 100 head. Shirley is now head cook at Tuscarora Valley Junior High. Their daughter, Kelly, attends Juniata High and enjoys playing field hockey.

They have 300 acres, with 140 tillable. Acreage is used as follows: 40 acres in corn; 30 acres in soybeans; 15 acres in rye; and the remainder in hay and pasture. In addition they use 68 acres from other farms where they have hay and some alfalfa.

The Imes' conservation plan was done in 1982. About 3 acres are contour cropping and 86 acres are in strip farming. There are 2,000 feet of subsurface drains.

Gary, 44, said he is looking forward to spending the rest of his life on the farm, which is within sight of his father's farm.

Shirley, not present to receive the award, attends the Mifflintown Assembly of God Church and enjoys her work in the school cafeteria.

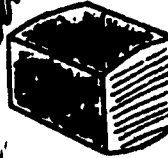

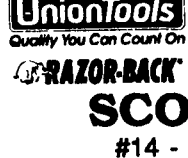





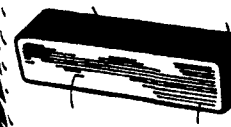


Joe Tabb, left, receives Small Cooperator Award from Dale Gingrich, Juniata County Commissioner.

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