

Lessons Last Lifetimes

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removed from the farm.

The original conservation plan, written in 1944, includes the statement, "Construct terraces between existing terraces with 600 feet of additional outlet channel." The township did not allow terraces that would send water north onto the township road. As a result, pipe terraces were installed to provide a more appropriate water outlet.

The Civilian Conservation Corps put in three waterway dikes, which still function today.

On the steep areas of the waterway, sod from a nearby meadow was dug up and installed on the waterway. Locus trees were cut down, split into posts, and pasture fence was installed for rotational grazing.

At that time, strip cropping was part of a terrace system where every other strip was a hay field.

As farming practices changed through the generations, the Garbers found that by using minimum tillage, every other field did not need to be in hay.

Proper maintenance of terraces has been the key to long-term conservation on Spring Lawn Farm, according to Heistand. When properly taken care of, terraces only need to be plowed up every few years.

"It was not easy to take that first step in conservation," Heistand indicated. "Jay remembers getting flack from neighbors who said that he was making sweet potato hills when the terraces were first installed."

In 1986, the Garbers signed an agreement with the Chesapeake Bay Program. A waste management system was installed, including a manure holding tank and a small basin below the barnyard to collect any nutrient runoff. The outlet of the basin flows into a grassed filter strip, which helps keep nutrients out of the stream.

A catch basin with a sediment trap collects water from around the

buildings.

Altogether, Spring Lawn Farm has more than 24,000 feet of terraces, 1,700 feet of waterways, and 1,600 feet of diversions.

Rye is planted on most of the corn ground to cover it during the winter. A recent practice is the use of a three-tooth subsoiler to slit the soil about 14 inches deep to improve water infiltration. Heistand noted that none of the Garbers' terraces were destroyed as a result of last year's heavy rains.

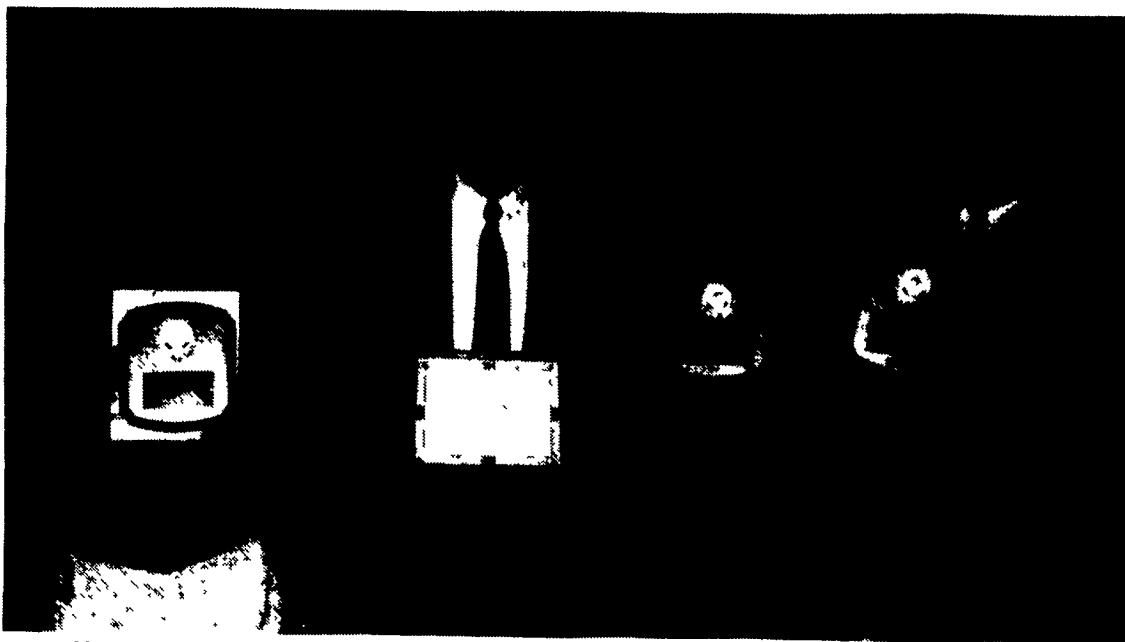
Nutrient management and water quality concerns occupy the management practices at the Garber Farm. Nitrogen is tracked as part of the nutrient management program. Accurate records are kept for all fields. Dave uses the Penn State quick soil nitrogen test. A nitrogen sidedress is added only to fields where it is needed.

Heistand noted that the Garbers believe that conservation ideas which are taught to young people "will be carried with them for the rest of their lives." This is how they have kept conservation on their farm for more than half a century.

The best management practices, or BMPs, represented here have been in operation for 40-50 years. "The lifespan of these BMPs will be unto several generations," said Heistand.

Also at the banquet, other individuals were honored for their dedication and service to conservation. Youth Conservation Service School awards were presented to Tim Appleby, son of Jim and Sandy Appleby, Elizabethtown; Dan Bard, Conestoga; Stephen Bowman, son of Mary and Ray Bowman, Mount Joy; Brian Boyer, son of Raymond and Diane Boyer, Mount Joy; and Steve Weber.

Warren Archibald, the Lancaster County conservation representative for the NRCS (formerly SCS), was recognized for his 22 years of service to the district. James Huber, former county com-



Youth Conservation School service awards went to, from left, Brian Boyer, represented by his father, Raymond; Carl Graybill, for his work with the school; Stephen Bowman; and Tim Appleby, represented by his father, Jim.



Honored at the conservation banquet Thursday night were, from left, Aaron Stauffer, represented by Elva Stauffer, for outstanding service; Warren Archibald, for service to the district through the NRCS; Jere Swarr, with the Goodyear Award; and Jim Huber and Sen. Noah Wenger, for service to conservation.

missioner, was honored for his work in support of the district.

At the banquet, Aaron Z Stauffer, Ephrata, was honored for making conservation a major part of his

life, and received a standing ovation.

The Goodyear Award for outstanding cooperatior recognition went to Jere Swarr, Manheim, the

outstanding cooperatior for 1994. Legislator of the year went to Sen. Noah Wenger, (R-36th Dis.) for his work in Chesapeake Bay stewardship and restoration efforts.

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