

WHAT IS THE LOSS

A quick way of measuring soil loss from a field is called the "Rill" method. In order to calculate soil loss using this procedure, five simple steps are involved. By following these steps, you can roughly determine the amount of soil being lost due to erosion.

Step 1: Measure or pace off a lineal distance of 42 or 84 feet across a slope.

Step 2: Measure in inches, the width and depth of each rill along the selected distance.

Step 3: Multiply each width and depth reading to obtain a product in square inches.

Step 4: Add all the products of the readings along the selected distance.

Step 5: If a distance of 42 feet was used, divide this sum by 3. If you used 84 feet, divide by 6. The result is in tons of soil loss per acre.

EXAMPLE

Width (in.) X Depth (in.) equals area in square inches.

4	6	24
2	3	6
3	5	15
3	3	9
3	6	18
5	6	30
		102

Using a selected distance of 42 feet, the soil loss in tons per acre is 102 divided by 3 gives a loss of 34.

The accompanying chart indicates some ordinary examples of soil loss in Southern Morrow County. Information is available from the Soil Conservation Service on other areas as well. There will be a further discussion on this soil loss equation at the annual meeting by Elwin Ross, SCS Area Engineer.



Measuring the width and depth in inches of each rill in a selected distance will give you estimated soil loss in tons per acre.

BERGSTROM NAMED

Roland Bergstrom, Ione wheat rancher was selected as Morrow County's Conservation man of the year.

Bergstrom's farm consists of 2,000 acres, about 1,600 in crop land. 800 acres are seeded in wheat and barley and 800 acres are in summer fallow. His farm also has 55 acres seeded to grass with numerous silt dams, diversion ditches and grass waterways.

He started his diversion ditches in 1951 and according to Bergstrom "I am still not finished with the project."

He was born on the site of his present ranch, purchased by his father in 1916. He attended grade school at Gooseberry and recalls there were only 8 children attending the school. Upon completion of elementary school he attended Ione High School.

He served with the United

States Navy for two years during World War II, and at the end of the war he attended Pacific University, Forest Grove.

While in college he met Donna Marcum and the two were married in 1951.

Returning to Ione the young couple finally purchased the ranch from the elder Bergstrom. They have four daughters, Carley, who has finished college, Shauna and Kay, students at Oregon State University and Lori, who will start her senior year at Ione High School.

He has always been eager to follow procedures set by the Soil Conservation office and does contour farming, especially contour seeding. He starts seeding early if possible, usually by the first of October, and sets July 20 as his harvest date. His four daughters help with the harvest.

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