

Panel to air implications of Section 208

The possibility of mandatory conservation in compliance with Section 208 of the Federal Clean Water Act and the implications it would hold for farmers will be the topic of a panel discussion at the SWCD Annual Meeting.

Participating in the discussion will be Mike Fletcher, executive assistant, State Soil and Water Conservation Commission; Ben Mouchet, Columbia Basin 208 coordinator and member of State Soil and Water Conservation Committee; and Dick McElligott, past president of State Soil and Water Conservation Association, presently serving on State Agriculture Advisory Subcommittee.

Moderating the panel will be Ken Turner, chairman, Morrow County 208 committee.

Farmers realize that stopping erosion is difficult, and complete control is impractical. To compel an industry to do what is economically unfeasible would be chaotic.

But where demonstrated good farming and conservation practices have decreased erosion, real pressure is now being applied to adopt these techniques as quickly as possible.

Neither the timetable or the degree of pressure has yet been determined. However, one thing that is clear is that each county is being asked to identify critical areas of concern and devise a plan of action.

Regulations, standards and ordinances may be part of the future. They may cause resistance from farmers and a defensive, non-cooperative attitude.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts and County Courts are the entities responsible for ensuring that local control is maintained. But these officials are caught in the middle and information and comment from farmers is both important and recommended.



Ken Turner



Ben Mouchet



Dick McElligott



Mike Fletcher

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