

CRP - Conservation Compliance

The Soil & Water Conservation District's No. 1 Priority This Year

Over 340,000 acres in Morrow County are classified as highly erodible land (HEL) and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation District is involved with programs that deal directly with these HEL.

The district is responsible for providing local input and coordinating with the Soil Conservation Service on the Conservation Reserve Program and Conservation Compliance. These programs are designed to take highly erodible cropland out of production and links soil conservation practices to USDA benefits. The end result is to increase soil productivity and improve wildlife habitat while decreasing soil and water erosion.

Morrow County farmers have put 106,000 highly erodible acres into the Conservation Reserve Program to date. The district approves the

plans and SCS provides the technical assistance and will certify the grass stands.

The remaining 238,000 acres of HEL must have a conservation plan to meet the guidelines of conserva-

tion compliance. The plan is a management program that results in reduced erosion.

Farmers with HEL will need to

**CRP Acres Seeded in Grass
Prevent Erosion While
Producing Excellent Wildlife
Habitat**

have a conservation plan completed by Jan. 1, 1990 or they will forfeit all USDA benefits. Those USDA programs affected are 1) wheat and feed grain payments 2) commodity loans 3) farm storage facility loans 4) CRP annual payments 5) storage payments 6) wool and mohair payments 7) crop insurance 8) FMHA loans.

The soil and water district sponsored a conservation compliance workshop this past winter. Directors assisted personnel from the SCS, ASCS, and Extension Service and presented a program to explain compliance. The workshop took the farmers through a step by step procedure to develop a plan. This included explaining how HEL was determined, special areas designated in the county, erosion and residue calculations and farming practices.

The district offered this information and technical assistance through SCS to help farmers develop a conservation plan to fit their individual needs. A farmer, however, may choose to seek outside help in the writing of his plan.

Each plan may consist of several of the following items: conservation cropping sequence, conservation tillage, new or existing terraces, conservation cover, CRP or other practices that reduce the erosion to an approved level.

The farmer has until 1995 to implement his conservation plan. The district approves each plan and it is certified by SCS and signed by the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service.



MSWCD director Jim Swanson with farmer George Griffin and SCS Bob Adelman at the Conservation Workshop held this winter.

75% of cropland in Morrow County is classified 'Highly Erodible Land'.

C.R.P. acres seeded in grass prevent erosion while producing excellent wildlife habitat.

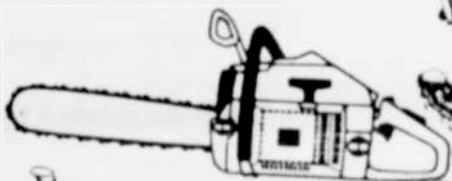


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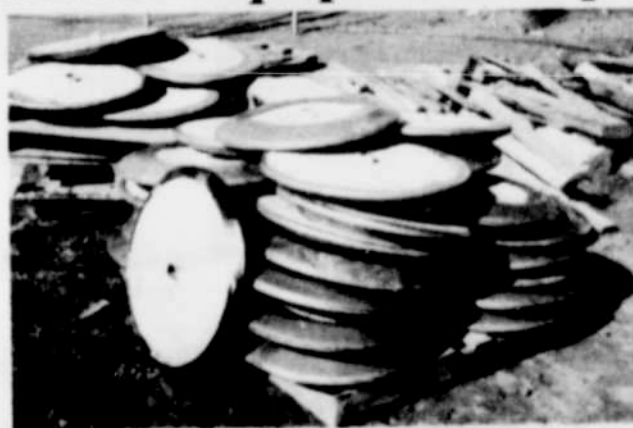
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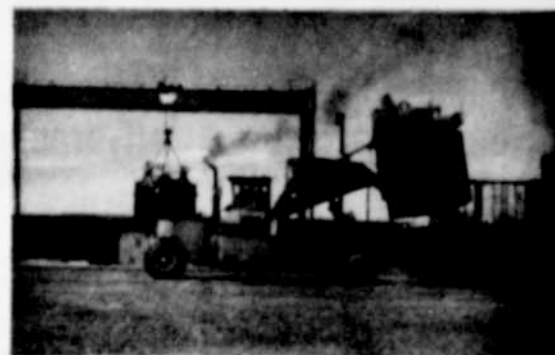
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