

Siskiyou Soil Conservation District Publishes 1958 Report Of Achievement

ETNA-SISKIYOU SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT Report of Achievement For the Year 1958

Closing our books for the year we are able to look back with a good deal of pride in achievement. Individual farmers and farmer groups have been doing a good job of putting sound soil and water conservation practices on the ground. We still have a long way to go in making every acre produce according to its capability. It will not be easy. A lot of time and effort will have to be spent.

In our past two reports we have emphasized the value of farmer groups working together to repair the banks of the Scott River. Three more groups got together in 1958. Using plans drawn up by Soil Conservation Service technicians and rental equipment owned by the Soil Conservation District they started work on about 12 miles of the river. The complete

job will take about four years.

Observation has taught us that the best is none too good in material to protect the river banks. Trees, cable and piling have not been strong enough. All jetties and riprap are being built of large rock. We feel that rock will stay in place long enough for grass, trees and willows to form a dense cover.

The Scott Valley Irrigation Group has had trouble for years holding its irrigation diversion which extends across the Scott River at Young's Point. Each time the diversion washed out the river channel became wider. This year the group decided to build to stay. Soil Conservation Service engineers designed a structure of piling, sheet piling, cable and rock. It took about six weeks to build. The original structure was about eighty feet long. The new one is over 300 feet long. It will handle about 10,000 second feet of water.

Each year a lot of time is spent with our group projects. It would seem that there could be no time for our technicians to spend with individuals on their land. The reason that we have been able to get the accomplishment listed below is the fact that our district members are cooperating members. They are always ready to drive stakes, chain, pack survey rods and use their mechanical equipment. They make dates well ahead and keep them.

On 27 ranches 838 acres were worked into a program of crop rotation. Crop rotation ranks as one of the most important cultural practices for maintaining soil fertility and structure. Twenty-nine ranchers utilized 1,600 acres of crop residue. Seven places de-

ferred 4,250 acres of rangeland. Twenty-three seeded 757 acres to improved grass and legume mixtures for hay and pasture.

Nine farmers built contour irrigation systems on 243 acres. Nine built border checks on 263 acres. Two sprinkler systems were installed on 100 acres. Open drains were dug on four places to drain 180 acres and 14.25 miles of permanent irrigation ditches were made on eleven farms.

There were 570 acres of land leveled, four irrigation diversions built, 3,520 feet of permanent pipe laid for irrigation, 625 feet of tile to drain 21 acres and two ponds were built for livestock water.

On the Scott River and its tributaries 12 owners did a total of 24,725 feet of channel improvement work. Sixteen did 37,069 feet of bank protection work. These totals do not count that done by the River Groups.

There is no way of telling how many landowners and tenants came to the office or stopped us on the street to get information and advice on erosion control, irrigation, fertilizers, cropping, woodland and range, etc. Twenty new district members were signed up. Three farm plans were written. A great number of farm plans will be written during 1959 because the members want them.

1958 has been a good year for our Soil Conservation District. We are looking forward to even a better year in 1959. The more we get done toward stabilizing the Scott River and its tributaries, the more we are able to work toward putting sound soil and water conservation practices on the adjacent land.

In any panoramic view of Soil

and Water Conservation today, the first impression of an uninformed observer might be that too few people are aware of the importance and growing necessity of keeping from loss or injury our natural resources that at one time were believed to be inexhaustible.

This unawareness on the part of the general public is giving way every day to new conceptions, by people in all walks of life, that any program that acts in the public interest is vital also to the individual and his private interests. Hardly an American today is out of reach of someone, or some group, who would like nothing better than to have him do some thinking on a subject that is becoming of greater concern to us all as the spread between the productive units of land and units of population, in this great land of ours, grow narrower year by year. Yes, even day by day. The mushrooming of our population, particularly on the West Coast, but in a lesser degree all over the country, and the desire of those people to get away from the crowding in our centers of population, is increasing the amount of land that is going out of agricultural production. This spreading of the urban population, together with the increasing and decentralizing of industries and utilities, and the resultant need for more and bigger highways and secondary roads, is taking what amounts to thousands of farms, out of production annually.

The very affluence, the varied and vast profuseness of the agricultural products today is evident in the sheer quantity that makes up our so-called surpluses should not blind us to the fact that they

are due in recent years to the technical excellence of the modern farmer's methods of production and the vast strides made possible by research, in the improving and utilization of both the plants and animals that serve the human race. Today, one acre can be made to produce that which formerly took several acres, and one man, with modern methods and machinery, can produce that which formerly took several men, so that the quantity, and often quality, of products in America has never been so high as it is right now. These are facts, but let us not allow them to obscure the further fact that conservation is a crying national need that calls for the help of the whole public, and a better informed public. We have the assets, but they are not so vast as they once were, and every possible loss by erosion, destruction or abuse by nature, or by man's carelessness, ignorance or greed, must be stopped if our nation is to remain strong, and our standard of living stay as it is today.

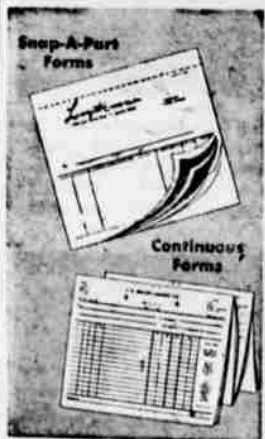
Americans have proved before that they are willing to help the problems of their society by intelligent, courageous action when they are convinced that the problem is real and needs solving. Therefore, let all of us who see the urgency and the necessity for conservation, demonstrate by action and word, the responsibility of the individual and society, not only to themselves but to the generations yet unborn.

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Fertilization Studies At Berkeley Aid Spud Grower

BERKELEY—The potato plant itself may call the tune on fertilization with potash and other plant nutrients as the result of a three-year research project under way at the University of California, Berkeley.

Ken Baggett, Tulare farm adviser, says that the success in the experiments would provide potato growers with a system of plant analysis for diagnosing a shortage of potash—known to be one

of the factors in the internal black spot problem that's troubling growers in California and elsewhere.

With a plant analysis system, the plant itself could be used as a gauge for applying correct amounts of potash and other chemical fertilizers on potato croplands.

Aided by a yearly grant of \$3,000 from the American Potash Institute, the research will be conducted on the Berkeley campus by Plant Physiologist Albert Ulrich, who previously developed a successful plant analysis system for sugar beets and is currently engaged in a similar project with beans.

"We plan to make a thorough study of the potato plant growing

under controlled conditions," Ulrich says.

"By varying the amounts of chemicals in nutrient solutions and comparing deficient with well-supplied plants, we hope to determine accurately the effects of potash deficiency, acidity, and other factors on the occurrence of internal black spot."

The full program of plant analysis, already in use on sugar beets, includes the collection of certain leaf and stem parts by the grower, analysis of these tissues in a commercial laboratory, and interpretation of the results to show which nutrients the plants are lacking.

The potato nutrition research,

besides supplying information for growers and other crop specialists, is planned to provide training and support for a graduate student studying in the field of plant nutrition.

The project at Berkeley is part of a large-scale research effort on the black spot problem now underway on three campuses of the university and in numerous field locations.

University scientists are looking into climatic influences, soil differences, irrigation practices, handling methods, plant diseases, and other factors in an effort to discover the exact causes and prescribe effective cures for the quality reducing problem.

Lady Barbers Ply Trade

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI)—Giving men a good trimming is all in a day's work for three women here. They're lady barbers.

Jewell Bennett, Doris Billingsley and Mary Jackson cut only men's hair. They figure that someday the male barber may become extinct.

The women operate in the Maxwell House Barber Shop where Miss Bennett is the boss. She took over when the former owner set up another shop for men, with men barbers.

"My daddy thought I was crazy," Miss Bennett said. She was a manicurist in an all-male shop when she decided to become a barber about two and a half years ago.

"We handle customers just the way men do," Miss Bennett said. "We talk about anything they feel like talking about, and we give them better haircuts than men do. We're not in such a rush to finish a job, and it shows in the work we do."

Miss Bennett likes hunting and fishing, so conversation is easy.

"We don't worry too much about politics and serious things," she added. "We think men like a change from it all, too."

The three prefer to work on men than women because "women are a lot more vain than men."

OBEYING PAYS

SALAMANCA, N.Y. (UPI)—Five motorists here were overjoyed when a police car stopped them and gave them tickets. The tickets were for "safe driving" and worth five dollars when turned in at the police station.



THE TOOLS OF THE TRADE for a rockhound are pictured here. The stone at the top left is a rough agate. As the process goes on we see the stone cut in half, slabbed, the preform cut and finally polished. The cigaret-like object at the upper right is a dope stick used in polishing the preform. The miner's hammer is the common field tool for rockhounds and gem collectors. In the center of the picture are shown a few of the articles of jewelry turned out by Clarence and Frieda Cornett to whom this collection belongs.