



Soil Is The Forgiveness Of Nature, Her Constant Benediction

By GENE COX
SCS

"Grass is the forgiveness of nature—her constant benediction. It yields no fruit in earth or air, and yet, should its harvest fail for a single year, famine would depopulate the world." From "Tribute to

Grass" by John J. Ingalls, a Kansas senator who died in 1900.

Many of the most beautiful scenes on the face of the earth bear out these words, as illustrated by the accompanying picture of the upper Wood River Valley with the Cascades in the

background.

Grass is also the world's best soil builder. The great, fertile bread basket of the central United States is based on prairie soils developed under grass. The man who does a good job of managing grass is also doing a good job of

soil conservation.

The farmer or rancher who wants to rebuild a soil worn out by cultivation can do it best and for the least expense with grass. Many improved varieties of grasses have been developed by state and federal nurseries so that

there is now a grass for all types of soils and climates. Oregon east of the Cascades is served in this respect by the Soil Conservation Service Plant Materials Center at Pullman, Washington. Seed of many of these grasses is now available commercially. Others are still in the trial stage. Soil Conservation District cooperators who would like to plant field trials of new varieties can sometimes get seed for this purpose through their Soil Conservation District. Picture taken by Gene Gross, SCS.

Soil Is Natural Resource Most Valuable To Any Area

By JOHN TRIBE

Conservation of the basic soil resource becomes more than a matter of individual interest. It becomes a matter of national interest, necessary to the survival of its people. Soils reflect clearly the effect of rock, climate and vegetation.

Depletion of our natural resources is common knowledge. Soil depletion in the Mediterranean countries with the resulting death of flourishing cities and civilizations is well known. Proper use of land in Klamath County will help to avert this "unpardonable sin" of land use. Soil is a natural resource more precious than gold, oil or diamonds. Soil is the basis of a nation's wealth. An inventory of the soil will help in the best use of the land. Thus, we have a soil survey program in Klamath County.

Soils are laid down in sequences in a fairly orderly fashion. The different land forms of the county have their own specific types of soils i.e. soils of the lowlands are much different than soils of the uplands, hills and terraces. The soil scientist recognizes the land form he is working in, instinctively knows the range of soils he expects to find and starts methodically looking for them. He does this by boring test holes with a soil auger or sometimes with only a spade. Rock outcrops, road cuts, and irrigation ditches all hold clues to the soil development of an area. That is why the farmers of Klamath County may see a man scrambling among the rocks of a cliff, pecking away with a rock hammer, or again, he may be seen scratching away at a ditch bank or road cut. He is learning the story of how the soils of the area were laid down. Ir-

rigation ditches also yield many important artifacts such as the ceremonial stone in the Mdoc Point area and the prehistoric animal bones in the Merrill-Malin area.

The specific area that is to be checked by the soil scientist is investigated for many things.

These include its depth, color, texture, structure, consistency, vegetation, parent material, relief, drainage, permeability, acidity, erosion, root distribution and other pertinent data that may seem relevant to the survey program. During the course of the survey, man made erosion, deteriorating soil

structure and a great quantity of man made alkaline soils are evident. These are caused by poor rotations, machinery compaction and many times, over irrigation. These areas are shown on the map so that the technician and farmer can alleviate the problem.

By checking the efficiency of each irrigation system, many alkaline spots would be greatly reduced. Each farmer should be doubly sure he is not over irrigating. Soils will take water at a certain rate, no faster. Plants need air and water the same as humans and over irrigation tends to restrict soil air and water movement in the soil. Over irrigation also contributes to poor structure, increasing chances of the rise in alkaline conditions in an otherwise acid to neutral area. Soil depleting crops tend to create poor structure which slows down air and water movement. Soil surveys help the farmer and the technician to treat each acre to its best use.

The soil survey information is recorded on the aerial photographs as map symbols, surrounded by boundary lines separating the different soils. These map symbols later are interpreted for the farmer by the work unit conservationist. The work unit conservationist cooperates with the farmer and together they try to work out a solution to the farmer's problems.

To date, about 53 different soils have been found in Klamath County. These soils are further subdivided into phases, because of wetness, underlying materials, textures, exposures and vegetation differences. There are 430 phases of these 53 soils that have been mapped to date, with about one half of the county surveyed.

Surveys are valuable for the for-

Livestock, Poultry Just As Much A Resource To Nation As Material Item

By RAY O. PETERSEN

Conservation to most people means such natural resources as soil, timber, or wildlife. There are other resources that are taken for granted that are just as important to us and like other resources must be conserved and improved or the nation will suffer.

One of these resources is livestock, another is poultry. Although there are adequate supplies of most meats and milk at this time, there are a number of forces at work constantly to cut down or impair the production of animals.

It would be very possible for one of these destructive forces to get such a hold that there would be an extreme shortage of steaks, chops, or roasts. Meats are not only one of our favorite foods but they are necessary to our health.

Diseases and parasites are becoming more prevalent and difficult to control as we concentrate more livestock and poultry on a smaller area. We are constantly needing more meat as our population increases and our nutritional standards are raised. Since our land area available for livestock and poultry decreases, more must

be produced on smaller areas.

There are many diseases in the world that could reduce livestock numbers very rapidly if a constant fight were not waged against them. Foot and mouth disease, brucellosis, cholera, just to mention a few, require constant watching by producers, veterinarians, and governmental agencies who are responsible for preventing the introduction and spread of such diseases.

Just preventing disease and parasites from interfering with the production of livestock would not provide the meat a growing nation needs. Farmers and ranchers must employ the best management practices known to continue to improve efficiency and volume production to satisfy our increasing needs for meat and milk.

Livestock raising is very compatible with the conservation of soil, and other resources. Livestock needs large supplies of pasture and hay. When land is properly covered with such plants, livestock have adequate feed and the soil is protected against erosion and incidentally provides feed and shelter for wildlife.

Matter of FACT



The state of Idaho did not have permanent settlers until the gold rush which started in 1860, when Capt. E. D. Pierce discovered gold in Oro Fino Creek, in northern Idaho. Then gold seekers rushed in from all directions. From California came the men who had failed to get rich in the California gold fields. Citizens from Oregon and from the Puget Sound region also flocked in.

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ester, range conservationists, highway department as well as the farmers. When the farmers of Klamath County see a man wandering around their fields with an auger and a map, he is not lost but is only tracing out the soil pattern on their farms. If we could see our farms and ourselves in 10 years, what kind of farms and people would we see? It's worth pondering.