Agricultural Savings Program Offers Aids To Farmers Of Nation

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ASC

The soil and water resources of the farm and ranch lands of our nation must be protected and conserved. This is essential in order that farms and ranches will continue to have the capacity to produce sufficient food and other raw materials to meet the future needs of the nation.

All the people of this nation, not the farmers and ranchers alone, have a stake in, and a part of the responsibility for protecting and conserving, our farm and ranch lands. Recognizing this, the Congress appropriates funds to share with farmers and ranchers the cost of carrying out needed soil and water conservation measures. The Agricultural Conservation Program is a means of making this Federal cost-sharing available to farmers and ranchers.

Locally, this program is administered by the Klamath County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, with office in the Tower Theater Building.

Conservation practices with enduring benefits that are offered to farmers and ranchers in Klamath County are many and varied. They include:

A—Practices primarily for establishment of permanent protective cover. (1) Initial establishment of a permanent cover of perennial legumes or perennial grasses, or mixtures of legumes and perennial grasses, for soil protection or as a needed land use adjustment. (2) Establishment of additional acreage of perennial or biennial legumes or perennial grasses, or mixtures of legumes and perennial grasses in crop rotation to retard erosion and to improve soil structure, permeability, or water holding capacity. (3) Initial establishment of a stand of trees or shrubs on farmland for purposes other than prevention of wind or water erosion. (4) Initial establishment of a stand of trees or shrubs on farmland to prevent wind or water erosion.

B—Practices primarily for improvement and protection of established vegetative cover. (1) Improvement of vegetative cover on rangeland by artificial reseeding for soil protection. (2) Controlling competitive shrubs to permit growth of adequate, desirable, vegetative cover for soil protection on range or pasture land. (3) Constructing wells for livestock water as a means of protecting vegetative cover. (4) Developing springs or seeps for livestock water as a means of protecting vegetative cover or to make practicable the utilization of land for vegetative cover. (5) Constructing or sealing dams, pits, or ponds for livestock water as a means of protecting vegetative cover, or to make practicable the utilization of land for vegetative cover. (6) Construction of permanent cross fences or drift fences as a means of protecting vegetative cover, or to make practicable the utilization of land for vegetative cover. (7) Improvement of a stand of forest trees on farmland.

C—Practices primarily for the conservation and disposal of water. (1) Initial establishment of permanent vegetation as protection against erosion. (2) Constructing diversion terraces, ditches, or dikes to intercept run-off and divert excess water to protected outlets. (3) Constructing erosion control, detention, or sediment retention dams, pits or ponds to prevent or heal gullying or to retard or reduce run-off of water. (4) Constructing channel lining, chutes, drop spillways, pipe drops, drop inlets, or similar structures for the protection of outlets and water channels that dispose of excess water. (5) Streambank or shore protection, channel clearance, enlargement or realignment, or construction of floodways, levees, or dikes, to prevent erosion or flood damage to farmland. (6) Constructing permanent open drainage systems to dispose of excess water. (7) Installing underground drainage systems to dispose of excess water. (8) Reorganizing existing irrigation systems to conserve water and prevent erosion. (9) Leveling land for more efficient use of irrigation water and to prevent erosion. (10) Constructing or lining dams, pits, or ponds for irrigation water. (11) Lining irrigation ditches to prevent erosion and loss of water by seepage. (12) Constructing spreader ditches or dikes to divert and spread water to prevent erosion, to permit beneficial use of run-off, or to replenish ground water supply.

D—Practices primarily for establishing temporary, protective vegetative cover. (1) Establishment of winter annual legumes of small grains in the fall of the year for winter protection from erosion.

E — Practices to meet special county conservation needs. (1) Initial control of perennial noxious weeds as a necessary step in soil or water conservation. (2) Deep subsoiling to a depth which will effectively shatter the hardpan to dispose of excess water.

In 1958, Federal cost-shares paid to farmers and ranchers in Klamath County amounted to $121,000. The government will pay only up to 50 per cent of the cost of the practice, which indicates that local farmers and ranchers probably spent over $250,000 to earn these cost-shares. An individual may not receive over $1,200 in any year, which indicates that a large number of farmers are participating in the Agricultural Conservation Program in Klamath County.

A few examples to indicate how much work was done in 1958: 2,504 acres were leveled; 1,089 acres were subsoiled; 5,239 acres were benefited by reorganizing irrigation systems; 2,312 acres were benefited by construction of open drains; 26,820 linear feet of diversions terraces were constructed; and 1,920 acres were seeded to grasses and legumes.

Another conservation program administered through the local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee office is the Soil Bank Conservation Reserve program.

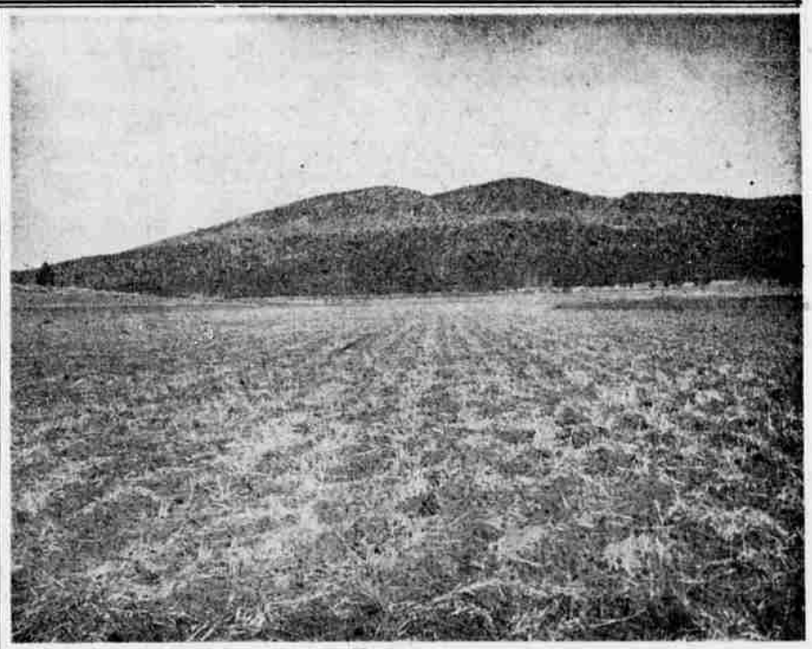
The Soil Bank Act of 1956 states that it is in the interest of the general welfare that the soil and water resources of the nation be not wasted and depleted in the production of burdensome agricultural surpluses. The act declares that it is the policy of the Congress to protect and increase farm income, to protect the national soil, water, forest, and wildlife resources from waste and depletion, to avoid the burdens of excessive supplies of agricultural commodities, and to provide for an adequate, balanced, and orderly flow of agricultural commodities in interstate and foreign commerce. The act authorizes assistance to farmers to divert part of their cropland from the production of excessive supplies of agricultural commodities and to carry out a program of soil, water, forest, and wildlife conservation.

The specific objective of the conservation reserve program is to assist farmers, to divert some of the land currently being used for the production of agricultural commodities into specific conservation uses.

The Soil Bank contract is an agreement between the producer and the government, that he will retire cropland from production for a period of five to 10 years, and receive annual payments. In Klamath County, the regular annual payment rate per acre is $12. This may vary up or down slightly, dependent upon soil productivity, land values, etc. This land is then put into a permanent conservation use, such as grass, grass and legumes, trees, wildlife cover and habitat, and fish ponds. Nothing can be harvested or grazed from the area for the life of the contract.

At the present time in Klamath County, there are 6,540 acres in the Soil Bank, and these producers are receiving $71,603 per year in annual payments. Practically all this land is being seeded to grass, or a grass-legume mixture.

The Agricultural Conservation Program and the Soil Bank Program, administered by the Klamath County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, have contributed much toward increased conservation of resources in Klamath County.



THIS FIELD ON THE RICHARD SPIELMAN FARM on the south side of Poe Valley has been tilled but is still "right side up". The field had a heavy stubble from last year's crop. It was worked twice with a spike tooth machine, about 16 inches deep. This mixed part of the stubble with top soil but left enough on top to prevent blowing or washing over the winter. Fields worked like this will absorb all of a normal winter's rain and snow and prevent run-off. Most soils in the Klamath Basin are low in organic matter. Clean farming and burning stubble soon "burn out" organic matter and leave the soil hard and lifeless. For this reason as well as erosion control it is important to keep all the stubble in and on the top soil. — Photo by SCS

Moose Census Taken From Air Now

TORONTO, Ont. (UPI) — Conservation officers are counting noses—moose noses—in the bush country of Ontario.

Each nose represents $475 to the Canadian economy as well as a lot of meat and sport for the successful hunter.

The Ontario Department of Lands and Forests said hunters spend an estimated three million dollars a year on their moose hunting.

It is also estimated that the total value of this cash crop is 38 million dollars. Preliminary reports figure that Ontario's total moose population is about 80,000.

The province received $364,883 alone from the sale of moose hunting licenses to about 22,000 sportsmen last year. Indirectly, it also benefits from such items as money spent on guides, outfitters, ammunition, guns, charter air service, food supplies, refreshments, gasoline, tolls and so on.

In Ontario, therefore, moose hunting is big business. The moose population itself is larger than ever before and growing all the time.

That's why the province wants to know how many moose are actually roaming Ontario. It is currently using 190 pilots and planes of the Air Service Branch to count moose and collect valuable data to aid in setting up hunting regulations, bag limits and restricted areas.

The pilots use a complex system of plotting certain areas of the moose range. They keep records on the number of big beasts spotted on closely regulated flights.

They also note the number of bulls, cows and calves in an area, to determine the number of animals per square mile in sample areas.

A typical survey would have an aircraft scan a 25-square-mile sample plot. One, for example, would be near a heavily hunted section. Pilot-observers and conservation officers know their territory as well as most city dwellers know their own neighborhoods.

There is no guess work. The pilot and two observers report only moose they actually see. A fourth man marks each sighted animal on a master map in each aircraft.

In many areas there is dense forest growth and it is impossible to count all the moose in the area but the final count on any survey is regarded as the absolute minimum.

The moose census late each winter is taken from as far north as the Lindsay area to the 11th Base Line or the edge of the Hinterland, and from Quebec to the Manitoba boundaries.

FAMILY AFFAIR

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI)—Willie B Rand Jr., 28, was serving three years probation for stealing his father's $2,500 life savings when Secret Service agents arrested him for forging and cashing a $55 treasury check made out to his brother Tommy.

NEW LOOK

BUFFALO, N.Y. (UPI)—W. J. Milligan of Orchard Park caused quite a stir in the Erie County auto bureau when he bought 1959 registration plates for his cars—a 1909 Sears motorbuggy and a 1913 Model-T Ford.