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Farm Review and Forecast



Soil Conservation News

98 Haywood Farmers Joined Soil Program During 1955

By ROY E. BECK
Soil Conservation Specialist

Haywood County Soil Conservation District Supervisors, with the cooperation of farmers and the aid of SCS technicians, other agencies and groups got conservation farming off to a good start in this newly organized Soil Conservation District. Over 100 farmers started bringing into reality the science of using and treating land according to its capabilities for protection and improvement.

Yes, conservation measures helped many conservation farmers protect and improve their land and water resources, thereby increasing crop yields and farm income. Erosion under control on land that was washing away is an accomplishment for any farmer.

Mark Scott, with a farm at the head of Wilson Cove in Beaverdam community, reports such results from one year of conservation farming. Mark reports: "Washing controlled by contour strip-cropping in just one year." Mr. Scott started a three-year contour-strip grass-based rotation last year, while his neighbors literally watched and waited.

This spring, Mr. Scott says: "I'll strip-crop the rest of the hill just as soon as I get the big rocks shoveled off by a bulldozer."

This system for controlling erosion didn't just happen. Mr. Scott asked for help on his farming operations from agricultural agencies, among them his Soil Conservation District. The various kinds of land on his farm were mapped according to their capabilities. The Soil Conservation Service technician helped him work out a complete soil and water conservation plan to fit each acre.

Some of the main features of the plan were: Contour strip-cropping, pasture improvement, tile drainage, a grass meadow waterway and tree planting in cut-over woodland. The rotation being used is corn, followed by small grain, a red clover grass mixture seeded in the small grain and a year of clover-grass meadow. These conservation achievements just didn't happen, but every one was planned. "Every plan does not result in success, but every success is the result of plans," is the statement of Henry Vann, well known conservation farmer, banker and business man of Clinton, N. C.

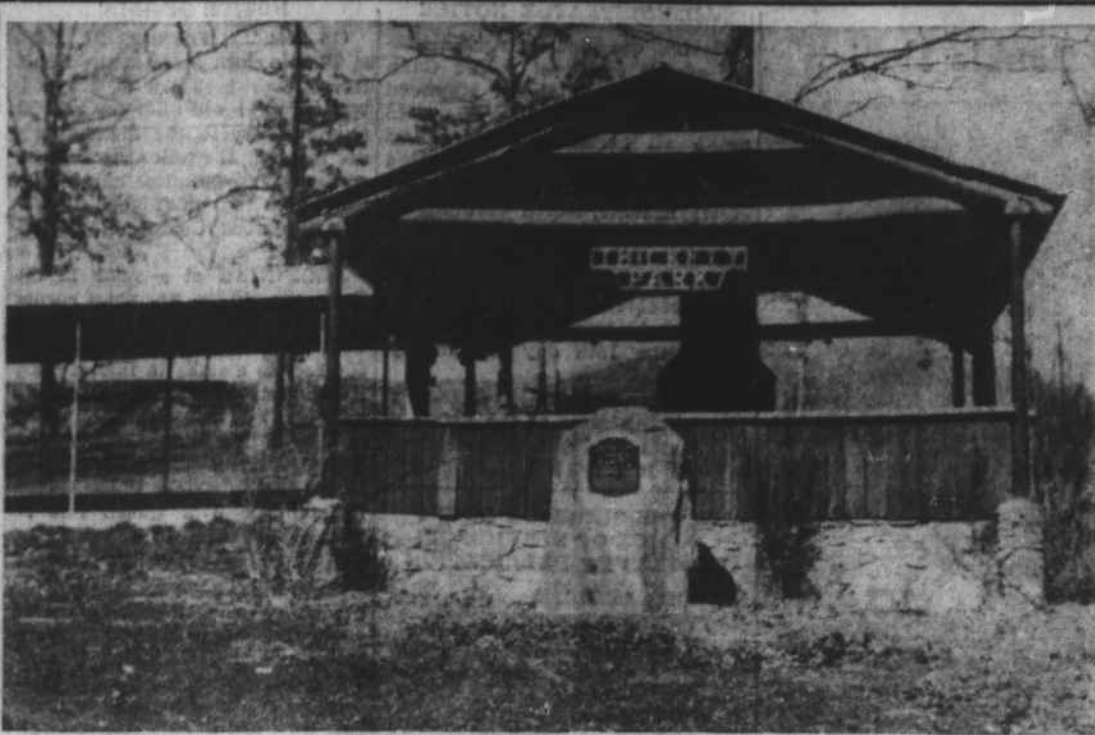
Planning. Ninety-eight farmers joined with the more than 50,000 other North Carolina farmers who are cooperating with and receiving technical assistance from their local Soil Conservation Districts; help in planning and applying conservation measures to their lands. Complete basic soil and water conservation plans providing for the proper use and treatment of all land were made on 80 farms in 1955, bringing the total acreage on which farmers have made basic conservation farming plans to 12,000 acres.

ACP ASSISTANCE. District Supervisors consulted with the Haywood County ASC Committee in developing the Agricultural Conservation Program. Twenty-one farmers received technical help on permanent conservation measures. Cost-sharing helped Haywood County farmers:

1. Establish 1200 acres of perennial grass and legume sods on land subject to erosion.
2. Lime 200 acres of land to be seeded in a year or two.
3. Improve 12,000 acres of old pasture and meadow.
4. Seed 2,600 acres of cover crops.
5. Establish 500 acres of year-round cover.
6. Apply lime and fertilizer as a shot in the arm to drought-damaged pastures.
7. Install 5,000 feet of field drain tile.

CONSERVING SOIL AND WATER. Land use adjustments and the application of conservation practices that tend to conserve soil and water, moved ahead in 1955. More than 1,100 acres of land had conservation crop rotations established on them by cooperating farmers. One hundred and seventy-three acres of this was in contour strip cropping, on sloping land where erosion is a major problem. District cooperators seeded cover crops on nearly 400 acres of cropland last fall. Most of these cover crops will furnish some grazing, with the remaining top growth and all roots turned back to the land for improved fertility, tilth and water-holding capacity.

CRITICAL AREA PLANTING. Conservation farmers cooperat-



ONLY COMMUNITY PARK in Haywood County is this one opened by the Thickety CDP in 1953. The park includes the pavilion shown, open fireplace and new dual-purpose picnic tables, new

well, and softball diamond. The Thickety CDP meets at the park in the summertime and at community churches during the winter. (County agent's photo by Tippet)

Dr. Shaw Cites Rapid Growth Of Farm Research

The rapid rise of agricultural research and development since the turn of the century was outlined last week by Dr. Luther Shaw, in charge of burley tobacco research at the Mountain Experiment Station, in a speech before the Waynesville Kiwanis Club.

Dr. Shaw said that agricultural research in the U. S., as we know it today, can be divided into two periods: From 1800 until 1900, and from 1900 to the present.

He told the Kiwanians that the first period was characterized by a group of scientists who were individualists and, for the most part, were self-educated, highly intellectual oddities. In the earlier stages, their physical facilities, were extremely crude and limited and their financial support was inadequate, he added.

Among developments in this early period, he said, were: (1) fundamental understanding of anatomy, (2) fundamental understanding of animal and plant pathology, particularly as related to nutrition, (3) discovery and establishment of the parasitic concept of diseases, (4) development of the fundamental concept of genetics, and (5) establishment of the United States Department of Agriculture and the State Land Grant College.

Dr. Shaw asserted that the period from 1900 to the present has been marked by a tremendous expansion in all phases of all U. S. agricultural programs, especially following World War I and the subsequent depression.

He added that progress made in agricultural research has been "phenomenal and in some fields the farmer is lagging in acceptance of this progress."

Dr. Shaw attributed these achievements to increased knowledge in all fields of agriculture, improvements in educational facilities, and greater financial support for agriculture research.

Among recent contributions made by agricultural research the doctor pointed out, are:

Increasing the yield of burley



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Social Security Extended To Self-Employed Farmers

(EDITOR'S NOTE—This article, completing a series describing the provisions of the Federal Income and Social Security tax laws as they affect farm people, was prepared by Charles R. Pugh, W. L. Turner, and C. W. Williams, extension farm management specialists, N. C. State College.)

Amendments to the Social Security law by the 1954 Congress bring coverage to self-employed farmers for the first time starting with the taxable year 1955, and extend coverage to many additional farm employees. Social Security is a federal sponsored program offering insurance to workers and their dependents against complete loss of income due either to the death or retirement of the worker. Payments or benefits are generally based upon the period of service and taxable income during the service period.

Self-employment taxes for Social Security purposes and Federal income taxes are related to the extent that both are collected by the Internal Revenue Service at the same time. Also the same accounting methods and records must serve as the basis of the two types of taxes. Self-employment taxes differ from federal income taxes in that they go into the Old-Age and Survivor's Insurance Fund from which Social Security benefits are paid rather than into the general funds of the U. S. Treasury.

Some self-employed farmers may owe no income tax due to the size of deductions and personal exemptions but still must complete Schedule F, Form 1040 to determine earnings from self-employment for Social Security tax purposes. Schedule F is arranged so that the computation of self-employment tax from farming will follow as the form is filled in.

In calculating self-employment earnings from farming, the individual farmer may have to make some adjustments in the figure upon which federal income taxes are based. The exclusions in determining net earnings from self-employment include any income and expenses associated with (1) rentals in the form of crop shares, which are considered as an investment return to the landlord rather than self-employment income; (2) gains or losses from the sale of capital assets and depreciable property

by 300 pounds per acre by priming, representing an additional \$1,500,000 income earned by North Carolina burley farmers. By comparison, the cost of research for the Burley Belt as a whole probably did not exceed \$100,000.

Increasing the yield of corn, through the use of genetics (especially in the development of hybrid varieties) and nutrition from 13 bushels per acre prior to 1900 to 35 bushels at present. This increase represented an additional total of 20,550,000 bushels grown by North Carolina farmers in 1952.

Development of varieties of burley tobacco resistant to wild-fire and black shank diseases.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

QUESTION: What size poultry flocks can one person take care of efficiently?

ANSWER: Some people are doing an excellent job with 1,000 hens in three hours work per day. One man or family can handle 3,000 laying hens in eight or nine hours if he doesn't have to stop 20 times a day to sell his eggs or deliver them door to door.

QUESTION: Can pruning take the place of fruit thinning?

ANSWER: No. Pruning can reduce the number of fruit on the tree, but it cannot replace thinning if you have a heavy bloom. All that pruning does is reduce buds. It doesn't eliminate the necessity of thinning. This is particularly true if you have an adequate soil management and fertility program.

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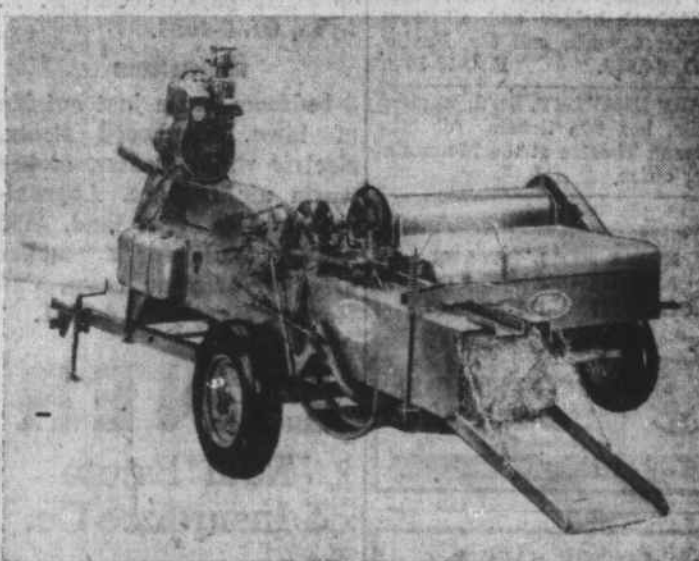
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EVERYTHING FOR THE GARDEN

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