

Erosion May Cause Farming Pitfalls

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Raeford, N.C.

7B

By Donnie Harris
District Conservationist

Many farmers and landowners in Hoke County may not be aware of the effect of continuous soil erosion, whether by wind or rain, on their cropland. They may not realize that with the continuous loss of this valuable layer of topsoil, their potential crop production is being decreased; because as this soil is being eroded off the land, valuable plant nutrients and fertilizer are also being lost.

What happens to the soil that erodes off these fields? These soil particles will be deposited in road ditches, field ditches, along field edges next to woods, in farm ponds and stream channels. As the field ditches fill with sediment, the farmers' crop profit decreases and maintenance cost increases.

These field ditches will have to be cleaned out or reditched for proper surface, and subsurface drainage. Soil deposited along the edge of fields and woods develop a bank and prevent surface water from draining off the field causing wetness problems.

Pollution may occur in farm ponds and stream channels from agriculture chemicals that erode from the fields and also fill the pond or stream channel with sediment.

We can greatly reduce the force of wind or water erosion and protect our natural resources by installing needed conservation practices on cropland, pasture, woodland or urban sites.

Many farmers and landowners realize the importance of maintaining good topsoil on their fields in

order to increase or maintain good crop production; but with the increase in inflation and the reduction in farm prices they are not able to afford the total cost of installing needed conservation practices on their land. These soils are left to face the consequence of continuous erosion and stream channels being polluted year after year from the washing of soil and chemicals off the land.

There is some financial assistance available through the ASCS office for applying needed conservation practices on fields where the farmer or landowner is concerned about soil erosion.

Conservation practices needed will be determined by the Soil Conservation Service with assistance from the landowner or farmer.

Before any work is done in

which the landowner expects cost-sharing, the individual must apply for cost-sharing assistance at the ASCS office first and not begin work on the practice before the application is approved. After completion of the practice, a final check on the work must be made by the Soil Conservation Service and the work must meet design specifications. Once the work is completed and approved, the individual will be able to receive cost-sharing for the practice.

The ASCS County Committee determines applicants eligibility and amount of cost-sharing for each practice. The ASCS office is now taking applications through February 24 for individuals interested in converting highly eroded soils to grass or trees.



Erosion can ruin profit
This severe soil erosion is an example of how erosion can turn a farmer's profits into losses.

Soil Agency Will Sponsor School Contest

By Donnie Harris
District Conservationist

The Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District is again sponsoring the Poster and Essay Contest for local fourth, fifth, and sixth graders.

Students from Turlington, McLauchlin, Scurlock, West Hoke and South Hoke elementary schools are participating.

There will be a first, second, and third place winner from each grade, and a first and second honorable mention from each participating school.

Everyone who enters will receive a Certificate of Participation.

Each first place winner from the three grades along with the first place Essay winner will be entered into our Area Contests.

The Area winners will then be entered into the State competition.

The District is also selling white pine seedlings. Individuals that would like to purchase some of these seedlings should call or stop by our office. Our phone number is 875-8685 and we are located in the post office building on Elwood Avenue, Room 202. You can come by on Monday-Friday from 7:30-5:00.

The seedlings are five cents each. The District is also taking applications for wildlife seed. If you are interested in planting wildlife food plots on your land and would like to order some wildlife seed, just come by the office or call and we will place your order.



Robert B. Lancaster

Lancaster Moves To Texas Air Base

Airman Robert B. Lancaster, son of William L. and Mary Ruth A. Lancaster of W. Sixth Avenue in Raeford, has been assigned to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas, after completing Air Force basic training.

During the six weeks at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, the airman studied the Air Force mission, organization and customs and received special training in human relations.

In addition, airmen who complete basic training earn credits toward an associate degree in applied science through the Community College of the Air Force.

The airman will now receive specialized instruction in the medical services field.

He is a 1983 graduate of Pembroke State University.

Bullard Finishes Basic Training

Army Pvt. Tony R. Bullard, son of Lorraine and Clarence Bullard of Rural Route 1, Shannon, has completed basic training at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

During the training, students received instruction in drill and ceremonies, weapons, map reading, tactics, military courtesy, military justice, first aid, and Army history and traditions.

He is a 1983 graduate of Magnolia High School, Lumberton.

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Novelty designs in black, red, navy, checkboard.



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1 97

Values Up To 4.49

Ladies' Briefs

Acetate briefs in wht. & assorted colors. Sizes 5-10.



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Paper Towels

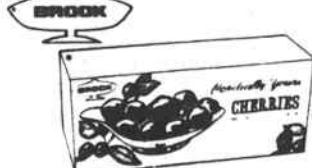


99¢

Reg. 1.47

Potting Soil

1 Peck Bag

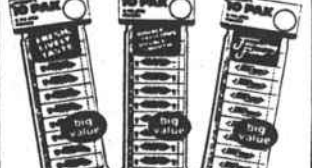


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Chocolate Cherries

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Reg. 1.19

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Mighty match disposable lighter. Assorted colors.



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