

SOIL CONSERVATION NEWS

By JAMES H. GRIFFIN, Soil Conservationist



If you see a man walking over your own or a neighbor's farm, carrying a board or what looks like a walking stick with a big corkscrew on the end, don't shoot him. He is not prospecting for metals, nor looking for moonshine stills.

The man is a soil scientist for the Soil Conservation Service. He and other trained men like him are busy these days making maps of Chowan County farms. They are the "scouts" of the Soil Conservation Service. Their reports on these maps will be used later by you and the work unit conservationist in preparing your soil and water conservation farm plan. All recommendations made by the Service for improvement of the soil are based on the soil and capability maps made by the soil scientist after a careful survey of the farm.

Farmers often ask Ed Karnowski, soil scientist in the Albemarle Soil Conservation District, what he is drilling for or looking for when they see him using his soil auger . . . a walking stick with a big corkscrew on the end. "Ed takes time to explain that he bores the hole to determine the depth and texture of the soil. This tells him the type of soil present and the amount of erosion that has taken place. By adding this information to the percentage of slope obtained with a hand level, he has three factors by which he classifies the land: soil, slope and erosion. By the way, the leather case hanging from his belt is not a six-shooter but the hand level used for determining the slope of the land.

This information is necessary for you to be able to make decisions in your soil and water conservation farm plan. As you know, even within a single field there is often a big difference in soil and the extent of erosion. Steeper slopes have most of the top soil eroded away while the level areas of the field have a build-up from the surrounding slopes. Some soils are too wet, some too dry, and others too steep . . . the way of the land.

"A careful study and survey of the soil and erosion conditions on the farm has proven one of the most important steps in the whole-farm approach of controlling erosion, getting adequate drainage, and improving fertility that is now being carried out by the Albemarle Soil Conservation District.

That is why detailed conservation surveys are first made of each farm in the district for which a conservation plan is to be developed," says L. C. Bunch, Chairman of the Albemarle Soil Conservation District. "We expect every district cooperator to prepare a conservation plan for his farm, says Mr. Bunch. Technical assistance in planning his farm will be furnished by us through the Soil Conservation Service."

Gavin Speaker At Lions Club Meeting

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ation exists on a state level, pointing out that the eastern section of North Carolina has been neglected as compared to the Piedmont, where a strong two-party system makes the parties more responsive to the will of the people and results in obtaining more state support.

"A two-party system in government controlled by two major political parties of equal strength," he said, "each striving to see which can do more for the people of the state. Such a system brings about more competition which naturally keeps the party in power on its toes. The spirit of competition which made America great is greatly needed in our state government."

Such a system, said Mr. Gavin, will bring out better qualified candidates and more of them. He added that it will keep the people better informed on issues and state government and the rights of the people will be better championed, and said such a system is essential to

North Carolina and particularly the eastern section.

"Eastern North Carolina is suffering from neglect because you've been in the bag for one party for so long," said Gavin. He called on the people of this area to assert their political independence to rectify this situation. "You cannot expect a change if you continue to vote as you have in the past, but change one time and you'll see a big change in the attention from the state level."

During his remarks he stated his stand for "revision" of the highway program, referring to the anticipated heavy influx of traffic when the Chesapeake Bay bridge-tunnel is completed. He said action should be taken now to prevent what he referred to as "the greatest death trap in the country."

Mr. Gavin touched upon his education program which calls for increase in teacher salaries. He also stressed the need for industry in Eastern North Carolina and pointed out the need for better highways and a more adequate farm program to go with it.

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