

CONSERVATION OF THE FERTILIZER IN THE LAND

the erosion of the entire hillside. If only a limited amount of time can be spent terracing, it will be much better to build the two top terraces well than to half build four terraces.

Terraces should not be spaced too far apart, and yet there is no rule for the exact distance they should be. Suggestions are given in the "terracing tables." If the terraces are too far apart there will be washing between them, and there will also be danger of them breaking from having too much watershed. If the terraces are too close together it makes the terracing more expensive per acre than necessary. On a large per cent of the hilly lands needing terracing, the proper spacing will be from 3 to 5 feet vertical drop, which should make the terraces from 50 to 100 feet apart. The steeper the hill an dthe easier the soil washes the closer the terraces should be. The spacing may be quite different in the same field on account of the variations in the slope. In using the "table" for finding suggested spacing, the average slope of the land throughout the length of the terrace should be used as a basis.

In placing terraces on slightly sloping land for conserving rainfall only, they may be spaced 200 to 300 feet apart if desired, although closer spacing would give better distribution of the water.

The success of a terrace system depends largely upon its proper laying off. A good leveling instrument in the hands of a competent and experienced engineer is the best insurance against failure.

Construction always should begin with the highest terrace in the field, and each terrace should be completed before starting the next lower one. The late fall and early winter is the best time to build terraces.

A terrace is susceptible to failure until it has become thoroughly settled. To facilitate settling it is best not to cultivate a terrace the first

results from terracing.

Terracing Costs About \$2 An Acre

The expense of terracing is almost entirely an item of labor. It has been estimated that \$2 an acre is a fair cost for building terraces. In addition it probably will cost a small amount each year to maintain the ridges in workable condition. The fact that this is practically a labor cost makes terracing appeal to the man who is interested in reducing soil washing.

Two horses and a plow, and four horses on a V-drag can construct 1/2 to 3/4 miles of terracing in one day. This will cover 4 acres.

Care of Terraces

Terraces require considerable care and attention, especially during the first year, before the loose soil has had time to become settled thoroughly. All apparently weak places should be visited after every heavy rain and any breaks should be repaired immediately with a shovel. It is best not to cultivate the terraces the first year, but to seed them to some kind of cover crop.

In some cases it will be necessary to clean the channels above the terraces of sediment, plant growth, or other material that might start break overs. Some attention also must be given to the outlets to prevent washing at this point. The practice of leaving the outlets in sod often is allowed and is to be recommended.

Many use the excuse for not terracing, that terracing makes the cultivation of the field so difficult. In some cases it makes the cultivation a little more tedious, but it is work that pays well. Terracing should not cause much trouble with a sowed crop, if the terraces are built broad so that implements can work over them.

If the field has an excessive slope it may be advisable to terrace it and then sow it in some kind of grass and use it for grazing only. Sometimes it is best to so wthe terrace ridges in some annual grass or sorghum, and then plant any other desired crop between them.

The best way to run crop rows for

This would give disastrous results on steep slopes. The crop rows should not run up and down a steep slope either with or without terracing.

There are several means of assisting terraces in controlling erosion. Deep plowing will help the land absorb much of the water that would run over the surface. The addition of humus or vegetable matter to the soil will cause it to absorb moisture more rapidly. Cover crops will check the water and hold the soil.

Terracing should be considered as the important factor in checking erosion, and as the first step toward rebuilding, or retaining, a fertile soil on the sloping lands.

There is little trouble in handling small grain on terraced fields, except when the harvest season is wet. In this case the ground evry likely will be soft just above each terrace where the silt has accumulated. This may cause a little trouble in handling the binder.

No established practice is followed in planting orchards on terraced land. For convenience in spraying and other work it has been found that planting just below the terrace is good practice. This makes it easier to maintain the terraces and easier to care for the trees. The spacing of the terraces is sometimes adapted to the distance between trees. There is no special advantage in rectangular planting on hilly land, but there is some advantage, in addition to the checking of soil washig, in contour planting.

Acknowledgements: The author wishes to express his thanks to the following for lending cuts and some of the material used in this article: U. S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. Weather Bureau, Colleges of Agriculture of the States of North Carolina, Missouri, Illinois, Texas, Arkansas. Recorded thoughts is our chief heritage from the past, the most lasting legacy we can leave to the future. Books are the most enduring monument of man's achievements, only through books civilization can become cumulative.

Good illustrations of teracing may be seen at the Garden in the Sky.

POSTELL.

Mr. Hickman don't want the prohibition question investigated by a committee composed of Tennessee

citizens, he is afraid they would stiaik up the evidence.

Some of the Postell boys say the squirrels will soon be starving to death because they have grown rapidly in number under a policy of too much protection.

Mr. Jack Payne said it was very disagreeable for Dr. Young to open a carbuncle on his neck and then walk a mile home in a cold north wind thickened with snow flakes.

Mr. J. H. Suit is suffering from an attack of sciatic rheumatism.

After careful consideration the writer believes it would be wise to swap of the brains of the prohibition law enforcement crew for the brains of the bootleggers.

Mr. J. M. Hamby sold a Black Giant rooster that weighed nine and one half pounds.

Mr. Guy Suit has a nice stack of lumber on the sticks to finish his new dwelling house.

The citizens can't keep logs on Mr. N. A. Quinn's mill yard, he quickly saws them into lumber.

Mr. M. M. Cleveland has a nice country store near Postell, but he is teaching out more extensively and has purchased a half interest in a grocery store at Cleveland, Tenn.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Payne and baby, of Crabtree, N. C., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Allen, Mrs. Payne's parents.

There hasn't been very much visiting in our community for two months on account of the flu epidemic and muddy roads.

Mr. F. T. Self has cleaned off several acres of new land this winter.

Mr. Clate Stiles is making his farm look like a man lived on it.

Mr. M. M. Ledford planted two bushels of Irish potatoes last week, he is the first to plant in our section.

Miss Blanche Teague mad ea business trip from Wehuty, N. C., to Postell last Saturday.

Mr. J. V. Payte left Postell Sunday morning motoring to Waterville, Tenn., where he will do some construction work.

Mrs. Hattie Allen visited her mother, Mrs. Lyda Cotter, of Turtle-town, Tenn., last Sunday.

Some people get their ideas, convictions and judgments as they get their clothes and shoes, ready made.

We find in a great many communities so-called leaders that are intolerant because it serves their self-fish purposes in view.

Mr. Jim Allen is preparing to farm this year and haul acid wood which will add to his flour bin.

Mr. G. W. Jones and Dr. G. M. Young ought to be initiated into the poultry organization for they are doing a nice business in that line.

Mr. N. A. Quinn just gets his plowing started and then it rains again, but the more rain the faster he can saw logs.

Mrs. Delia Suit has about fifty White Leghorn and Plymouthrock hens and she has sold \$59.50 worth of eggs this year and has got plenty of baby chicks up to a fry size. She lets her flock run at large on the farm and she feeds them at 7:30 each year.

Mr. Lusinda Hughes bought a good pony mule from Mr. Glenn Teague last week.

Mr. Glen Teague with his new wife has moved to Mr. J. H. Suit's farm where he is expecting to farm this year.

We are proud to see cars on the road again, our supervisor, Mr. Hill had his tractor on the road real early Monday morning.

Dr. Young says Mrs. Jessie Mason's physical condition is a little better but her mental condition has not improved any.

The condition of Mrs. S. A. Stiles does not seem to improve very much she does her sleeping sitting up in bed or in a rocking-chair.

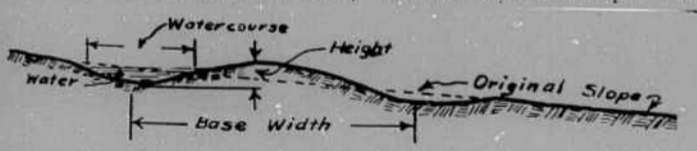


FIG. 2—Showing how water is ponded above broad-base level-ridge terrace.

year, but to sow it to a cover crop. The best results are obtained where the instructions given herein for the selection and design of terrace systems are based upon the results of surveys, observation, and a study of terraced fields in the best-terraced sections in this country.

When completed the terrace looks like a graded road running across the slope of a hill.

If the field to be terraced receives drainage from a field above, it should be terraced, or a hillside ditch constructed to intercept this water.

Fields Adapted To Terracing

There is a tendency on the part of many farmers to terrace fields which are steep and neglect those which have a slight slope but on which the sheet washing takes away vast amounts of fertility each season. The benefits of terraces on long gradual slopes should not be overlooked, for owing to the large volume of water that collects during heavy rains before it reaches the foot of the slope, much washing is done. It is also true that terraces are much easier to maintain and may be built farther apart on gentle slopes. It is not very satisfactory to terrace steep land and attempt to cultivate it, for the terraces must be placed together, making them expensive to construct, hard to maintain, and inconvenient for cultivation.

Land with a slope of more than 15 feet in 100 should be kept in grass or hay crops to get the best

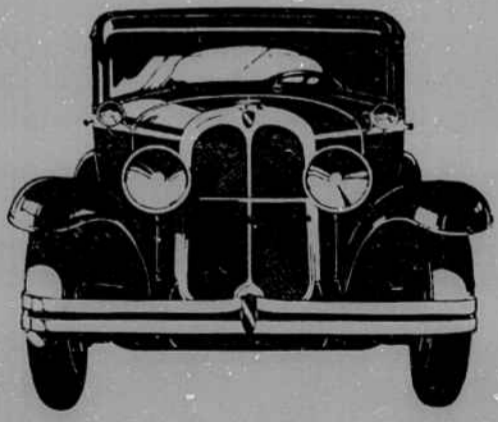
conserving the soil and moisture and for protecting the terrace ridges, is parallel with the terraces. To run the rows parallel with the terraces, a row should be placed down the middle of the terrace ridge. On each side of this row other rows are planted at regular intervals until they reach points about midway to the next terraces. Then a row is planted on top of the next terrace and rows run parallel with it until they meet with the rows which parallel the other terrace. This will leave some places where short rows must be put in to cover all the territory between the terraces. These point rows are what many farmers try to avoid. If attention is given to placing the point rows in pairs as much as possible, some extra driving may be saved in cultivating.

Sometimes the rows are started on top a terrace and run one after another to the next terrace, where a new guide row is laid off on this terrace. This method will make the point rows at the terrace, which is not desirable. It is better to have them midway between terraces.

On way of running all the rows in the field parallel, is to use one of the central terraces as a guide row and then parallel all rows with it. Most of the terraces will be crossed by a few of the rows, but at a small angle.

On farms that slope no more than 2 or 3 feet per 100 feet, the rows are frequently run perfectly straight, going over the terraces in any direction they may happen to hit them.

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