



Northampton  
Farm News



**MINIMUM TILLAGE** — Greg Coker examines residue left on the land where milo was planted directly in wheat stubble immediately following harvest.

# Produce 'N Protect Campaign Underway

With farmers expected to boost food production in 1974 by bringing several million acres into production formerly set aside or seeded to pasture, the Department of Agriculture is giving top priority to controlling soil erosion on newly plowed land, it was disclosed today by Jesse L. Hicks of Raleigh, who

heads the Soil Conservation Service in North Carolina. He pointed out that Secretary of Agriculture Earl L. Butz has urged "using sound conservation practices," on land returned to production, and listed several reasons why: "First of all, use of sound

conservation practices will itself help increase production," the Agriculture Secretary said, adding the "farmers have made great progress in the last 40 years in conservation farming, and with planning they can meet the increased demand for food in 1974 without stepping backwards."

"As the Number One guardians of the nation's natural resources, farm operators have a responsibility to themselves and to future generations to use the soil wisely."

The Secretary of Agriculture asked the Soil Conservation Service "to give first priority to helping farmers and ranchers with their conservation plans."

He also called on the Agricultural Extension Service staffs to renew their efforts to demonstrate that "conservation farming pays, and is more productive" at a time when increased production is needed.

The Secretary made it clear that the "Produce More, Protect More" program would be a major objective of the Department of Agriculture during the remainder of 1973 and 1974, with an information program coordinated with efforts "on the land" to assure that losses through agricultural erosion, well controlled in recent years, are not repeated as the demand for agricultural commodities surges.

The Department of Agriculture also anticipates that operators will be cultivating their land more intensively as they seek to increase yields per acre. "It is vital that we protect the land from soil erosion with proven conservation practices," Secretary Butz emphasized.

These include plowing and planting on the contour, stripcropping, terracing and land forming, grassed waterways and field borders and minimum tillage — the new "mulch planting" technique.

Soil Conservation Service people can provide complete information on each of these techniques, the Secretary added.

"While there is plenty of additional land in the U. S. that can be used for crop production without endangering our basic soil and water resources, there are also millions of acres of farm and ranch land with soils so prone to wind or water erosion that they should never be used for crops," Secretary Butz continued.

"Such land should remain in grass or under other vegetative cover," he said. "We do not want to risk starting another Dust Bowl."

The Soil Conservation Service, or SCS, works through nearly 3,000 local soil and water conservation districts to help farmers and ranchers develop and carry out conservation plans. SCS also works with the National Association of Conservation Districts. Both SCS and Extension Service work directly with farmers, advising them on techniques to protect and improve their land and water.

**NORTHAMPTON COUNTY**  
**Soil Conservation Notes**  
By JOHN B. LITCHFIELD  
Soil Conservation Service

Arthur Vincent, of the Vulture community worked out a conservation plan for one of his farms last week in cooperation with the Northampton Soil and Water Conservation District.

Technical assistance was provided by Soil Conservation Service personnel assigned to the district. A soils map with interpretations for various uses is one of the technical services provided. Assistance was also given in deciding on what conservation practices to use.

Most of the cropland on the farm is sloping. This has caused erosion problems to develop in places where water concentrates to run downhill. The result is some areas with little or no topsoil left. Yields are not as good in the places with thin topsoil. Small gullies make operation of equipment difficult.

In order to slow down water leaving the field and reduce erosion, Vincent has decided to build diversions to break the slopes into shorter sections. Grassed waterways will be used, where they are needed, to provide protected outlets for the diversions. Grass field borders will also be used for additional protection to the land.

The plan is scheduled to be carried out over a period of several years.

L. E. Bolton of Rich Square says that land forming, or drainage land grading, that he had done on his farm last year has proven worthwhile.

An old ditch was converted into a grassed waterway. The land next to it was graded so that surface water could readily drain to the waterway and other prepared outlets. A field border along the woodland edges of the field was also graded to provide an outlet for excess surface water.

A survey was made last week for another section of the field that he plans to grade this fall. An additional waterway will be cut to collect runoff water and lead it to an outlet ditch. Material removed from the waterway will be used to fill low spots in the field.

Milton Harrell of Rich Square has asked the district to help him design an animal waste lagoon.

He plans to build a farrowing house for an operation to produce feeder pigs. He decided that the best time to dig his lagoon is before construction starts on the house. Then he can use part of the earth removed from the lagoon to help raise the formation of the house.

The lagoon will provide a minimum of 150 cubic feet capacity for each sow and a similar amount for each litter of pigs. A holding pond will collect excess effluent and hold it until it can be spread on the land.



**GRASSED WATERWAY** on the Jesse Moody farm near Seaboard illustrates seeding in tall fescue for protection from erosion.

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## CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING:

- (1) **Early Stalk Destruction**
  - (a) Insects, nematodes, and diseases can continue to reproduce as long as food supply is available and other environmental factors are favorable.
  - (b) Stalks disced immediately after harvest will cut down on the number of these pests for next year's crop. This in turn will reduce the use of pesticides and help to hold down production costs.
- (2) **Traffic Pans**

Traffic pans or hard pans have developed through the years in most fields in the county, especially on sandy loam soils.

  - (a) The chisel plow has proven to be an effective tool in eliminating traffic pans.
  - (b) The chisel plow should be operated at a depth of 10 to 14 inches deep as soon as possible.
  - (c) Do not operate the chisel plow when the soil is wet.
- (3) **Bedding Land**
  - (a) Bedding land for peanut, cotton, corn, and soybean production has proven to be beneficial in Northampton County.
  - (b) Fall bedding following the chisel plow with a rolling cultivator or disc bedders will reduce erosion, increase water holding capacity of the soil, and allow soils to warm up earlier in the Spring.

November is an ideal month to take nematode and soil samples. Plastic bags and cartons can be obtained from the County Agents Office.

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## Library Display

JACKSON — Northampton County 4-H'ers and Extension agents will be working together Monday on setting up a 4-H display in the Northampton County Library. The Buxton Room will serve as a background for the review of 4-H activities to include handicrafts, photographs, newspaper clippings, trophies, outstanding 4-H Long Time Record Books and actual demonstration props used by winning 4-H'ers.

According to Becky Brittle, 4-H coordinator, this display will highlight outstanding 4-H'ers and events for 1973.

"If you want to know what 4-H is all about, then plan to stop by the Northampton County Library sometime during the month of November," she stated.

## Reading Teachers Meet At Creecy

RICH SQUARE — The Northeastern North Carolina Council of the International Reading Association Wednesday held a meeting at Creecy School here.

"Carnival of Reading" was the theme of meeting.

Four counties, Northampton, Bertie, Hertford and Martin, were represented at the 3 p.m. district meeting.

An estimated 150 persons attended the event for reading teachers.

Reading aides, new teaching techniques and new approaches to reading education were covered in the session.

Rita Griffith, reading teacher at Creecy, was chief hostess for the event.

Over 70 craftsmen and artisans will participate in the fair at Tarrytown Mall.

## Women Take Part In Fair

ROCKY MOUNT — Two Northampton County women will participate in the 1973 Coastal Plan Arts and Crafts Fair in Rocky Mount, Nov. 8-10.

Mrs. R. O. Harris of Rt. 1, Garysburg will demonstrate her corn shuck dolls and flowers and Mrs. A. G. Strickland, also of Rt. 1, Garysburg, will demonstrate her pine needle craft.

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