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## TERRACE THE ROLLING FIELDS

**W**E hold that soil-building is the Southern farmer's biggest economic problem. Not over 10 per cent of our lands are naturally rich; the remaining 90 per cent are poor, when we measure

we can grow soil-building legumes more easily and quickly than the Northern farmer, and thus can build up run down soils faster.

The point, then, is not only to make our soils rich, but to *save*



WHEN THE CORN IS IN THE SHOCK

them by the commonly accepted standards.

Now no man can make money farming poor land. Whatever his crop may be, the soil on which it grows must be sufficiently productive to make crops above the average if he is to get living wages for his labor. A rich soil and a poor farmer is a far better profit-producing combination than a very poor soil and a good farmer. The ignorant Negro in the Mississippi Delta may make a bigger net profit than an intelligent white man on a washed-away hillside.

There can be no soil-building without *soil-saving*. In our efforts to make our fields fertile, it will avail us little if we apply manures and fertilizers and plow under legumes and then let the rains wash away this plant food. Ours is a soil-wasting climate. Long, warm summers and mild winters with a heavy annual rainfall make it much harder to maintain soil fertility here than in the colder, drier North. On the other hand,

*their richness.* On our rolling fields, and this means probably 80 or 90 per cent of all the cultivated lands in the South, this means that we must have first of all well laid out, rightly built terraces. We would supplement these with deep plowing, cover crops and plenty of

humus, of course; but the terraces must come first. The broad, cultivated terrace means there will be no waste land in the field, and it is no hindrance to the passage of any kind of farm machinery. Building it of course means some time and labor, but they will be well spent.

Study the articles and letters in this Special on terracing, take up the matter with your county agent, and arrange to terrace all your rolling fields this fall and winter. Doing this will put you in a fair way to becoming a rich-land farmer, and in this modern day this is the only kind of farmer you can afford to be.

*Put broad terraces on your rolling fields, and do it now.*

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