

### Acreage Reserve Sign-Up On Cotton, Tobacco Scheduled

The 1958 Acreage Reserve sign-up on cotton and tobacco will begin January 13 and close March 7, reports Walter I. Fields, manager of the Agricultural and Stabilization office at Carthage.

Farmers who plan to put cotton or tobacco acreage in the Soil Bank are asked to go to the ASC office before January 13, if they have not already had a Soil Bank base worked up for their farm.

It will save time, Mr. Fields said, if this is done before the sign-up begins.

This year, for the first time, a Soil Bank base must be established for a farm before acreage can be put in the Soil Bank.

**Important Dates**  
The ASC office manager also pointed out important dates in the future for farmers to keep in mind.

January 15-January 30—1959 initial sign-up for the Agricultural Conservation Program.

February 15—New grower allotment applications are due for tobacco, cotton and peanut production.

April 16—Closing date for Conservation Reserve sign-up.

### Moore County Farmers Build 78 Ponds In 1957 In Soil Conservation Effort

County Now Has 851 Farms Having Basic Conservation Plans

By WILLARD K. KELLER  
Moore County Work Unit Conservationist

The year 1957 is history and Moore County farmers are part of that history. Droughts and hurricanes in recent years have made everyone water-conscious—either too much or too little. Thus it was that the attention of 1,130 Moore county farmers cooperating with the Upper Cape Fear Soil Conservation District was with those practices and measures involving water. The same is true with the nearly 87,000 farmers cooperating with the 37 soil conservation districts covering the State of North Carolina.

The sustained effort of farmers to provide water when it is needed are reflected in county reports for the past three years. We assisted with construction of 26 farm ponds in 1955, 70 in 1956, and 78 in 1957.

According to a survey in June, there were 36,254 farm ponds in the State, most of which were built during the past 12 years.

Crop residues of various kinds enable water to get into the soil during rains and stay there longer after the rain ends, thus reducing runoff, floods and soil washing. County cooperators added 641 acres this year and completed conservation crop rotations on 250 acres. There is very little burning of crop residue in Moore County.

State reports indicate over 232,000 acres of residue returned to the soil and 154,000 additional acres of completed rotations in the State as a whole.

**Strip Cropping**  
Contour strip cropping was started on 26 acres in Moore county and on 7,600 acres in the State, in 1957. Farmers constructed nine miles of terraces in Moore county and 1,866 miles in the State.

Tile drainage only amounted to 1,391 feet in Moore county but more than 2,000,000 feet was installed by cooperating farmers in the State. No open ditches were dug by local farmers, but the amount for the State is an astonishing 1,695 miles. It is estimated that the open ditches dug and the tile installed benefitted 9,400 acres of crop land.

A total of 341 acres of trees were planted on SCD cooperators farms in Moore county in 1957 and over 18,000 acres on cooperators farms in the state.

With 39 farmers signing cooperative agreements the number has now risen to 1,130 cooperators in Moore county; 94 agreements have been cancelled by the District primarily because of change of land ownership. Nineteen basic conservation plans were put in operation bringing the county total to 851.

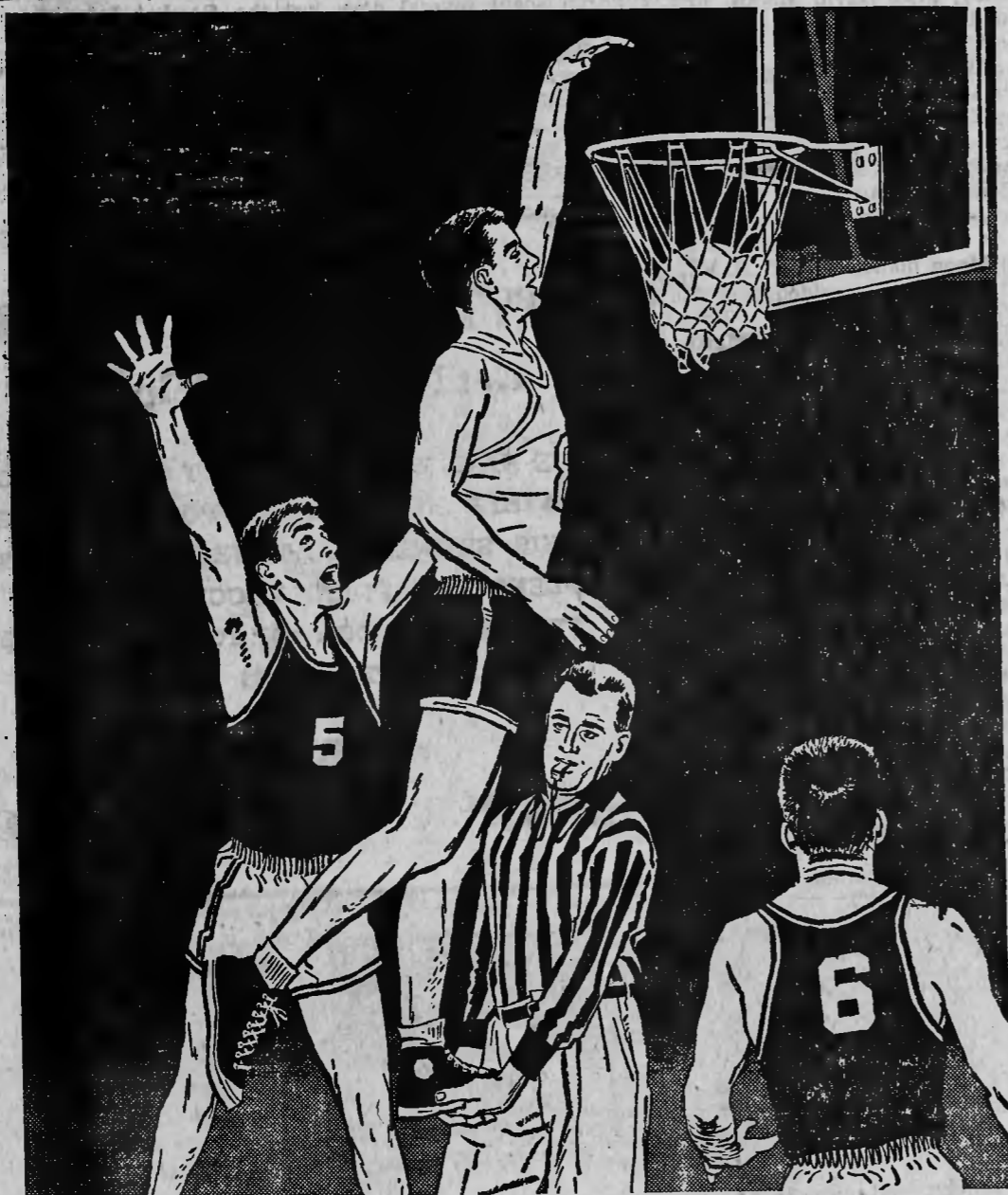
The SCS assisted 114 farmers in Moore county and about 12,000 in the state in the Agricultural Conservation Program at the request of the local ASC County Committee. This assistance was in site selection, layout and supervision of permanent type practices such as drainage facilities and farm ponds.

I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank local newspapers for the cooperation given the SCS and the District in our efforts to put the conservation facts before the public.

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