

# This Time Of Year Erosion Problems Should Be Addressed

**By Donnie Harris  
District Conservationist**

This years growing season is nearly completed. Most crops have been harvested and taken to market. Farmers now have the time to begin making plans for next years crop.

Some farmers in the county are busy making those needed repairs and adjustments on their equipment for next years planting season. They are concerned about having their equipment in the best operational condition so to be as efficient during the planting and harvesting season as possible. This way they can save time and money during planting and harvesting of their crops.

Now that we have that equipment in the best operational condition for the coming planting season, what condition are our

fields in; "as far as erosion"? Are there signs of sheet or gully erosion taking place on your cropland? Have you walked over your fields to see what condition they are in? We need to be just as concerned about maintaining our fields in good farming condition as our equipment.

The plants ability to grow and produce a good crop depends on the soil type, farm management and the degree of past and present erosion occurring on the field. With the loss of valuable topsoil by wind or water the land user is reducing his potential crop production.

As you know, plants receive most of their needed nutrients and moisture for proper growth and development from the top 8" of soil. This layer is made up mostly of

sand particles, loam and organic material.

Erosion in the form of wind, sheet or gully erosion reduces potential farm profit and causes damage in a number of ways. It causes loss in crop production, damage to farm equipment (from deep gullies in fields) and the loss of topsoil and chemicals (which causes water pollution from a variety of chemicals washing off the fields).

Now is the time to plan and apply needed conservation work on your land. Leave crop residue or plant cover crops to protect the soil against wind or water erosion during the winter months.

Install grass waterways in fields where gullies have occurred and fieldborders around the perimeter of your fields for turn areas and filter strips.

These are just a few of the conservation practices that will stop or reduce erosion problems on your land.

For more information on erosion problems or for technical assistance, contact the Hoke Soil and Water Conservation District Office. Phone 875-8685 Mon. - Fri.

Each year, the nation's largest estuary, the 4,400 square mile Chesapeake Bay, yields an average of 125 pounds of seafood per acre to sport and commercial fishermen, including 90 percent of the country's soft-shell crabs, according to the National Wildlife Federation. The Chesapeake is also the dumping ground for 400 million gallons of municipal sewage every day.



**Cutting farm profits**  
Gully erosion occurring in this soybean field cuts profits from the crop.

## Safer Thanksgiving Expected By Patrol

According to Highway Patrol Commander Colonel D.L. Matthews, the highways of the state are expected to be safer during this year's Thanksgiving holidays.

"Alcohol abuse has always been a major factor in many fatal traffic crashes, especially on holidays, but with the 'Safe Roads Act of 1983' dramatically reducing the number of alcohol-impaired drivers on the highways, we are anticipating fewer fatal accidents this holiday period," Matthews said.

Figures released by the Highway Patrol showed that nineteen people died in eighteen fatal traffic crashes during the long holiday weekend in 1982. The Patrol reported that ten of the fatal accidents involved alcohol-impaired drivers.

"The Thanksgiving holiday is the final long weekend for travel by most families before the winter season. All available Troopers will be out in force to protect highway

users from traffic law violators," Matthews said. "Troopers will also be on the look out for motorists in need of courtesy assistance.

"I encourage motorists to use their seat belts and suggest they insist that their passengers also buckle up," Matthews said. "I know of no greater protection for otherwise safe drivers and passengers, as they are often innocent victims in traffic accidents," he concluded.

The 72-hour holiday period begins at 6 p.m., Wednesday, November 23, and ends at midnight, Sunday.

Only the sturdy carpenter bee can lift the flap of the Brazil nut's flower to get at the pollen, says *International Wildlife* magazine. Without the bee, the plant could not reproduce, and Brazil would lose an important economic crop.

## Burlington Announces Wage Hikes

Burlington Industries has announced an upward wage adjustment for approximately 37,000 production employees, effective December 18.

Burlington is the nation's leading manufacturer of textiles and related products, with more than 80 manufacturing plants in 10 states.

## Heilig-Meyers Co. Announces Stock Split

Heilig-Meyers Company, the Richmond based home furnishings chain, announced recently a three for two stock split of its 4,152,421 common shares.

In addition, the Company announced a change in its dividend policy from semi-annual to quarterly payments.

To follow-up on this new policy, we have declared a cash dividend of 8 cents per share on the old and new shares that will be outstanding after the stock split.

Any future cash dividends will be paid on a quarterly basis.

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