Erosion OF Farm Land May Hamper Victory Food Program

The gigantic food for victory program is going forward in farming communities all over America. All-out production of farm food products will play a vital role in winning the war and in winning the peace that follows.

Kent County is engaged in such a food for victory program.

In this rush for greater food production, it is easy to forget to protect the main source of food—the soil. The top soil is the most valuable thing on any farm. Top soil is that blanket of rich time-mellowed matter—seldom more than a foot thick—which makes the plants thrive.

Underneath the top soil is a raw material called subsoil—a material in which most plants do not thrive. If the living blanket of top soil is washed or blown away and the subsoil is exposed, the face of the earth sickens and dies. The people who live on it grow poor, toil harder, finally leave. Many people who live in the county do not think that such a condition can exist here. The signs are everywhere. Next time you drive to town, look for these signs as you travel through the county. Look for fields that are ruined by gullies—little and big slopes and whole hillsides scrub bed bare—fields in which plants are struggling feebly, patchily to draw life from the thinning top soil.

Some of these lands are just beginning to go. Other lands are partially ruined, but many lands are dead—gutted deep and scoured to sterile barrenness by rain.

Eroding lands will not economically produce food that will play a vital role in winning the war and in winning the peace that follows.

Erosion is the gradual "washing away" of soil by rain and wind. This washing is done in two ways. The earth is removed in sheets over the entire surface of the land or in concentrated channels "gullies".

Sheet erosion is the more dangerous of the two. It creeps secretely over sloping land, stripping off top soil, particle by particle. Rain steals a thin film of soil over the entire surface of the land and another film and another and another. The process may be compared to tearing sheets off of a tablet. As you remove one sheet at a time you cannot notice that the tablet has become thinner. It is only after many sheets have been removed that the thinning is noticed.

Every time it rains and you see thick muddy water in your ditches—that is your soil going. To look at the land you would think nothing had happened. The fields appear to be the same this year as they were last and the year before that. Crops still sprout and flourish and are cut, but the "everlasting hills" are not everlasting. Years pass, maybe twenty, maybe ten, maybe only three. One day a patch of clay appears on a hill in the cornfield—a barren patch where rich top soil used to be. You go out with a shovel and try to dig in that eroded spot. The surface is bare and sterile. You discover then after it is too late that your top soil has gone. Silently, secretly, the rain has stolen tons of top soil from the hillside. All up and down the sloping hillside, the sub soil is exposed. That sloping hillside is dying. Your shovel bites with a harsh grating sound. You look at other parts of your land, dig down and find that they too have been scalped. Further examination of the land may show little gullies forming in the folds of the earth—little gullies that bite down through thetop soil and make jagged chasms in the top soil.

Gullies are the second manifestation of erosion. Unless you stop them they feed on both the top soil and the sub soil and grow big. Every time it rains they send out tiny tentacles—infant gullies—which suck soil filled water into the deepening center channel. The net of creeping gullies deepened and widens. The soil goes.

On hundreds of acres of land in Kent and Queen Anne's Counties we now behold the ravages of sheet erosion and gullying. The ravages of sheet and gully erosion can be easily seen on the sloping fields in these two counties after heavy rains. Each year erosion is ruining hundreds of acres of our land for profitable crop production and crippling many more.

Controlling ersion isn't a highly-complicated problem to be handled by "soil scientists" only. It is a practical down-to-earth problem to be tackled, and licked by the men, women, and children who live on, tend, and love this American soil.

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What's the use of producing a lot of eggs that spoil before they reach the fighting forces or war industry workers?, says Dr. Morley A. Jull, head of the poultry department at the University of Maryland. But that is exactly what happens to a lot of eggs produced during the hot summer months, he states, because they are not taken care of properly.

MANY VISITORS IN AND AROUND STILL POND

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Westbrook and children, Donald and Fay, visited with his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Nichols in Chester, Pa.

Miss Betty Joyce Bramble of Massey has been staying sometime with her grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Bramble in Still Pond Neck.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Price and Donald of Middletown were recent guests of their mother, Mrs. Raymond Price.

Mrs. Frank Meeks has been entertaining her friend, Mrs. Josephine Taylor of Baltimore for several weeks and both were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell Meeks, Tuesday.

Miss Pauline Starkey was a Baltimore visitor Monday and Tuesday, last.

The Woman's Society of Christian Service held their regular monthly meeting, Tuesday evening, with our President, Mrs. F. B. Harper, presiding. Miss Louise Pennington leader of Devotions.

Pvt. Edward Daggett of the U. S. Army has been spending some-time with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Daggett.

The winner of the blanket from the County wide Club for this week was Mrs. Lewis Newsome, Worton, Md.

Miss Alice Mann has been spending a pleasant visit with her friend, Miss Ivens near Worton Point.

Mr. Edward Schofield was the week-end visitor with his sister and brother in Georgetown, Md.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ford and Mr. and Mrs. Nettie Ford have been entertaining Mr. and Mrs. Lester Coleman and little daughter, Patricia Ann of Baltimore. Little Patricia fell from the truck and broke her arm while vacationing.

Miss Audrey Harper has returned to her duties as student nurse in the Woman's Hospital, Baltimore, Md., after spending a month's vacation with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Harper. Her house guest, Miss Elaine Scaraborough, returning with her.

Mr. Carson Greenwood enjoyed a short holiday from his duties in Aberdeen, Md., the week-end.

Mrs. Earl Thompson attended the funeral of her sister-in-law in Baltimore on Friday.

Mr. Nelson Hackett of Baltimore visited Mrs. A. J. Hackett the past week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Kephart have been entertaining her sister, Mrs. Sullivan from Tuxedo, Md.

Mr. Starr, met with a painful accident on his farm near here on Friday when he was thrown from his tractor. Messrs. Jones and Thompson rushed him to the Local Hospital where he is reported getting along alright.

Mrs. James Jones of Millington has been visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harry H. Jones the past week.

Mr. Clarence Thompson of Aberdeen, Md., was the week-end guest of his sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Jarvis.

Little Allan Moore of New Castle Delaware, has enjoyed a vacation with his grand-parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Ford.

Money To Lend—

If you want to secure a Long Term First Mortgage at a very low interest rate to aid you in purchasing a good farm, consult

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Hand-picking of Mexican bean beetles and curshing of the egg clusters on the under-sides of leaves will help to keep down that pest, and this method may be all that is necessary in small plantings. To be effective, the job must be done every two or three days.

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Photograph by Victor Keppler for the Treasury Department

Four times in one hundred and sixty-seven years America has gone to War to keep its Freedom.

And on this Independence Day, the American Flag again symbolizes that FREE MEN can FIGHT...will FIGHT...and will WIN against men of regimentation, bigotry and hatred.

That tattered . . . shell-torn . . . sun-faded flag, up there in the picture, is proof of this.

It flew over the light cruiser Boise the night she went into action against an overwhelming Jap battle fleet. 107 men died under that Flag. But when the action ended . . . 3 Jap cruisers and 3 Jap destroyers lay at the bottom of the Coral Sea, their guns silent forever.

The next time you look at the American Flag, and a choke comes into your throat, think only of this: The War Bonds you buy today will keep the guns of ships—like the Boise—firing . . . and firing . . . and firing.

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