PRODUCE MORE FOOD FOR FREEDOM the CONSERVATION WAY

Many farmers ask, "Why is erosion control and drainage necessary now when not so many years ago little or nothing was ever said about these two so-called problems."

The Supervisors of the Kent and Queen Anne's Soil Conservation Districts wish to point out one of the more prominent reasons.

The organic content of our soils has been so depleted, in some cases totally depleted, that the soil structure has been completely changed. The ability of the soil to hold itself together and its ability to absorb and hold water has been lost.

A soil well supplied with organic matter will stand a lot of abuse. For this latitude, due to the longer period during which soil bacteria can work on the organic matter in the soil, one can never hope to have more than 2 percent of organic matter present. In soil sample tests that have been returned from the laboratories at College Park, the organic count ranges from zero to 1.6 percent, by far the greatest number run below .5 percent.

When organic matter is low, the absorptive power of the soil is also low. This means that of the rain that falls, the greater part runs off. When water runs over soil that is low in organic matter, many minute soil particles are carried along with it. If this run-off is uniform over a field, we get what is called sheet erosion. This soil loss is often imperceptible until we finally find all our top soil gone.

When crop rows run up and down the slope or at an acute angle to the slope, this unabsorbed surface water concentrates in low areas and the erosion is confined to a limited area. This leads to gully erosion. Once the top soil is breached, gully erosion is raped and we soon have a depression impossible to cross with farm equipment.

Now, this erosion carries soil particles to the low areas clogging up drainageways and this has caused the development of large wet improductive areas that did not exist before excessive erosion occurred on the higher slopes.

Anything that will slow up the movement of water on the slopes will slow up or stop soil erosion. An abundant supply of organic matter will increase the absorptive power of the soil. This is the reason back of contour plowing, contour planting, contour cultivation and the incorporating of organic matter with the soil. The more nearly these operations are done on the absolute level, the greater will be the amount of soil saved and the amount of water conserved in the soil for future use by plants.

After soil erosion is checked on the slopes, then is the time to open drainageways in the poorly drained lowlands. These drainageways must be so constructed that they will drain off the excess surface and soil water from these areas. These outlets or drainage ditches must then be so managed that they will remain open and effective.

Every farm will benefit from this type of soil management. The Supervisors of these Soil Conservation Districts stand ready to help all farmers with their erosion and drainage problems.

The Supervisors of the Kent and Queen Anne's Soil Conservation Districts wish to bring to the attention of the farmers in these two Eastern Shore counties the first of "Ten Planks for Farm Success" as set forth by Hayden S. Pearson. This is the result of 20 years of study of northeastern agriculture.

"First, the maintenance program of most farms is an indictment of farmers' judgment. The fundamental asset of a farm is the Soil. American farmers have been ruthless and shortsighted in the treatment of their chief asset. Wherever you go, you see the evidence: rows running up and down hill, bare fields left exposed to winds over winter, thin stands of grass, and poor crops. Experts estimate that the average depth of top-soil is about seven inches for the nation as a whole, and that in the last one hundred years, a full inch has disappeared forever. It takes two hundred fifty thousand years or more to build an inch of humus. We have squandered our birthright; from now on, every farmer must consciously strive to build up the top-soil. That's the great maintenance problem in farming. Otherwise wind and water erosion will gradually rot the wills of farming. The state and federal agencies will help, but it is chiefly a problem for the individual farmer."

Soil Conservation Districts have been set up with this very idea in mind. We are here to assist in this maintenance problem and are ready at all times to give all assistance possible.

Land use capabilities have been set up for all farm lands. Soil Conservation technicians are here and ready to help all of those farmers that request assistance. No hindering requirements are attached to this help so as interest is shown, help will be given.

Hours spent on less productive land is adding to the cost of farming the better lands on a farm. Crops adapted to the capability of the land always lift the per acre return from the farm as a whole.

Planned farming is the order of the day. Consult those here to render assistance. Your county agent or supervisors of your Soil Conservation District are the men to see for this assistance. Conservation pays.

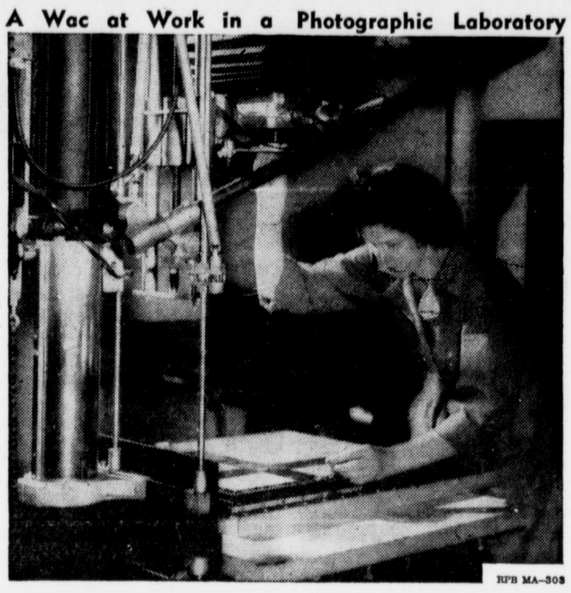
—V—

Do you like the flavor of parsley in your meats and soups? If you do, keep a pot of it on your window sill for use through the winter months, advises Margaret McPheeters, Extension nutritionist at the University of Maryland.

Take a plant from the garden, saving all the roots possible, clip off the larger leaves, and plant it in rich, well-drained soil. One part sand, two or three parts good garden loam, an organic fertilizer, and a little bone meal make a good soil mixture to use. A few days in a shady spot, where kept well watered, will get it off to a good start. After that, put it in the sun, water it regularly, and keep it cool and well ventilated.

In addition to being useful for seasoning, says Miss McPheeters, the plant with its bright curly green leaves is very decorative.

A Wac at Work in a Photographic Laboratory



RPB MA-303

Such terms as depth of focus, film sensitivity, and contact prints are no mystery to Corporal Frances Blackburn of McAndrew, Kentucky, shown as she makes a projection print in a U. S. Army photographic laboratory. This member of the Women's Army Corps, like many other Wacs, was trained for an interesting assignment in an Army school.

First Signs Of Fall Brings To Mind Those Buckwheat Cakes

Now that we are no longer able to drive around the country side at will, city folks aren't so apt to see the first signs of fall as those living in or near the country—but pretty soon these signs will come wafting on the breeze and when they do—it's time to buy your bag of buckwheat flour and serve those cakes of cakes:

BUCKWHEAT CAKES

1 pint milk
1 pint water
1 yeast cake
1 tablespoon molasses
½ teaspoon soda
1 teaspoon salt
Buckwheat flour

Dissolve the yeast cake in milk and water, which have previously been brought to tepid heat. Sift in enough buckwheat to make a stiff batter, and set to rise overnight in a earthenware crock. In the morning add salt, molasses and soda dissolved in 1 cup hot water. The batter should be a little thinner than for ordinary wheat griddle cakes, so if it does not seem thin eonugh, add a little more hot water. Fry in rather generous sized cakes on a hot, greased griddle.

Leave some of the batter in the crock to serve as a sponge for the next batch of cakes. At night stir enough flour to make a stiff batter, and in the morning repeat the above process. The cakes are much better the second morning than the first.

—V—

The War Food Administration has reported to the University of Maryland Extension Service that the prospective supplies of nitrogen and phosphate fertilizers for use on 1945 crops have declined since mid-summer, due to greatly increased military use of materials required for the manufacture of those fertilizers, but substantially increased supplies of potash are expected to be available.

—V—

Cover Stains

In order to keep old grease stains from spotting new wallpaper, first apply such a seal as aluminum enamel or shallac over the stain.

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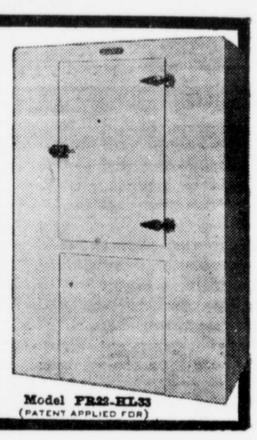

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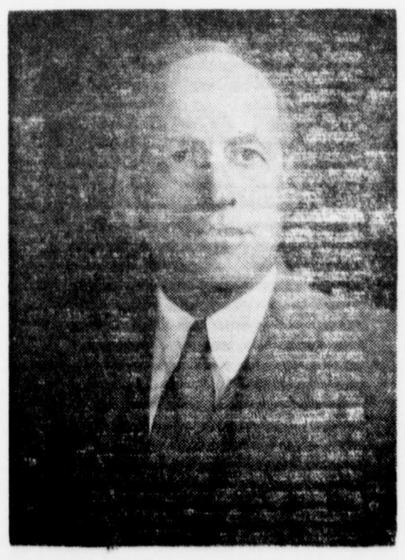

A Hardworking, Conscientious, Courageous and Able Representative of Maryland And The Nation In The

U. S. SENATE

RADIO

Be listening to Senator Tydings, Station WBAL on Sunday, November 5, 1944, at 7:30 P. M.
—and to—
Philip C. Turner, prominent farmer and citizen on Station WBAL on November 3, 1944, at 7:15 P. M.

We will need his independent, seasoned and experienced voice and counsel to meet the great tasks of

1. Winning the war quickly.
2. Securing a lasting peace.
3. Bringing our country through the trying post-war years.

Published by Authority of Major Robert H. Archer, Manager, Tydings Campaign Committee
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