

Gullies - The Acre Thief - How to Control Them

PPOINTING out that various methods are required in the control of the different types of gullies, officials of the Soil Conservation Service in the southern states have issued these recommendations:

For the small shallow type of gulley: This is a form of sheet erosion which can be controlled very simply. Work the ground thoroughly either by a plough or disk. Seed to lespedeza in the early spring and then mulch lightly with broom sedge, hay, leaf litter or some such material. Strips of sod may be used in shallow gullies.

Gullies from two to eight feet in depth: Build small brush check dams at intervals in the channels of such big gullies. This slows up the water and results in soil particles being lodged in the brush, tending to form a solid bank of soil behind each brush dam. In early spring seed the area to lespedeza and later on plant to trees. Plant yellow poplar or catalpa in the richer soil behind the brush dams, and black locust and short or loblolly pine on the sides

and top.

The reason for seeding the area and planting it to trees is to get a ground cover established, since this will help hold the soil from washing away. The area is covered with a light mulch as in the other case. This tends to protect the seeding and seedlings from severe climatic changes which may be detrimental to them.

Gullies from ten to thirty feet in depth: Use treatment similar to the one above, although it may be advisable to use dynamite in some cases in sloping and it may be necessary to build log or rock dams in place of the brush dams. Vines such as kudzu and honeysuckle may be used on the steep vertical banks. Vines should not be used on areas with trees for eventually the vines will kill the trees.

Gullies thirty to forty feet: Such badly eroded land can never be returned to cultivation. The best thing to do is to get a permanent growth of timber on such land.



These gully banks near Spartanburg, S. C., look almost worthless—they represent the toll of soil erosion.



By sloping the banks and through use of proper terracing and strip-cropping, what was once a gully will soon be productive again.



Two decades of terracing work erased gullies on the farm of J. F. Erwin, White County, Tenn., and restored fertility that provides ample pasturage and hay for the Jersey herd kept on the farm—this is a typical alfalfa field.

GUERNSEY GROUP Pushes Breed in VIRGINIA

PROBABLY the outstanding accomplishment of the Virginia State Guernsey Breeders Association in 1935 was the holding of a successful state consignment sale in October—the third annual one—at Richmond, when 41 head were sold for an average of slightly more than \$200. Top cow brought \$560. This sale was managed by Louis McLane Merryman, of Sparks, Md., said N. H. Williams, secretary, in his annual report made at the Guernsey Breeders meeting held in Richmond on connection with the Virginia State Dairymen's Association, January 23-24.

Other features of Mr. Williams' report were:

The annual summer meeting scheduled for August in Mecklenburg county, was broken up by an epidemic of infantile paralysis, health authorities advising that it was best not to have the gathering.

The officers of the State Association have done some work trying to locate a young bull to head the Guernsey herd at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg. Not only has H. E. Hutcheson, one of the directors from

N. H. Williams, of Manassas, Va., is county agent for Prince William County Va., and Secretary of the Virginia State Guernsey Breeders Association.



Gloucester county given this institution a beautifully bred young bull, but the secretary has been to another prominent herd with two representatives of the college to consult with the owner about another young bull.

At present the State Guernsey Association is co-operating with R. G. Connelly, secretary-treasurer of the Virginia State Dairymen's Association, in getting up a directory of Guernsey breeders to be published as a part of the program of that organization.

Many Guernsey breeders are testing for the control of Bang's disease (contagious abortion) and thus are cooperating with State and Federal authorities in ridding their herds of this dread disease, as well as of tuberculosis. The number of breeders doing Advanced Register testing has shown some increase in the past few months.

Virginia Dairymen's Association Reports On Progress of Industry

THE 29th annual convention of the Virginia State Dairymen's Association held at the John Marshall Hotel, Richmond, Va., Thursday and Friday, January 23-24, 1936, was largely attended, evidencing the interest of the dairymen in the problems of the day in their business.

Reports by President Dan M. Chichester and Secretary-Treasurer R. G. Connelly touched on the work of the association the past year, and showed progress in the various activities. The highlights of the reports follow:

Dairy Council Promotion

In view of the great under consumption of fluid milk in Virginia (less than 0.4 pint per capita per day), in view of the fact that medical authorities recommend at least one quart of milk for growing children and one pint for adults, as the basis of a sound healthy diet and since milk and milk products surpluses are recurrent in the state, the Board of Directors of the Virginia Dairymen's Association and the Board of Directors of the Virginia Dairy Products Association formed a joint committee to sponsor and promote a State Dairy Council as a plan for health education built on proper diet, and proper health practices.

As a result of meetings, of the joint committee (Claud Parcell, Fredericksburg; A. F. Howard, Charlottesville; Frank Rennie, Jr., Richmond; C. Nelson Beck, Charlottesville; M. D. Rhodes, Broadway; J. V. Nichols, Purcellville) in Charlottesville and Old Point Comfort an appropriation was made for purchasing suitable health educational material from the National Dairy Council of Chicago. This health educational material is now being used in several Virginia schools. Several local boards of health have also seen fit to use some of the dairy council material interest of better milk supplies and greater milk consumption by Virginia citizens.

Dairy farmers and dairy operators have been contacted in eight civic areas in Virginia by representatives of the Virginia State Dairymen's Association in 1935 to determine sentiment with regard to health educational work through the medium of a Virginia State Dairy Council.

Bangs Disease Eradication

The annual loss to Virginia dairymen because of contagious Bang's abortion disease is an economic tax which has

become unbearable on some farms. Herd values and income from milk production is seriously depreciated wherever the disease attacks a herd. This causes an increased cost in producing milk and since about 25 per cent of Virginia annual agricultural income is from the dairy cow, it is in the common interest of the Commonwealth that Bang's disease be eradicated.

The Virginia State Dairymen's Association in cooperation with the Virginia Division of Animal Industry has promoted a state wide program of Bang's disease eradication with excellent results.

Stabilized and Cooperative Marketing

In the interest of a dependable milk supply and fair prices to the consumer, the producer and the distributor, the Virginia Dairymen's Association has encouraged and promoted cooperative marketing and market stabilization as promulgated under the State Milk Commission. The dairymen's association has wholeheartedly endorsed the Milk and Cream Act from the time of its passage as

the logical and equitable plan for as-producers and distributors of milk in any Virginia market wishing to come under the provisions of the Milk and Cream Act. The officers and members of the Virginia Dairymen's Association regard the Milk and Cream Act and the Milk Commission as the one court of last appeals in meeting economic distress because of unethical practice in any state market and to their end the Dairymen's Association has cooperated in drafting the law and in bringing about its acceptance in the various Virginia markets.

Dairy Herd Improvement

Greater dairy income depends upon more efficient production. Higher producing cattle are necessary to meet the ever mounting costs of production, particularly in the face of restricted consumer purchasing power. The Virginia Dairymen's Association recognizes this need for better cattle and better dairy methods and it has therefore rendered unreserved support to the V. P. I. Dairy Extension Service in the promotion of its dairy educational program in all parts of Virginia.



D. M. Chichester, Falmouth, Va., President of the V. D. A.