The Annual Meeting will be held at noon on February 2, 1974. Dinner tickets are $3.35 each. The tickets may be purchased from District Directors Stanley Baird, David Conklin, Kenneth Loudenbeck, William Mayers, and Robert Moore, or from the office at 100 South Ottawa, St. Johns. You may call 224-4318 and reserve your tickets for the annual meeting. Pierce Bakery, St. Johns, is catering the dinner of Ham and Chicken. We need to know by January 8th how many dinners to order.

For the Annual Meeting, District Directors have arranged for Verlen Kruger to present his colored slides with sound on tape program. Verlen Kruger is the man who went 7,000 miles by canoe from Montreal to the Alaska border. This very interesting travelog, "Once in a Lifetime," is a fantastic story of two men, alone, who paddled and portaged the long way northwest across the North American Continent, following the old historic fur trade canoe route. You will remember, they began in Montreal on April 17, going by way of Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Grand Portage, International Falls, Lake Winnipeg, Methye Portage, Great Slave, Arctic Red River, McDonald Pass, Port Yukon and ending at the Bering Sea on October 18. This section (Sault Ste Marie to the Alaska border) is a fantastic story of two men, alone, who paddled and portaged the long way northwest across the North American Continent, following the old historic fur trade canoe route. You will remember, they began in Montreal on April 17, going by way of Ottawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Grand Portage, International Falls, Lake Winnipeg, Methye Portage, Great Slave, Arctic Red River, McDonald Pass, Port Yukon and ending at the Bering Sea on October 18. This section (Sault Ste Marie to the Alaska border) you will not want to miss. Kruger's slide presentation uses multiple projectors with living sound on tape. This was a historic, never before accomplished, canoe adventure establishing new long distance endurance records - 7,000 miles, 184,999 paddle strokes in 176 days. See the trip from Sault Ste Marie to the Alaska border at the Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, February 2, 1974, the directors will present Conservation Signs to Leon Armbrustmacher, Joe Houck Jr., Willis Kohl, John Schmitz, Howard Hess, and James Rossio. The Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the year is Warren Swanson, who will be presented a plaque at the Annual Meeting.

The terms of Kenneth Loudenbeck and William Mayers expire at this year's Annual Meeting. An election of directors will be held at this year's Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee, Max Loudenbeck, Ray Mayers, George Baird, Warren Swan son, and Burton Tabor has selected Kenneth Loudenbeck, Alan Anderson, Jerry Becker, and Dennis Tolen to be on the ballot for these positions.
HAVE WE GOT A DEAL FOR YOU IN '74!

Let Morton Ford Tractor, Inc.
BE YOUR HEADQUARTERS FOR
Farm, Industrial
Lawn & Garden Equipment

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED AT 5122 N. GRAND RIVER IN
LANSING (At the corner of Waverly and Grand River)
— Near Capital City-Airport —

COMPLETE PARTS, SERVICE AND SALES FACILITIES

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We Are A “Full Line” Dealer For The Following Equipment

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Morton Ford Tractor, Inc.
Phone The Friendly People
At 485-4355
LEASE - RENTAL - AND RENTAL PURCHASE
PLANS AVAILABLE ON COMPLETE INVENTORY

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Natural resources our heritage

The natural resources of America are the heritage of the whole nation and should be conserved and utilized for the benefit of all our people.

Earth earns control

The man who works with the good earth controls the future of the human race.

Long, long time

It takes Nature 400 to 1,000 years to build one inch of top soil.

It’s the board’s job

Each Board of Directors of a Soil Conservation District are responsible for soil and water conservation within its district. In addition to deciding on a district program, and planning and arranging for assistance to put the program into effect, They are responsible for making cooperative agreements with farmers and ranchers; seeing that soil surveys are made; making the best use of available funds; establishing practical work priorities; cooperating in adopting practices and rates for cost sharing in applying needed conservation; acquainting landowners and operators with sources of credit; and informing all people of the soil and water conservation problems in the district.

A public servant

The Land Operator who improves the fertility of his soil is truly a public servant and will leave more for posterity than he takes for himself.

Soil is not just dirt

Our soil is not just dirt. It is a factory where everything needed to feed plants, animals, and human beings is made.

People and soil

"Soil cannot be considered as soil alone. People live on it. They own it, rent it, plow and cultivate its crops, and live upon the fruits of the harvest. When the soil fails, people suffer." — Katherine Glover, "America Begins Again."
Looking ahead 20 or 30 years, land use plan. This master plan, preparing a comprehensive land use plan. This master plan should be long range and realistic. It must always be looking ahead 20 or 30 years, and therefore requires periodic review and revision. This means that the Planning Commission's job will be of an ever continuing nature.

The master plan should be general; it is not intended to establish precise boundaries of land use, or provide for enforcement of its goals and objectives. Its function is to guide land use, or provide for environmental, transportation, and social structure of the community. Here are the questions asked most often about planning:

WHAT IS COMMUNITY PLANNING?

It is the identification of community problems and the development of programs to solve these problems based upon present and future needs. The process encompasses all aspects of the community, its social and economic system, the natural features or environment, transportation, community facilities, and land use.

WHY PLAN?

1. Anticipate Needs and Problems
2. Guide Development
3. Assist Decision-Makers
4. Solve Community Problems
5. Compilation of Data and Analysis into the Plan

WHO PLANS?

The planning process involves the participation of many people who are called "planners." Often this word is applied only to technicians employed in a planning office, however, in practice, it includes public officials and concerned citizens. In fact, it is the public officials and citizens who make the most important decisions regarding the solution of community problems. The basic function of a professional planning staff is to provide technical expertise ranging from map-making and research to trend analysis and writing skills.

Public officials and concerned citizens must make the basic determinations regarding future development policy. This action incorporates local desires into the plan allowing it to be created by and for the community.

WHAT DO YOU PLAN FOR?

YOU PLAN FOR PEOPLE!

This involves an investigation of the physical community including such concerns as land use activities, community services, and capital improvements. Planning problems are identified. The planning process continues when a local problem or crisis is identified. The formulation of an organization to meet the problem is the second step. On a local governmental level, this takes the form of a Planning Commission, which guides or performs the necessary planning operations. The Planning Commission should assess community resources to ascertain possible needs for outside help and assistance in conducting their planning program. (Public agencies and/or private consultants.)

How does the Planning Process Work?

The planning process can be divided into five basic parts -

1. Recognition of the Need for Planning
2. Survey of the Community
3. Formation of Goals and Policies
4. Formulation of Capital Improvement Programs
5. Compilation of Data and Analysis into the Plan

HOW IS THE PLAN IMPLEMENTED?

The implementation phase of the planning process is where the ultimate influence of a Plan can be realized. The Plan, itself, is simply a policy document which illustrates a desirable future land use relationship for a given community.

To implement the Plan four basic "tools" are often used: coordinated decisions, zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and capital improvement programs. Each of these tools complement one another, and can be used in conjunction to realize effective implementation:

1. Decision Making
2. Zoning
3. Subdivision Regulations
4. Capital Improvement Programs

What are the Duties of a Planning Commission?

The five principal functions assigned to Planning Commissions under the State statutes may be summarized as follows:

1. Plan Formulation and Adoption
2. Formulation of a Zoning Ordinance
3. Advisers to a Governing Body
4. Formulation of Capital Improvement Programs

The Planning Commission is simply a policy document which illustrates a desirable future land use relationship for a given community.

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1. Decision Making
2. Zoning
3. Subdivision Regulations
4. Capital Improvement Programs

Planning Commission reports
"As it was in the Beginning, Is now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen."

"World without end!" Many others have repeated this so often that we've come to believe it means "land without end". More and more, we're realizing that if indeed it is "land without end", strong measures need to be taken daily to keep it that way. No one knows this better than conservation people. Estimates are that about 50,000 acres of prime farmland are being developed every year. But some 128,000 acres of combined open spaces and farmland are lost in Michigan annually. If these lands are not conserved, it's "Goodbye, Land".

The Republicans in your state Legislature are well aware of the problems and questions of soil conservation the residents of Clinton County must face. One proposal now being considered, similar to a bill I introduced a couple of years ago, is a "development rights" proposal now pending before the Senate Committee on Taxation and Veterans Affairs. A Senate ad hoc committee has been revising HB 4244 since last summer. Representatives of each of diverse groups as the Farm Bureau, the Office of Land Use, the Division of Natural Resources, Senate Republican and Democratic Caucus personnel, the Michigan Municipal League, staff members of Senator Milliken's office including the Department of Management and Budget, the Department of Agriculture, and the Western Michigan Environmental Action Council have been included in deliberations on this proposal. The Michigan Cooperative Extension Service also was used by the task force for consultation.

Thirty states have enacted some form of tax relief for the farmers; 15 of the most appropriate statutes were studied by the Senate ad hoc committee. It has been imperative for the New England states as well as California to adopt land use measures to help the land owner withstand pressure from rapidly expanding metropolitan areas. But even sparsely populated states like South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming have passed land use legislation as well. The Michigan farmer is clearly not alone in feeling the need for tax relief to keep his land from the developer.

The Michigan Legislature is considering a "development rights" agreement to the farmer who is seriously interested in keeping his farmland to voluntarily enter into an individual agreement with the State of Michigan, in order to gain tax relief in return for keeping his farm land as farmland for a 10 - year period. Eligible farms would be those classified as having 40 acres or more or those that are between five and 40 acres in size. The agreement is attached to the deed of the property held by the Register of Deeds. The property can be sold, given away, or inherited, but the new owner must abide by the contract to have the same tax relief advantages. The farmer still owns and controls the property. The owner maintains and constructs buildings necessary to the routine farm operation. A general or basic covenant or agreement will be designed, with specifics differing with each owner.

The farmer desiring tax relief would apply through his local governmental unit. If approved by the local government unit, the application would then be approved by the state, after consultation with the farmer. Some of the benefits to the farmer are: The land is appraised by the State Tax Commission as farmland; the owner gets property tax credits on his state income tax; and, while the owner is in the program, he'll be exempt from all non-farm assessments such as drains or sewers.

If the farmer wants to get out of the program at any time during the ten-year period, it's possible for him to do so. He again applies to the local unit and, if approved for essentials of the agreement, must come from the state. The repayment of the credit only comes due at the full 10 years, he can either re-sign up for another 10 years or have the program terminated. Upon natural termination, he must pay back seven years of the credit which he received on his income tax. The repayment of the credit only comes due at the time the land is converted to another use or sold.

This is what they said almost 40 years ago

"Nature treats the earth kindly. Man treats her harshly. He oversteps the cropland, overgrazes the pastureland, and overcuts the timberland. He destroys millions of acres completely. He pours fertility year after year into the cities."

Unique land

Acres suitable for orchards, vineyards, and the production of truck crops is becoming less plentiful each year because of the spread of non-farm uses of land. This poses a special problem affecting not only the production and availability, but the cost and quality of fruits and vegetables for the consumers. The directors favor legislation that would preserve these unique and limited lands for agricultural use. The directors also support legislation that would protect other types of prime agricultural land against irresponsible conversion to non-farm uses.

"As it was in the Beginning, Is now and ever shall be, World without end, Amen."

Without soil conservation...

Good-bye land

 farming, the owner pays back to the state the credits received on his income tax plus 25 percent of the value of the land as reappraised by the State Tax Commission at the time the owner gets out of the program. If the owner of the farmland remains in the program for the full 10 years, he can either re-sign up for another 10 years or have the program terminated. Upon natural termination, he must pay back seven years of credit which he received on his income tax. The repayment of the credit only comes due at the time the land is converted to another use or sold.

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Without soil conservation...

Good-bye land
Community discovers river

CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

A special report of the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce on an excellent example of community activity in the field of management of its natural resources. Through an active river association and the Otsego Area Chamber of Commerce, the Shiawassee River has been developed into a functional part of the community.

Most Michigan towns and cities are located on one or more streams. Traditionally, the waterways have been used as sewage disposal systems, but today alert citizens are demanding quality water and improved shorelines.

Otsego has been the farm-market center for Shiawassee County. The River runs through the center of town. People used to carefully build their homes facing the stream. Throughout most of the year, the slow-moving Shiawassee River was an area to be avoided. Most citizens preferred to look the other way rather than to face up to the major issue - what to do about the massive pollution problem right at home. But for many years, now the quality of the river's water has been improving. Most domestic waste is treated at the city's sewage disposal plant. Industries have also assumed their share in abating pollution. However, in the Shiawassee River Association, a clean stream also means one which the community can use - not only for fishing and boating, but a waterway that will incorporate aesthetic value with functional uses. Since 1965, this non-profit citizens' action organization has been actively bringing about many changes to the river and the adjacent land.

What has been done? The eyes of the community are on the Shiawassee River. Homes are being built facing the river, with landscaped slopes and bank improvement. Brush has been cleared to permit better vistas from the five bridges in the town. Many "River Clean-Up Days" have been held to remove litter and brush. Trees are being planted; foot and bicycle paths are being laid out along the banks on public-owned land (there is considerable land both in and out of the city). Ultimately, the improved area will extend for the entire 6/4 miles between Otsego and Corunna. Most of the work is by volunteers, including much equipment and materials. The city has helped to the extent of about 10 percent, and volunteer work by private citizens amounted to 80 percent.

4-H tackles litter

How much litter will show up along your roadside when the snow disappears this spring? This past spring was the 5th annual year that 4-H clubs and other youth groups joined forces to make Clinton county a cleaner place for people to live and be proud of. In 1977 561 youth and 96 adults covered 221 miles of county roadides picking up 88 pickup loads of trash.

The youth and adults spent over 2100 hours of labor in cleaning the county roadides. The youth learned how much effort it takes each year to clean up litter thrown there by thoughtless people. Local communities and private contractors provided free space that day for disposing of the trash in their effort to help. The Clinton County Road Commission helped also by providing trucks to haul trash where there were no trash areas close by.

This spring will probably be the 6th year for this project since there are some roads that have not been covered in the past plus many roads that were cleaned in 1973 will need it again in 1974 due to inconsiderate people.

Money available to the Road Commission is urgently needed for repair, maintenance and new roads and not for litter pickup. People are urged to "Pitch In" and "Stash the Trash" in proper litter containers.

OUR CONGRATULATIONS to the Clinton County Soil Conservation District for Outstanding Accomplishments in Soil Conservation and Management

OUR SOIL IS STRENGTH...
The Way We Use It - OUR FUTURE

The prosperity of your farm is vital to the future of Clinton County...one more reason why we are eager to serve your farm financing needs

CENTRAL NATIONAL BANK

Now Operating in Its 75th Year

St. Johns

Ovid

Pewamo
Lloyd B. Campbell serves as the District Conservationist for the St. Johns Work Unit, an office of the Soil Conservation Service. The United States Department of Agriculture, which gives Soil and Water Conservation assistance to the Clinton County Soil Conservation District. His duties are to direct office work within the Work Unit. He gives soil and water conservation information and technical assistance on specific practices to a single farmer or a group of farmers or landowners. He records Soil and Water Conservation Plans, based on the land-owners, or operators decision on wise land use. It is his job to analyze worklands, develop annual plan of operations, and decide on goals in line with needs, manpower and other resources. He must give guidance to the Directors of the Clinton County Soil Conservation District in development of the Work Unit program which is coordinated with the District’s program and work plan. He must develop and carry out an effective information program, concerning the Soil and Water Conservation program in the Work Unit.

Some 120,000 families will borrow about $2 billion from the Farmers Home Administration for single homes in the rural area and small towns in the year 1974. Specifications for each new house must be approved and inspections are conducted while work is underway and at completion. Potential builders or buyers should not ignore the soil on which they build. Not all soils are suitable for building purposes. A good look at the soil before building may save you a great deal of grief and money afterwards. In Michigan, the two main problems to look for and guard against, are wet basements and inadequate septic systems. USDA soil scientists have surveyed and mapped most of our soils. Traditionally, soil surveys have been used to identify farmland and the suitability for farm crops. Now soil surveys are used by both rural and urban people.

As an individual home buyer or builder, it will pay you to check the soil on which you plan to build. The right soil can go a long way toward insuring you the house of your dreams. The wrong soil can wreck your house and your bank account. "Know the Soil You Build On," a free publication by the Soil Conservation Service, is available for the asking at your local Soil Conservation Office or at the Farmers Home Administration Office.

Lloyd is your man

FHA housing

12 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BUY A FORD PICKUP

- Quiet, Roomy Carlike Cabs
- Blind Seat Storage Space
- Between-the-frame Position for Gas Tank
- Built-in Air Conditioning Optional
- Deep, Adjustable Full-foam Seat
- Wide Choice of Ford six or V-8’s
- Ford Disc Brakes Standard
- Rust Resistant, Double-Wall Cargo Box
- Exclusive Twin-i-beam Front Suspension
- Sizes for Today’s Big Campers
- Ford is First in Truck Sales for 5 Years
- Over 82 Out of 100 Ford Trucks Built in the Last 12 Years Are Still on the Job

12 REASONS TO BUY FROM EGAN FORD

- Right Prices • Fair Trade-ins • Expert Service • Genuine Parts • Good Inventory • Financing Help • Convenient Location • Personalized Attention • After Sale Follow-Up • Truck "Know-How" • Experienced Personnel • We Appreciate Your Business and We’ll Show It

IF your present credit source doesn’t understand why modern farming takes so much money, see...

Production Credit Association

PCA lends farmers money for anything... and in any amount. You have seven years to repay... you pay only simple interest on the unpaid balance... and only for the actual days you use the money. Interested? Stop in at your PCA office today or ask a PCA man to call on you!

PRODUCTION CREDIT ASSOCIATION

ST. JOHNS

BERNARD MILLER, Mgr.
CHARLES BRACY, Asst. Mgr.
PHONE 224-3662

We Congratulate
the Clinton Soil
We Congratulate the Clinton Soil
Administration
Administration
With the enactment of Act 347 (State Sediment and Erosion Control Law), the role of soil conservation districts in Michigan in dealing with problems of our environment is substantially broadened. Soil conservation districts have been actively working with land users solving problems of erosion and sedimentation for the past 35 years on a voluntary basis. Act 347 now provides that after June 30, 1974, "A person shall not maintain or undertake a land use or earth change covered by this act or the rules, except in accordance with this act and the rules, and pursuant to a permit approved by the appropriate enforcing agency." This in effect means that conservation measures will be a mandatory part of a large portion of our state's land use activity.

The act designates several specific responsibilities to soil conservation districts in dealing with all land users.

1. Section 10-2 sets forth procedures whereby land users engaged in agricultural pursuits may enter into agreement with soil conservation districts to develop conservation plans in lieu of site plans, land use plans or permits otherwise required. The Act also provides that:

2. Sediment and erosion control ordinances or amendments to such ordinances, developed by the city, village or charter township, shall be submitted to the Water Resources Commission and referred to the appropriate soil conservation district for review or comment after July 1, 1974.

3. A local or county agency may apply to the Water Resources Commission for designation as an authorized public agency. Soil erosion and sediment control procedures of such applications shall be submitted to appropriate soil conservation district for review and comment.

4. An authorized public agency or county or local enforcing agency may enter into agreement with the soil conservation district for assistance and advice in overseeing and reviewing compliance with adequate soil erosion and sediment control procedures and in reviewing existing or proposed land uses, land use plans or site plans with regard to technical matters pertaining to soil erosion and sedimentation control. In addition, the Proposed

Rules and Regulations for Act 347 state that SCDs shall:

1. Provide soil erosion and sedimentation control standards and specifications.
2. Approve variances and amendments to the established standards and specifications.
3. Approve a waiver of requirement of permit or plan for those persons engaged in agricultural practices and attest that said practices are being conducted in compliance with the act.

The residents of Clinton County are indeed fortunate to have the reliable and experienced services provided by Clinton Soil Conservation District.

Prevents leaching:

Will winter cover crops help prevent nitrate leaching? Apparently so. Dr. Jones (kan) reports sandy soil receiving manure and nitrogen under irrigation accumulated "significant" nitrate-nitrogen down to 4 feet. But two fields with fall-planted rye showed much lower nitrate-nitrogen levels down to 2 feet the next spring.

We Can Help You
Conserve Your Farm Dollars

Yes, soil conservation starts with the soil. Making the best use of the potential productivity of your soil will give you the greatest dollar return.

CONSERVE Your Building $ $

Money invested in farm buildings represents a sizable investment. Protect this investment by making constant repairs and meeting new building needs. For years we have served this community with quality building materials; this service we plan to continue.

Wieber Lumber Co.
Phone 593-2280

Karber Block Co.
Phone 224-2327

SAND, GRAVEL, BLACK DIRT, MORTAR, MORTAR SAND, READY-MIX
Trees--a cool commodity

Besides adding beauty, trees act as community air conditioners. It's been said that a large elm tree, for example, has a total leaf area of almost an acre, offering a tremendous absorptive surface to collect dust, smoke, and organic gases from the air. Plan to plant trees this spring to replace our dead elms. Without trees and other vegetation, man could not live. Not only does vegetation give us oxygen to breathe, it also transforms the energy of the sun into food for animals to eat.

Thoughts about nature

"I know of no pursuit in which more real and important service can be rendered to any country than by improving its agriculture." — George Washington

"Nothing, in my opinion, would contribute more to the welfare of the States than the proper management of the land." — George Washington

"When the lands are impoverished, people lower their standards, both physically and spiritually." — Dr. Walter Lowdermilk

"I can think of few things more important than teaching both children and grown-ups the value of the soil. The good earth is not only the foundation of a nation's economy; it is the basis of civilization itself." — Louis Bromfield

"It is said jokingly that Cleopatra's bath water is around somewhere, which refers to the fact that water is indestructible and in just about the same amount throughout the world, even though it changes form as it "circulates" in the water cycle.

"Any dust in the air is a sign that the wind is stealing the topsoil. Save the thin layer of soil in which your living is rooted.

"If this nation is to hold the basis for its future greatness, each generation must preserve and enhance the soil resources for use of generations to come."

— Chester C. Davis

"To skin and exhaust the land will result in undermining the days of our children."

— Theodore Roosevelt

Raindrops can't hit the ground running if they fall into a good grass sod.

The fabled land of Canaan, once flowing with milk and honey, is now a desert.

CONSERVATION PAYS OFF TO YOU!

Your Cash Income from Your Farm Depends on the Productivity of Your Soil

Practice Tried and Tested Methods of Soil Conservation

- Plant only the best in seeds
- Build soil with lime and fertilizers
- Rotate crops—harvest in time
- Work at Soil Conservation as an all year... every year project
- For your farm needs see us

Let us assist you in your yearly conservation programs

Get your seed now
teweles brand alalfas
Certified Vernal CLOVER
Mammoth Sweet Clover
Alsike Clover Ladino Certified
June Mixtures
Pasture, Plow Down GRASS
Timothy Brome
All seeds are state tested
Mixing and inoculating service

Mathews Elevator Co.

Fowler Phone 593-2111

FARMERS' CO-OP ELEVATOR

Fowler Phone 593-2420
Cover is beautiful

It may be a patch of weeds, or a marsh, or maybe, an evergreen bog. Perhaps it is a field of wheat or potatoes; or a stand of aspen, or maple. Whatever it may be, it is cover on the land. It is land's pleasant counterpane.

Land, we know, is our basic resource, our common denominator of all that is material. However high man may elevate himself on the stilts of modern living, he must at all times be aware that his props have their bottom poked into the earth. Man cannot, must not forget this, ever.

Likewise, man must at all times consider cover on the land. Without this cover, be it swamp, maple, potatoe or whatever, land is virtually worthless and so too, is man.

Cover on the land is abode to the muskie. Cover on the land is the pheasant, the cottontail, the forest, in sound management of the land-man relationship:

It is land's pleasant counterpane. In this wise use there can be no relaxing of man's respect for and consideration of land and its cover. A constant awareness of his total subservience is essential if he is to enjoy life, or rather, if he is to exist.

Working your soil too much does several undesirable things, and one of the worst is breaking down the structure of the soil. When groups of soil particles (aggregates) are reduced in size by excessive tillage, there is a tendency for the soil to crust. This obstructs good aeration, slows water intake, and reduces amount of water that can be stored in your soil. Since water runoff also increases as soil structure breaks down, erosion losses become worse. SCS research reports that too many tillage operations can break down and pack the surface layer of a silty clay loam until a cubic foot weighs 110 to 125 pounds compared to a normal 85 to 90 pounds.

Evaporate and cool

The evaporation from a single properly watered tree can produce an estimated cooling effect of more than a million B.T.U.'s in its lifetime—equal to ten room-sized air conditioners running twenty hours a day.

Another important point to keep in mind is that all crop residues give maximum protection from wind and water-erosion when left on top of the soil. The minute you start cutting residues in, you start losing protection. Disking just once, for example, reduces protection by 90 percent. If wind erosion is your problem, you might be better off to leave all residues standing, rather than shred them. As you go thru winter, you might compare the value of your crop residues left on your land. And next spring when you head for the field, you might consider leaving some of your favorite tillage equipment in the shed.

CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

CONSERVING YOUR SOIL CONSERVES YOUR MONEY

You paid for your land when you purchased it. You pay for it again every time you pay taxes.

Make all your land pay for itself and more by keeping it in good condition for profitable production. Soil erosion and depletion creep up slowly and often go unnoticed until suddenly your profits are down. Keep well ahead of poor soil conditions, it pays many times over.

We Congratulate

THE CLINTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT . . .
And its farmers for the excellent work they have done in conserving our most precious resources . . . OUR SOIL AND WATER

IT'S OUR AIM:

To help you keep your soil in top productive shape. Your cash income from your farm depends on the productivity of your soil. Protect both by keeping your soil well supplied with the nutrients it needs.

YOUR SOIL IS YOUR LIVELIHOOD AND WHAT YOU KNOW AND DO ABOUT NUTRIENTS YOUR SOIL NEEDS WILL MAKE THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN THE FUTURE PRODUCTIVITY OF YOUR FARM. SEE ZEEB FERTILIZERS TODAY . . . SEE HOW ZEEB FERTILIZERS, GOOD FARM MANAGEMENT, AND SOIL CONSERVATION PRACTICES CAN ASSURE YOU OF CONTINUED PROFITABLE PRODUCTION.

Our Aim is to Help You Keep Your Soil in Top Productive Shape

ZEEB FERTILIZERS

"Where Quality Is Our Greatest Asset"

208 W. Railroad St., St. Johns - Phone 224-3234
Ashley - Phone 487-3217
Swanson is Conservation winner

The “Conservation Farmer of 1973” is Warren A. Swanson of Bingham and Olive Townships according to the Clinton County Soil Conservation District Board. The board meeting on December 18, 1973, selected Warren for the award because of the outstanding job he has done of establishing conservation practices on his farm.

Warren and his wife, Doris, and four children, Marsha, Dana, May, Jack, and Wesley live at 3601 West Centerline Road. Warren was born and lived in Lewiston, Montmorency County until he joined the U.S. Air Force in 1952. He served for four years. He said he was a carpenter and worked in the woods before he joined the Air Force. He also said that as long as he could remember he had always wanted to be a farmer.

While Warren was in the Service, his folks sold their home in Lewiston and moved to Clinton County. They built a house on Warren’s brother, David’s farm in Essex Township and they live there now. After Warren got out of the Air Force in 1956, he came to Clinton County, also. He finally realized his life’s ambition when he rented the Charles Smith farm in Greenbush Township and started farming. He and Doris were married in 1958. After three years, they rented the Audrey Fruchtl farm in Bingham Township and farmed there until they bought their present farm in 1966.

Warren now owns 320 acres and rents another 150 acres. He cash crops and also has a dairy herd of 31 cows.

He just received a “500 Honor Roll Certificate” from the Michigan Dairy Herd Improvement Association. In order to receive this certificate, dairy herds must average 500 pounds of butter fat every year for five consecutive years. Warren’s cows averaged 14,826 pounds of milk and 540 pounds of butter fat per year for the last five years.

There is a strong advocate of lime and fertilizer according to soil tests. He grows wheat, soybeans, corn, and hay.

Some of the conservation practices that Warren has established on his farm are: 322 acres of conservation cropping system, 140 acres of minimum tillage, 200 acres of crop residue management, 67 acres of pasture and hayland planting, 10 acres of field and container strip cropping, 4 acres of woodland harvest cutting, 36,640 feet of tile drains and 5,000 feet of ditch deepening and cleanout. He worked with his neighbors in getting an open drain, deepened for tile outlets and also with several neighbors on a group tile drain.

Warren is also active in the Farm Bureau, Dairy Herd Improvement Association, and the Michigan Milk Producers. For a young man who started from scratch in 1956, Warren has come a long way to the present very successful farmer of today.

We Salute Warren Swanson

FOR BEING SELECTED

“Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year” and soil conservation award winners:

Leon Armbrustmacher
Joe Houska, Jr.
Willie Koste
John Schmitt
Howard Hess
James Rostie

We Salute These men and all others who have worked for and with the Clinton County Soil Conservation District.

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- Complete Fertilizing Spreading
- Michigan Certified Seed
- Farm Bureau Petroleum Products
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There has never been a successful farmer yet that didn’t keep on the lookout for trouble areas on his farm where erosion or poor soil need attention. He knows that he would take a loss on the overall production per acre if these problems were not corrected when they occur. Soil conservation is money.

WHEN YOUR FARM COMES FIRST

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Use the finest . . .

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We look forward to serving your spring farming needs. Just call us.
This is the story of 1973

accomplishments
Clinton County Soil Conservation District
Fiscal Year 1973

TO DATE
Number
ACRES
District Cooperators
55
7,111
1053
Conservation Plan Prepared
107
16,831
990
Conservation Plans Revised
9
3,772

SOLD Survey
22,020
309,419

Conservation Cropping System
4,574
196,820

Critical Area Planting
3
337

Minimum Tillage
1,385
9,942

Grass Waterways
2.0
92

Land Smoothing
25
30

Tiles Drains
423,099 ft.
13,099,683 ft.

Grade Stabilization Structures
2
211

Field Windbreaks
-299,900 ft.
164,610 ft.

Farms Ponds
12
165

Tree Planting
13
400

Woodland Management
121
1,875

Wildlife Habitat Management
311
2,346

Stripcropping, Field & Contour
2
1,298

Cropland to Grassland
98
2,362

Cropland to Woodland
23
528

Cropland to Wildlife Recreation
27
3,018

Joint Cropland to Wildlife Recreation
24
1,064

Open & Field Ditches
4,360 ft.
923,421 ft.

Land Adequately Treated
6,069
121,113

In addition to the above conservation practices, Lee Sheerwood, conservation forester, Department of Natural Resources, gave woodland management assistance to several cooperators, marking trees for harvesting or culling, assisting on tree planting jobs, varieties, insect, and weed tree control. During 1973, the Clinton County Board of Commissioners and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service signed a contract to complete the Clinton County Soil Survey. Karl R. Pregitzer, soil scientist SCS was named party leader, assisted by Glenn Westaas, soil scientist. SCS. Since that date, they have completed the field work in Westphalia, Dallas, Lebanon, and Essex townships for this soil survey.

The district employees have colored septic field limitations on advance copies of the soil maps for Bath, Dewitt,Watertown, Eagle, Riley, Olive, Victor, Ovid, Blumberg, Bengal, Greenbush, Douglass, Westphalia, Essex, Lebanon, and Dallas townships for the Clinton County Planning Commission and town boards of these townships. The County Planning Commission has used these advance copies of the soil survey for their various planning activities. The township boards are using these soil maps to assist them to make township plans.

These accomplishments were made possible by the combined efforts of the cooperating landowners, the directors of the Clinton County Soil Conservation District, and technical staff provided by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, and other cooperating agencies.

LLOYD B. CAMPBELL
District conservationist

- FINANCIAL REPORT

Clinton County Soil Conservation District
July 1, 1972 - June 30, 1973

Balance on Hand July 1, 1972 $ 1,508.31

RECEIPTS:
District Administrative Funds (State of Mich.) $ 897.00
Conservation District Aide Funds (State of Mich.) 3,477.00
State and Regional Meeting Funds 43.39
County Boards of Commissioners 3,600.00
Sale of Trees and Shrub Planting Stock 3,790.75
Annual Meeting Receipts 300.75
Sale of Equipment 300.00
Sale of Crownvetch 3,002.90
Other Receipts 338.00
Total Receipts $16,170.72

TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS $17,679.10

DISBURSEMENTS:
Office Supplies, and Postage $ 314.27
Directors Mileage and Expenses 612.68
Equipment Purchased 158.40
Conservation District Aide 7,847.95
Social Security 435.10
Bond, Workmen's Compensation 142.65
Trees & Hauling 2,551.28
Annual Meeting 534.15
Youth Activities 85.90
Publications 199.75
Educational Materials 203.65
Crownvetch Sales 3,175.27
Region IV Meeting 275.00
State & National Dues 3,010.00
Annual Meeting 234.15
Youth Activities 85.90
Publications 131.80
Educational Materials 283.65
Crownvetch Sales 3,175.27
Region IV Meeting 275.00
State & National Dues 3,010.00
Total Disbursements $16,667.55

BALANCE OF CASH AVAILABLE - June 30, 1973 $ 1,011.55

Tips For A Better Future

TIP NO. 1

Invest your work now in Soil Conservation for greater farm earnings in the future!

TIP NO. 2

Invest your savings now at CAPITOL for greater dividends and a better future!

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Pass Book Savings
Earn
5 1/4% CURRENT ANNUAL RATE
Our congratulations are again extended to the Clinton County-Soil Conservation District on completion of another outstanding year. Other portions of this Annual Report will detail these accomplishments. As one looks back over the work of your district such activities as erosion control, surface water management, watershed development, farm conservation planning, non-farm erosion and sedimentation assistance, educational contests and programs, soil surveys and many others highlight the district's success. 

Another major concern now before us is Land Use Planning. Some communities have developed a land use policy and adopted a variety of ordinances to implement this policy. However, the extent of this effort is far too limited. Even many zoning ordinances are too weak in spelling out comprehensive land use provisions and in providing for their enforcement.

We are not running out of land at this time but the competition for numerous kinds of land uses in many areas is reaching a critical stage. In Michigan at least 50,000 acres of cropland are being diverted to non-agricultural purposes each year. There is a growing population with an ever greater portion of them desiring to reside in a country atmosphere. This land use housing problem alone is severe. Farmland tax assessments are increasing due to their proximity to high land value developments. Growing populations in these areas also mean additional services of all kinds. Our present and predicted population means more competition for land to build shopping centers, highways, schools, waste disposal dumps, recreation areas, factories and utilities. This loss of food producing land will steadily continue unless people decide where these developments should logically occur.

All this means that someone will have to get busy inventories our land resources as to quantity, quality and location; next deciding what kind of community they wish to have and finally agreeing what lands should be used for specific purposes. That someone is us and the time is now.

National and State Governments are developing programs and legislation dealing with overall land use policy guidelines. However, in each case emphasis is given to basic planning being done on a regional, county or community basis depending on the nature of the problem.

It is clear that some form of land use planning is going to take place. If local people do not accept this responsibility to determine their own land use future than some higher government unit probably will do it. I believe that soil conservation districts and other organized groups must be alert to these problems and provide initiative to develop a practical land use program for their community. Local people are telling us that land use planning should be done by them. The acid test will come in the near future as to whether or not they will do it.

Soil is nation's most valuable resource

"The most valuable resource of this Nation is the soil. Gold is more spectacular; iron has in two generations made men richer; copper has opened up greater possibilities of advancing techniques. But, it is the soil which produced the lasting and essential wealth of the Nation." —Brinser and Shepard, in "Our Use of the Land."
One of the encouraging trends on the conservation scene today is the widespread attention being given to land use policy and planning. Legislation on land use is being proposed in the Congress and legislatures throughout the nation. National, regional, state and local meetings and conferences have been and are being held to learn about land use problems and how to solve them.

The Michigan Association of Soil Conservation Districts established a Land Use Committee in 1972 to address this important question. The Michigan Chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America has a Land Use Position Statement to bring the thinking of this professional society to the attention of others. A strong interest in land use policy and planning is evidenced by Michigan United Conservation Clubs and affiliate members.

The Soil Conservation Society of America's National Land Use Policy conference (November 1972) is but one example of what is going on in this field. A conference such as this attracts governors, congressmen, administrators, educators, planners, and numerous others in a wide range of disciplines.

In Michigan, Governor Milliken is giving strong direction in developing a state land use plan. Legislation is now being considered which will establish a land use policy for the state.

Another group that has for some time been involved in land use planning is the professional planners. Planners at the regional, county and local levels are constantly challenged to produce effective and acceptable land use plans. These planners have had some success in primarily urban and suburban areas.

Currently most soil conservation districts are providing the leadership to refine the prime lands map for their county. The soil conservation districts are in a unique position to provide leadership in land use planning on private lands. Furthermore, if they wish to do so, soil conservation districts can play a significant role in the development of county land use plans.

It should be noted that the implementation of any land use plan will not be easy. Opposition to plans based on social, political and economic factors is certain to occur. Perhaps the most important factor in opposition to planned land use in our historic land ethic is the one that goes like this: "This is my land. I own it in fee title. I can do with it as I wish." It is unlikely that society will accept this reasoning in the future.

Soil conservation districts for more than two decades have promoted the concept that landowners are stewards of the land. This concept implies wise use and proper care so that all citizens and future generations will have adequate land to meet their needs.

**Land use**

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**NEW MULTI-RING FRONT TRACTOR TIRE**

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- Between casing to resist moisture, impact brakes

**IMPROVED FOR WEAR and PERFORMANCE**

See Us For All Your Tire Needs!

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WE CONGRATULATE THE CLINTON COUNTY SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT and the farmers of this area for their outstanding job in soil conservation. Leadership in this cause is truly deserving of the highest award.

**The Hub Tire Center**

CHARLES WEBER, Manager

North US-27.

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FERTILIZING
SPRAYING-DUSTING

Our Aerial System Gets the Job Done Quickly and at Low Cost

STAY OFF THE SOIL,

USE OUR AERIAL SYSTEM Which Is Approved by Your County Soil Conservation District

We Operate Our Own FULLY-EQUIPPED AIRPLANE

Max Miller

The Clinton County Soil Conservation District is recognized as one of the outstanding districts in our state, and as a leader in any project completed in Michigan. I want to congratulate this district for the example it sets to other districts, and the services it provides to the people of Clinton county.

Increased food production will be needed in the coming years. I am sure agriculture will respond to this challenge as it has in times of past crises. The need for additional food and fiber is very apparent if we are to maintain our own standard of living as well as our position in the world's agricultural marketplace.

As we move into 1974 and the future, increased production demands obviously will mean that many thousands of acres of land now idle will be "brought under the plow." While a portion of this land was idle due to various set-aside programs, a large part of this acreage was not used for crops because of such limitations as poor drainage, high susceptibility to wind and water erosion, poor soil structure and others.

As this land is brought back into production, provisions to deal with these hazards must be made so that undue soil erosion and sedimentation do not occur. The need for increased conservation planning and establishment of more sound conservation practices on the land is apparent. Let's join the national campaign of "production with protection."

At this time in history, the technical services available through soil conservation districts become even more valuable. Not only should we be concerned about these newly tilled lands, but care must also be exercised that conservation practices established on the land over the past years are continued. I urge land users to avail themselves of these services so that our food and fiber production capability will be protected and maintained.

ACCEPTING INCONVENIENCE

It is often said that man profits by his mistakes. Yet, many large cities as well as small ones, and a few houses are located in floodplains of streams and rivers which are subject to periodic flooding of varying magnitude at regular intervals. The people seem to accept the inconvenience and losses. Our Indian predecessors did not build permanent encampments within the flood-plains.

FUTURE--THE IMPORTANT FACTOR

It has been said that time is divided into three parts—the Past, the Present, and the Future. We can do nothing about the past. It is gone and can never be recalled. The present is only an instant. The future is the only period of time that we can do anything about.

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ALL SIZES AVAILABLE - CALL US
Tractor program can help

How many farmers can afford a $10,800 fine and a liability lawsuit? Not many, but evidently some feel they can as they hire youth other than their own children under 16 years of age to drive a tractor or operate certain farm machinery without the tractor exemption. Saying I don't know anything about the bill “Youth Employment in Hazardous Occupations in Agriculture” won't hold up in Court. The bill became effective February 1, 1970.

The Hazardous Occupations Order makes it unlawful to hire or even permit any youth under 16 years of age to do any of the jobs listed as hazardous unless: (11) the youth is working on a farm owned or operated by the youth's parent or legal guardian or (2) the youth 14 years - 16 years of age has a training certificate which provides exemption from specific hazardous jobs. Youth cannot operate machinery classified as hazardous or do other jobs listed as hazardous on a neighbor's property unless the property is leased or operated by his parent which would not be the case in custom work or labor situations.

What jobs are off limits? (1) Tractor operation with tractors 20 pto horsepower in size, (2) general harvest machinery, (3) specialized equipment such as chain saws, (4) handling breeding animals, (5) woodworking, (6) high elevation work of 30 feet or above, (7) certain transportation equipment, (8) toxic atmosphere, (9) handling chemicals, (10) blasting and working with flammable and explosive materials.

With today's society ready to sue at a moment's notice, it seems strange that farmers are willing to gamble with this risk. Whether they agree or disagree with the law doesn't help you in Court.

However, the US Department of Labor has given a vote of confidence to the 4-H tractor program for youth 14 and 15 years of age to drive tractors and operate machinery. This approval comes provided they have an exemption showing he or she has successfully completed safety units in this 4-H tractor program, can pass a written examination and the operator skill test.

There are three distinct programs: (1) 4-H tractor operation program - completion of this program permits a youth to be employed to drive a tractor. (2) 4-H Machinery Operation Program - completion of this program permits a youth to be employed to operate 16 different types of general farm machinery. (3) A combination of tractor and machinery program.

If you are thinking of employing a youth over 14 and under 16 years of age to work on the farm, be sure you know what jobs a youth can and cannot do. If you want him to drive a tractor, encourage him to take the 4-H tractor program for exemption. There is no exemption for tractor or machinery operation by youth under 14 years of age.

This past year about 20 Clinton County boys under 16 years of age passed the tractor program for exemption to operate a farm tractor. For more information contact John Aylsworth, Extension 4-H Youth Agent, 1003 South Oakland, St. Johns or phone 224-3249. You could be $ ahead.

There is Potential in the Soil if Proper CONSERVATION PRACTICES are applied

EVERY SOIL CONDITION REQUIRES DIFFERENT APPLICATION OF NUTRIENTS AND KNOWLEDGE TO GET THE MOST OUT OF IT.

We here at Fedewa Builders feel the same when it comes to your needs and try our best to help you solve your problems.

We stand ready to serve you in many ways.

SEE US FOR YOUR CONSTRUCTION AND CONCRETE NEEDS.
Managing livestock waste

Animal waste management is rapidly becoming a vital part of our soil and water conservation program in SCS Area V of Michigan. This 13-County area comprising the "Thumb" and Saginaw Valley area of Michigan produces nearly one third of the state's livestock and poultry products. In Clinton County, approximately four fifths of the value of farm products sold are from livestock. Problems of animal wastes are often a by-product of this much needed production.

Workshops for all SCS personnel in the area have been conducted to improve their ability in dealing with animal waste problems. Area and Field Office personnel are available to plan and design animal and other agricultural waste management systems. Livestock waste management is now considered in all conservation plans where there is a livestock enterprise. Proper waste handling by agriculture is essential to clean up and maintain a pure waste resource. SCS will help plan and install efficient agricultural waste management systems for nearly all situations. This is a most significant contribution to the remedy of our pollution problems as we continue to be a leader in agricultural production.
Many have not forgotten the difficulty we had in harvesting our crops from unusually wet fields in 1972 and in preparing and planting our crops in the wet spring of 1973. For those who farm the heavier soils, this excess water re-emphasized our need for a complete drainage system to remove both the ponded water on the ground surface and the gravitational water within the root zone of our crops.

Some of our lighter soils also have drainage problems—like a waterway that is very wet when seen from the slope hills and we get stuck in the saturated soil with our heavy equipment. In addition, we frequently have a few wet areas. Here we usually install a tile main under the waterway and run branch lines (sub mains) to the middle of the wet areas. Then add a few closely spaced laterals to remove the excess root zone water within these pockets. When several inches of surface water accumulates, we may need to add a surface or a blind inlet to these tile terminals.

I have felt for many years that proper attention to drainage and, more specifically, to the importance of the tile drainage system, has been the key to removing the problem of water in the root zone of our crops. Some work has been done in the state and in our County Conservation District to remove long stretches of water within the root zone of our crops into the shallow depressions to reduce the land to a uniform slope. County Cable television Olsen farming which includes soil borings should be done to be sure that we will not be removing too much depth of surface soil from adjoining areas of the field.

In order for agriculture to have continued good drainage there are some six requirements that must be met. These are:

1. Good Outlets
2. Good Layout
3. Good Design
4. Good Construction
5. Good Materials
6. Good Maintenance

Probably one of the most troublesome of the above is a combination of number one and six—the maintenance of our drainage outlets. These outlets may be open ditches, large diameter tile lines and pumps. The open ditch and the large tile lines quite often are our public ditches and are covered by our County Drain Laws, in most counties they are under the jurisdiction of our elected County Drain Commissioners. When a drain crosses county lines the law classifies it as an inter county drain and its administration involves the County Drain Commissioners of the counties involved and the State Department of Agriculture. The construction of these public drains in the "early days" was necessary to convert swamps to highly productive agricultural fields which provide food for our growing population and today also provides food for other parts of the world. There are some in our society who would now like to turn back the clock to that early period. They have tried hard to pass restrictive legislation to make it more costly and procedurally more difficult to maintain our drainage outlets, namely the open ditch. Our drainage ditches to perform their desired function of removing excess water rapidly should be free of brush and need cleanouts of accumulated sediment to prevent obstruction of the outlets of our individual farm tile drainage systems. If prolonged obstruction of the ends of the tile lines is allowed to continue these lines can accumulate enough sediment that the system fails.

The general public sometimes forgets that the drainage ditch also provides (1) an outlet for water flowing off our highways right of ways, and (2) an outlet for the storm drains of the city. The individual who builds a house in either the country or the city usually puts footing drains around the house foundation to collect and remove the excess water from the soil to an outlet, hence avoiding a personal drainage problem of water in his basement.

What I have tried to say here is that not only does the farmer need good, well maintained drainage outlets; but also, the general public. I recall a community that I visited several years ago that had an almost solidly walled choked drainage ditch going between a new subdivision and the public school yard. The presence of the brush greatly reduced the water discharge into your drainfield, the capacity of the ditch to the point where most of the water flowed alongside the ditch. Where did the runoff go? It flooded into the basements of the new homes and into the school yard. The solution to this problem would be the removal of the brush, a clearing out of the accumulated sediment; and, probably the ditch would have to be enlarged to remove the even more rapid runoff from the paved streets and storm sewers.

A desirable goal for 1974 would be the cleaning out of our drainage ditches so that, they can perform as designed for the rapid removal of "excess water".

You and your disposal system

(FROM PAGE 15 C)
By E.P. Whiteside

D.C. That report will contain the medium intensity soil maps just completed, on an aerial photo base, and a general soil map of the county at a scale of about 3 miles per inch, in color. It will probably be 2 or 3 years before this publication is available for distribution.

In the meantime all the soil information is available locally as indicated above. In addition, some copies of the 1" equals 1 mile colored soil map of the county, published in 1942, are still available from the Crop and Soil Science Department. This information is still very useful for general planning, particularly in the county or township levels.

Dutch thrive on fertility

There probably will always be some people who believe that we have nothing to fear but a well-managed nation. They are wrong. A country can only continue to be prosperous, and be truly independent, which is sustained by agricultural intelligence, agricultural industry, and agricultural wealth. Though its commerce may be swept from the ocean - and its manufactures rendered valueless - yet, if its soil is well cultivated, and well tilled, by farmers, it can still be made to yield all the absolute necessities of life - it can sustain its population, and its independence - and when its misfortunes abate, it can, like the trunkless roots of a recently cut-down tree, firmly braced in, new foliage, and new growth spring from it. It can rear again the edifice of its manufactures, commerce. -Jess Bush.

Complete field work

By E.P. Whiteside

Field work on a National Cooperative Soil Survey of Clinton County was completed during 1973. The Soil Conservation Service (of the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture) and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station cooperated in the characterization, mapping and interpretation of the soil information for various uses. The County Board of Commissioners and the Tri-County Planning Commission also provided part of the funds needed for this resurvey of Clinton County soils.

Individuals interested in soil information on their land can obtain a copy of the new soil map sheets of their area, with a legend describing the soils and their interpretation. Interpreters for each soil series indicating its limitations for various uses. These are available through the county offices of the Soil Conservation Service and the Cooperative Extension Service in St. Johns. Interpretations are provided for rural land use - engineering design and wildlife uses of the soils. The county office of the Soil Conservation Service has prepared single purpose, degree of limitation, and maps for various uses for each township in the county with the assistance of the Soil Conservation District. These should be very useful in township and community planning work in Clinton County.

A soil survey report including these items for the whole county is currently being prepared for publication by the Government Printing Office in Washington.

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CLINTON COUNTY NEWS

Resources for people

Osborn E. Grant
Administrator, Soil Conservation Service

America has a lot of people to feed and to provide living space for; that we are able to do so well is a tribute not only to the tremendous natural resource base we have but also to the people who know how to manage it.

For nearly 20 years the people of Clinton County have been aided in their resource management efforts by the Clinton County Soil Conservation District. Through close working relationships with Lloyd Campbell and Orville Beachler of the Soil Conservation Service and with other agencies that have technical information or financial assistance to offer, the district supervisors have brought valuable help to landowners. They also have brought valuable ideas from landowners and themselves to aid in statewide and national conservation programs.

It's a tremendous partnership that has improved the environment more and in many ways than many people appreciate. And it's a very satisfying partnership.

We will need more food and fiber than our record crops last year could provide. It's encouraging to know that conservation districts will be working to help farmers decide which acres can be brought back into cultivation without erosion hazards, and how protection can be boosted in other ways.

Conservation districts also aid in many other kinds of land-use decisions and in treating environmental problems. When Michigan's sedimentation control law takes effect, conservation districts will be helping achieve the desired reduction in sediment pollution.

They also will be aiding planning groups in land-use decisions, particularly around growing metropolitan areas such as Lansing.

Conservation districts have a tremendous capability to help meet national as well as community land-use aims because they understand people and resources. With all of the state and national legislation being considered related to land use, the main emphasis still will be on local needs and interests and local ideas.

Congratulations to the Clinton County Soil Conservation District and its leaders and cooperators for outstanding work in soil and water conservation. The Soil Conservation Service looks forward to an even closer partnership and more environmental action for people in the future.
A good crop of alfalfa will surely improve your soil. The deep growing roots improve soil structure and aid water infiltration of the soil, while the nitrogen fixing of the alfalfa legume increases the fertility of the soil.

Last winter a lot of alfalfa was winter killed and as you recall, the winter killing occurred on April 18, 1973. The temperature went down to 24 degrees and stayed there for twenty-four hours. The alfalfa killed was mainly on areas where there was a lot of water held in the soil and areas that were not fertilized the previous year. Fertilizing your alfalfa, especially with potash, will reduce winter killing.

Here are a few ideas of how to get and keep a good stand. Well drained soil — Alfalfa ground should be well drained — rolling field — if high yields are to be expected the alfalfa will not do well. In rotation soil should be sweated for alfalfa. This will improve the yield of the subsequent crop.

**Good Seedbed — Minimum tillage in the spring — quality plowing before seeding — is essential.**

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N. U. S. 27 at FRENCH RD. PH. 224-4681

**CLINTON COUNTY NEWS**

 Alfalfa improves soil

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**Rep Stanley Powell discusses land use legislation**

Probably the most significant topic to impact the future of alfalfa Michigan Legislation in many years is the proposed "Land Use" legislation. Some may view it as a threat to their privilege to become quite irritating toward proposed plans that are being considered by the Committee on Towns and Counties Administration. The idea that the public has a stake in deciding how their land shall be used has not yet been realized. One of the valuable contributions has come from Soil Conservation agencies in the form of soil data and experience of having worked in this field for a good many years.

Within the next few weeks we expect to have the bill ready for discussion by the entire House of Representatives. I will be glad to send copies to any interested person and hope they would give me their thoughts in return.

**ConGRATulations**

**CLINTON**

**SOIL CONSERVATION**

**CARSON CITY FARM SERVICE**

**JOHN DEERE **

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Kellogg's Cereal ............ 16-0z Wt Cans 77¢

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