

Jan. 1, 1934

V.T. No. 7

Bennett

THE
BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS
CREEK NEWS



U.S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINDEN, LA.

Sign Agreements Now—

Farmers in the area who have not yet signed cooperative agreements, but who intend to do so, should come or write to the Minden or Ruston office at once. There is nothing to be gained in delaying the signing of agreements and there is much to be gained.

We have heard numbers of farmers say that they plan to wait for some time before signing agreements, because they felt the office was being rushed and they could not be reached for some months anyway. This idea is erroneous. We want to sign agreements just as fast as we can. One can readily see how the work can be helped along if farmers on adjoining farms already have agreements signed so that equipment can be moved from farm to farm without the necessity of long trips from one farm to another.

It takes time to work out each farm program and if too many wait until spring before signing up, it will not be possible to reach everyone as fast as we may do otherwise. With signed agreements in the files we know what is ahead of us and can better plan our future program of work.

As we have said numbers of times, if there is anything that you do not understand about the program of work, anything upon which you feel you would like to have information, officials of the Soil Erosion Service will consider it a favor to both this organization as well as the farmer himself if he will come to the office or write a card asking for someone to call at his farm.

LET'S GET BUSY, MR. FARMER, AND GET YOUR CONTRACT SIGNED.
WE ARE AT YOUR SERVICE. CALL ON US.

WEDDING BELLS

Wedding bells which have been chiming in rather subdued tones for some months around the S. E. S. office, broke out in great peals of music during the Christmas holidays.

John Boughton in some mysterious manner succeeded in getting Miss Evelyn Talbert of Mangham to say, "Yes". They were married on Sunday, December 23 at Mangham, their home town.

Glen Kelly, who was married way back last April to Miss Dot Bergeron of Baton Rouge, just let the glad news out when he returned after the holidays with his wife.

doubts about Kelly having been married so long and suspicion that he is simply trying to put "oil on turbulent waters by claiming that his grip on freedom was pried loose some months back.

Oh, well, good luck to the boys and their Missuses, who have already set up to house keeping at Minden.

NEW STAFF MEMBER --

Guy Fletcher of Natchitoches will become affiliated with our project on Jan. 1. Mr. Fletcher has an outstanding record as a county agent. We welcome him. He will be Chief Soil

January 1, 1954

THE BRUSHY-COOLEY-CYPRESS CREEK

N-E-W-S

Issued at Minden, Louisiana by the
U. S. SOIL EROSION SERVICE, Pro-
ject No. 15, Department of the
Interior.

Webster and Lincoln Parishes, La.

Vol. 1

No. 7

Harold G. Anthony, Editor

A HEART TO HEART TALK

We want to have a little talk with the farmers of our project area this month. First, we want to say that we are delighted with the fine spirit of cooperation which most of the farmers have shown toward the Soil Erosion Service work. We realize that many of the phases of the work are new to our farming people and we can understand that a few have hesitated to grasp the work for their farms. It is a great source of satisfaction, however, for us to look through our files and find that the most cooperative among the farmers are those who at first hesitated to enter into the program of work.

In short, we feel that those farmers who went slow at first, investigated the work carefully and then entered into it, are really "sold" on the work. We had to show those farmers something before they signed cooperative agreements. The fact that they are now our loudest boosters leads us to believe that we have "shown" them the definite benefits to be derived from the erosion control program.

There is no doubt but that we will make mistakes as we go along with our work. But even in the making of errors we will gain for ourselves and for the farmers in this area valuable

information which will be of considerable value to us and to the farmers in the area as the work progresses.

We want the farmers in the North Louisiana project to know that we are here for one purpose - to be of some help to them, to aid them in saving their valuable farm lands. We do not put ourselves in the position of "knowing it all". We do have at our fingertips a mass of information, which has been gathered through tested and tried, experimentally proved. We believe that this information, this knowledge can be of some use to you. We offer you our services and our accumulated experimental data for the asking.

We need the help of the farmers in the North Louisiana area in order to make the work we are doing successful. You are just as important to us, as we believe our experience and data are to you. If you have seen the type of work which we are doing, and like it, we would appreciate a letter from you to that effect. If you are not in accord with the work we are doing, we still want to hear from you. Constructive criticism never hurt anyone. There is not an official, not a laborer connected with our project, but who will welcome and consider any constructive criticism given.

Simply put, we have here a program of work which cannot succeed and does not deserve to succeed without the wholehearted cooperation of our own Soil Erosion Service workers and the farmers. We are all working to a common aim and for a common good. It will be impossible for us to fail if we work together, share each other's problems, work out in an amicable way any differences which may arise as we go along.

The foregoing is a preamble to the following few words: THE FARMERS IN OUR AREA ARE COOPERATING WITH US TO THE UTMOST. WE APPRECIATE THEIR HELP AND ENTHUSIASM .

---CANCER CURE IS FOUND---

From the news bulletin published by the Temple, Texas Soil Erosion Service Project we take the clipping reproduced below:

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS
RECOMMEND DIVERSIFIED TREATMENT--

If a doctor were to announce that he would treat all types of cancer growth in exactly the same manner, regardless of their type, location, stage of development, etc., we would question the soundness of his judgment.

Erosion is land cancer which, if not checked in its early stage, rapidly spreads, eating away the healthy tissue - - the fertile topsoil - - gradually weakening the production capacity, and finally causing complete destruction. As in the human body, the first stages of the ailment often go unnoticed, and it is not until a malignant condition exists that proper attention is given.

Human cancer is sometimes attributed to external irritation, although unhealthy body conditions may be a contributing cause. Land cancer is likewise brought about by an external influence - the flowing of rainfall over the surface. Internal conditions, however, are very important, although seldom given consideration. If land is healthy, rich in humus, and is tightly bound together by fibrous plant roots, erosion will proceed much more slowly.

The best time to fight erosion is while the soil is still healthy. Means should be taken to remove the cause before the destructive stage is reached.

Similar to the treatment of any disease, a careful study is necessary to determine what method or combination of methods will be most successful in combating erosion on any particular area. Each farm deserves a special study in order to adapt the control methods to the conditions existing on that particular piece of land. No two farms are exactly alike, and it is not possible to determine the best means of approach unless attention is given to all phases of the problem.

No one method of erosion control will fit all conditions. If a complete cure is to be effected, it will be necessary to utilize all practical measures that are adaptable and that have demonstrated their usefulness.

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No single-track method of erosion control will ever be completely successful. There are so many different phases to this program of work that it would be foolish to direct our efforts to one method of accomplishing the job. Every department of the Soil Erosion Service is most important within its own sphere of activity. But the work will be most successful on those projects where the work of each department is closely interwoven into the whole. We believe that every man working on Project 15 realizes the above fact. Such united direction of purpose will spell success for our project.

CONTACTS

H. M. Mims, Acting Regional Director, spent several days in Washington the week before Christmas. Mr. Mims had the pleasure of meeting Director H. H. Bennett and of holding several conferences with him. In addition to Mr. Mims there were also a number of Regional Directors in Washington from other projects and Mr. Mims and others held a number of round-table conferences in which ideas were exchanged and general discussions were held regarding the work of the Soil Erosion Service in general.

Mr. Mims took with him to Washington several copies of the section devoted to the Soil Erosion Service in the historical edition which is soon to come off the press here. Director Bennett was so impressed with this section that he asked for a hundred copies of the edition to be procured. Mr. Mims wired for these and they were forwarded to him by Publisher Harper.

Mr. Mims stated that his trip was an interesting and instructive one. While in Washington he also conferred with Congressman John N. Sandlin regarding the program of the Soil Erosion Service in this area.

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VISITING OTHER PROJECTS

F. S. Edmiston, Chief Engineer, A. C. Morris, Agronomist and H. B. Martin, Agronomist in charge of the Ruston office, left this area Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 26 by automobile for Meridian, Miss., where they will visit the S. E. S. project at that place. From Meridian the Louisiana men will go to the project at Conway, Ark., where they will spend some time looking over the different phases of the work at that place.

The value of contacts made between department heads and others of the different Soil Erosion Service projects can not be over estimated. By visiting these other projects it is possible to learn plans and work which may be of value to the North Louisiana project. At the same time the visitors will probably have ideas which will be of value to those on the project visited.

It is always possible to learn something from the other fellow regardless of how good your own project may be going. Exchange of ideas in any organization or business is always worthwhile.

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Friday afternoon, Dec. 21, members of the office force of the Minden office enjoyed a Christmas tree. Names were drawn and a beautiful tree was set up and decorated. This affair was an enjoyable lull in the work-a-day activities.

Friday night the office force at the Ruston office enjoyed a similar affair. Small, humorous gifts were exchanged and everyone had an enjoyable evening.

GENERAL SUMMARY OF WORK RECORD OF PROJECT NO. 15

At this time of year when business men are thinking in terms of inventories, profits and losses and making plans for the business of the coming year, it is not out of place to furnish the people of the North Louisiana Soil Erosion Service project with a concise statement of the accomplishments and developments which have been brought about by the different departments of the erosion control work in this area.

The Soil Erosion Service has been in operation in Webster and Lincoln parishes considerably less than a years' time. It will be remembered that the office was set up in Minden around April 5 with the Ruston office being opened at a later date.

A great mass of preliminary data had to be compiled before it was possible to begin actual work on the individual farms of the area. Thus, it was not until July and August that this information was in such a shape that actual field work could start.

A summary of the various phases of the work up until the time of the holidays conclusively show that the work has been pushed at a rapid rate.

The figures below should be interesting to all citizens of the area:

Co-operative agreements signed, 228.

Acres protected by terracing, 5,412.

Number acres protected by a combination of terracing and strip-cropping, 8,006.

Number acres protected by contour plowing, 1,759.

Acres planted to strip crops, 372. In connection with this phase of the work it must be remembered that there was a comparatively short period in which strip crops could be planted and that this work was materially handicapped by the long period of dry weather.

Terrace lines run, 2,270,705 feet.

Number feet of terraces built, 1,505,932.

Number terrace outlets built, 1,502.

Feet of wide-bottomed channels for rainwater run-off constructed, 81,946.

Square yards of terrace outlets seeded and sodded, 2,755.

Contour lines run, 1,631,652.

Rock dams built, 245.

A total of 264 farms have pledged 1,297 acres of land to be put into new forests.

A total of 14,420 acres of land are protected by fire lines.

Soils maps have been made for 423 farms, totaling 57,844 acres.

The rodent control program, which entails the putting out of poison, etc. has been completed on 55 farms over a total of 7,125 acres.

Total acreage signed up for new, permanent pastures, 1,563.

Total of 1,189 acres have been contour furrowed and 1,065 acres sodded for new pastures.

A total of 1,222 acres of new pasture have been Kelly terraced and 595 acres of new pasture lands have been limed.

From the above figures it can readily be seen that each department has been pushing its particular phase of the work as fast as is consistent with proper methods and good work.



Bird's Eye

VIEWS
and
Information



WHY PENALIZE GOOD FARMING?

The South cannot prosper unless it gives more attention to soil fertility. The Federal Government, in the next few years will almost surely buy up many millions of acres of sub-marginal land and induce the farmers on these farming slopes to move away to more fertile areas and convert these infertile areas into forest lands. As a result, villages and towns already suffering from the poverty of "poor farming lands" will dry up entirely and take their place with Goldsmith's "Deserted Village." It is for this reason that towns-people as well as country people ought to be interested in plans for changing our taxation policies so as to make them penalize the man who neglects his soil rather than penalize the man who conserves and improves the land.-
The Progressive Farmer.

PLANNING THE FARM FOR
EROSION CONTROL

To most people when the control of soil erosion is mentioned, it suggests terracing and stopping gullies. These methods of erosion control have been used in the Piedmont region for many years and have been of untold benefit. Had there been no terracing done or had the farmers made no attempt to stop the growth of gullies during the past century, this entire region would very likely have long since been abandoned. The many neglected fields show only too well what would have been the result of farming without terraces.

If our farms are to be profitable to their present operators and be saved for posterity, a comprehensive program of erosion control is needed. It is just such a program that is now being carried on . . .

The program is based on the full cooperation of farmers living in the area, and therefore, to succeed, the welfare of each individual farmer must be considered. Before any erosion control work is done on a farm a plan for that farm is worked out by a member of the Soil Erosion staff with the farmer.--Sandy Creek News

WE SENT HIM BACK COPIES--

Brushy-Coolley-Cypress Creek News
U. S. Soil Erosion Service
Minden, La.

Dear Sir:-

I have just received a copy of your December 1st issue of the Brushy-Coolley-Cypress Creek News. The contents of this issue were very interesting and valuable to a farmer. I would like to have my name placed on your mailing list for this bulletin and if you have any extra copies of your previous issues I would like to have them for my files.

Thanking you for your kind consideration, I am,

Yours very truly,

MARSALIS DAIRY FARM,

Joe A. Marsalis

Athens, Louisiana

(We are always glad to add names of persons outside the area to our circulation list

COOPERATION NECESSARY
FOR SUCCESS

The other day we talked to a man who said, "I don't want to take that steep slope out of cultivation. I know I can't hold the soil up there but I can make probably ten dollars an acre on it for the next couple of years and then maybe five dollars an acre for the next two or three years. It will be pretty well washed away by then, but I should worry about that for it will have repaid me what I paid for it."

That's a pretty strong argument, UNLESS we stop to think that:

1. Clay and sand which washes down after the top soil has been removed covers and ruins good land farther down the slope.
2. Gullies which start in such land grow deeper, wider and longer, damaging good land above and below.
3. The sale value of the entire farm is lowered by the presence of eroded "eyesores" on it.
4. Gullies which start on such slopes make "patch-farming" necessary and often cause a great deal of inconvenience in moving tools or stock from one part of farm to other.
5. Many of the steep slopes can be profitably utilized in pasture if the pasture is established before erosion has gone too far.
6. Steep slopes can be used profitably to supply farm needs of fire wood, post timber, etc.
7. Taxes must be paid even after persimmon sprouts and sassafras bushes are the only crop growing on the land.--Duck Creek News.

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THERE'S A DIFFERENCE---

There are two kinds of erosion, natural and man-made. Natural erosion takes a million years to level a mountain and fill a valley. Natural erosion weathers the rocks to form that precious layer of top soil that, combined with humus becomes the most valuable asset of mankind. To attempt to hasten or slow up this process would be foolhardy indeed.

Man-made erosion, however, is not a natural process, but a destructive characteristic of civilization. Man, in his thoughtless exploitation of the land, destroys in fifty years by induced erosion nature's labors for ten thousand years, and that is our concern.

It is of the utmost importance that the mission of this service not be confused in the minds of those we are trying to help. We are not trying to stop or to control a natural process, but we are trying to assist nature in her constant efforts to preserve and build up only real

value the land has for the agriculturist--the top soil.--
Harry E. Reddick, Regional Director, Project No. 7, Santa Paula, California.

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In early spring during all the rain,
The biggest help is plenty of grain
And if it's sown in the proper place,
It'll hold the land by the help of grace,
But if all the land is turned and loose,
There's nothing to hold it for the deuce.
And you'll awake and find your soil
Has left you with the bag and spoil.
And when you ask "who's to blame"
Every Saint will call your name.
--Anon.

Yes, sir, every man is his own boss when it comes to saving his own farm lands. What are you doing with yours?

15 Minutes
12:30 Each
Saturday

Tune
In

Soil Erosion Service
ON THE
AIR WAVES

Station
KCBS
Shreveport
1450
Kilocycles

Four broadcasts have been given to date over radio station KCBS at Shreveport. Indications are that an increasingly large number of listeners tune in on the Soil Erosion Service programs and that these educational programs on the work of erosion control are arousing considerable interest outside of the project area in the work being done.

To date the programs have dealt in a general way with the entire program of soil erosion control work, with one of the programs being devoted to an exposition of the step-by-step plan by which the program is worked out on each farm.

The programs on Dec. 22 and 29 were devoted to the Emergency Conservation Work camp located at Minden. A group of boys from the camp, who have unusual musical ability on various instruments presented delightful 15-minute programs on the above dates.

After Jan. 1 it is hoped that a series of talks will be made on succeeding Saturdays by Department Heads connected with the North Louisiana project.

Another feature of the radio broadcasts is that listeners are urged to write in questions to the Ruston or Minden office and these questions will be answered in the closing minutes of the different broadcasts.

THEY WANT TO KNOW ABOUT SOIL EROSION CONTROL

Almost every week brings inquiries to the office from individuals, organizations and Parish Farm Agents wanting to know more about the erosion control work in Webster and Lincoln parishes. Almost invariably those making inquiries want to know: "What can we do to get this type of work in our parish?"

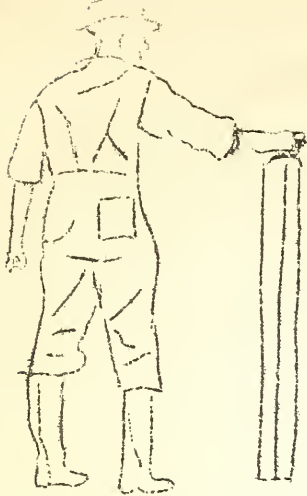
There has probably never been any type of agricultural program sponsored by the national government which has met with a more whole-hearted response than has this program of soil preservation. Farmers have realized for years that they must take steps of some kind to preserve and improve their farm lands, and the program of the Soil Erosion Service has apparently struck the

struck a most responsive chord with the farmers of Louisiana.

These inquiries and this evident desire to know more about the erosion-control work from farmers and landowners outside of our area are always welcome and every man in our organization is always glad to furnish data about his particular phase of this all-important and interesting work.

Every effort is made to make the visitors from the area and outside welcome in our offices. Visitors who come to see the work are extended every courtesy and conducted over the area at any time they may visit us.

IF YOU HAVE A FRIEND WHOM YOU FEEL IS INTERESTED IN THIS WORK SEND HIS NAME AND ADDRESS TO US SO WE CAN PUT HIM ON OUR LIST.



The Meeting Place

Forty-one farmers and business men from DeSoto parish visited the Webster parish area of the Soil Erosion Service during the first week in December. The visitors came from DeSoto parish by automobile, arriving at Minden about 10 o'clock. In order to fully explain the work in the area and cover as much territory as possible, all Department Heads accompanied the visitors over the area, answering questions and volunteering information in regard to the erosion control program. Pictures were made of the group and these pictures later appeared in Shreveport newspapers.

The DeSoto visitors left Minden with the avowed purpose of arousing the people of their parish to the value of the erosion control work and to take immediate steps looking toward trying to secure such a project for DeSoto.

The enthusiasm and interest of the visitors in the accomplishments of the North Louisiana project made their visit a real pleasure

GAME MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR IS A VISITOR

Roy Moore, Regional Director of Game Management with the U. S. Bureau of Biology, was a visitor to Project 15 about a week ago. Mr. Moore is located at State College in Mississippi and covers the states of Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee.

so interested in the game conservation program that they volunteered to furnish him with 300 lineal feet of 1x4 lumber to be used in making posted signs for game conservation areas. This kind of cooperation is mighty fine and shows the real interest which is being taken in the different phases of the work by local citizens.

4 SHREVEPORT VISITORS

Messrs. Hirsh, Secty. of the Louisiana State Fair, Greenwood, Blanton and Haggard, all of Shreveport, were visitors to the Minden office on Dec. 26. The men were returning from a Jersey cattle meeting at Arcadia and stopped over at Minden to make a tour of the Webster area. They were shown over the project by W. E. Dee and A. H. Bean.

REAL COOPERATION--

J. W. Hammett in charge of rodent control and game conservation, reports a dandy piece of co-operation which he has received from the Pace Bros. mill at Heflin.

Mr. Hammett said that the brother owners of the mill were

STUDY YOUR CONTRACT

Farmers who have already sighted cooperative agreements should study these agreements carefully, especially with regard to figuring out a program of rotation for their farms.

The man who makes a real business of farming is the one who usually has the most success with his farming activities.

HELP US OUT

Our readers are urged to make this little department, "The Meeting Place" a real live spot in our publication. Contributions are solicited. Staff members of the S. E. S. as well as farmers and any others will find that this department will welcome a communication from them. Make this YOUR department.



Pasture Department



Get New Pastures Ready!

W. E. Dea, Chief of Range Management, urges farmers who have signed cooperative agreements with the Soil Erosion Service to get busy in their pastures at once in order that they will have the Kelly terraces plowed up and in shape for the important pasture work which will be carried on during the months of January and February.

Mr. Dea asks the farmers to get the lime distributed on the areas dedicated to new pastures and to construct the Kelly terraces. This work is all-important and should be completed at the earliest possible time, as fertilizer will be distributed during the month of January and then the pastures will be seeded in February. However, the fertilizer and seed cannot be put on pasture areas where the lime has not been put out and the Kelly terraces thrown up.

There are a total of 169 farmers in the North Louisiana Soil Erosion Service project area who have signed agreements for new pastures. A total of 1,620 acres have been dedicated to these pastures in Webster and Lincoln parishes. There are also a total of 4,632 acres of old wood and open pasture in the area.

The pasture program has taken a huge acreage out of cultivation. This land is eroded and located on rocky and hilly slopes and in years past it has been found almost impossible for the farmer to secure a reasonable return on cultivated crops from such land.

A total of 1,454,702 feet of Kelly terraces have been built in the pasture areas. Out of the total of 198 cooperative agreements that have gone to Washington from Project No. 15 a total of eighty-five percent of the farmers signing the contracts have put in new pastures on their farms, Mr. Dea stated.

The farmers of this area are fast becoming convinced that the best thing they can do with hilly and eroded land is to put it into pasture lands. For years land of this type has been farmed by hundreds of farmers in this area with the return from such land being pitifully small, considering the work and expense of cultivation.

Feed crops and pasturage have always been entirely too short on the farms of this area, but most of the farmers can readily see the advantage of a good pasture and are cooperating in every way that they can to secure the type of pasture which is advocated by the Soil Erosion Service for their farms.

Farmers in the area who desire information and want to know more about the pasture program should visit the Ruston or Minden office and have this phase of the land use program explained to them.



Forestry- Department-



Approximately two hundred acres of land have already been planted to new forests in the North Louisiana Soil Erosion Service project area, and the planting work is still going forward at a rapid rate, according to a statement made just after the Christmas holidays by Forester A. S. McKean.

In addition to the regular planting of new forests on the different farms, a twenty acre nursery area has been planted on the H. F. Hanson place north of Minden. The nursery planting is for the purpose of furnishing stock for the future. The plantings in the nursery were as follows: Four tons of Juglan Major Rupestris (species of black walnut); two tons of black walnuts; 2,000 pounds white oak; 400,000 catalpa; 50,000 Japanese dates; and 200,000 pounds of red bud.

An area covering around 2,000 acres has been pledged to new farm forests in Webster and Lincoln parishes. The new forest areas on each farm average around six acres per farm.

The forestry department of the Soil Erosion Service has a tremendous supply of seedlings on hand for the planting of acreages dedicated to new forests. The seedlings consist of 200,000 black locust; one million loblolly pine; 200,000 mulberry; 200,000 black walnut; 100,000 white oak; 500,000 slash pine. All of these seedlings were furnished to the North Louisiana project by the State nursery with the exception of 100,000 which come from the Southern Erosion Control Nursery of the Bureau of Plant Industry at Shreveport.

In addition to the planting of new forest tracts, improvement of stands in the old forests and thinning are important phases in the forestry program. Farmers in the area are co-operating in this work on 18,776 acres under the supervision of the Soil Erosion Service.

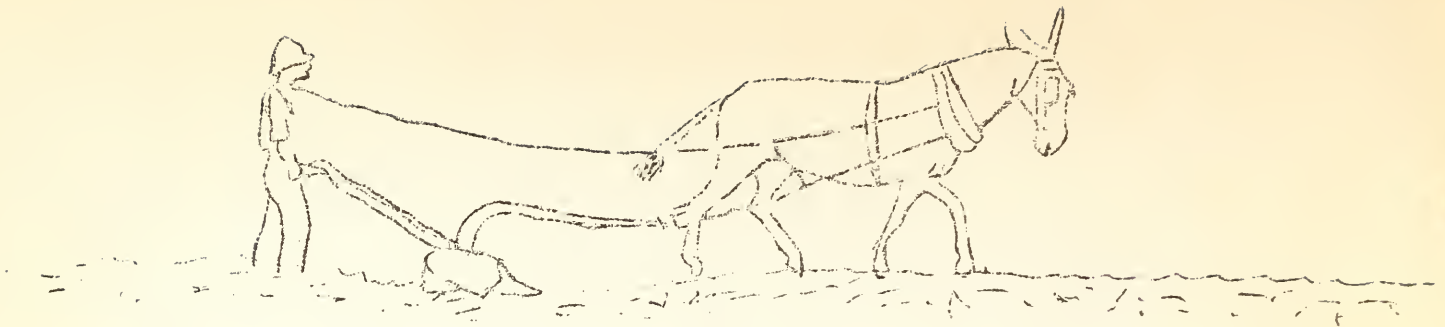
Mr. McKean is working on markets and lower freight rates for pulp wood where the cutting of this type of timber will not injure or deteriorate the stands.

A total of about forty miles of fire lines have been built for the protection of forests by Emergency Conservation Works boys under the direction of Mr. McKean.

The land given over to new forests on the various farms represents steep and eroded areas taken out of cultivation and upon which it has been found to be an almost hopeless task to grow at a profit clean-tilled crops. The forests will stop erosion on these areas as well as growing into great value for timber.

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G. F. VICE, whose farm is located about one and one-half miles South of Dubberly says he wouldn't take eight hundred dollars (\$800.00) for the work that has been done on his place under the direction of the Soil Erosion Service. Naturally every man connected with the local office deeply appreciates such a statement coming from a substantial farmer like Mr. Vice. We are glad to have, at any time, the candid opinions of other farmers in the area regarding how they feel about the work of the Soil Erosion Service.



Herewith we are presenting the third in a series of articles written by A. H. Bean, Soils Expert, having to do with the types of soil found in the Project 15 Soil Erosion Service area. Readers of the "News" will find that if they will keep a file of this little publication that they will acquire a complete set of articles on soils in the area, as well as other valuable information.

Ruston fine sandy loam consists of about 5 or 6 inches of brownish gray loamy fine sand resting on 8 to 10 inches of yellowish gray loamy fine sand, which grades into a subsoil of yellowish red to reddish yellow fine sandy clay or fine sandy loam. This layer of subsoil is very friable and when dry resembles sand rather than a heavier textured soil. The reddish subsoil does not bake hard when dry, but is usually easily crumbled into granules and grains. Percolation of water and aeration is very fast and complete.

In virgin conditions the topsoil layer is usually from 14 to 16 inches thick but in the older farms the topsoil has usually eroded until portions of the subsoil are exposed. This soil is not especially erosive except on steep slopes and does not gully easily. Where road ditches are cut into this soil or a large volume of water is turned loose on it, the topsoil and subsoil cut down very fast, leaving nearly vertical banks which weather off smooth and clean. Sheet erosion is not so severe as on the heavier types of soil, but over a long period of cultivation a large amount of topsoil will be removed and the soil will become less productive. The virgin soil supports a good growth of short leaf and loblolly pine with some mixture of hardwoods.

The soil is somewhat droughty as the water penetrates downward very quickly. Where the slope is steep or there are many deep gullies, the water table is lowered so that crops suffer in dry periods. On smoother ground, however, this soil does very well as water does not evaporate from the soil quickly and the loose open structure allows the roots of plants to penetrate easily to moisture.

All truck crops, field crops, small fruits and orchards are very successful in normal seasons on this type where there is sufficient plant food present. This soil wears out quickly and fertilization with manures, soil building crops, or commercial fertilizers are necessary to successful retention of its fertility. Manures and green manures are probably the best fertilizers to use as they build up the humus content of the soil which assists in water retention, bacterial growth and resist leaching of the plant foods.

MR. FARMER: What do you think of the work of the Soil Erosion Service in this area? We would like to have your candid opinion. Write us a few lines and mail or bring it to the office. Let us have your honest opinion of the work being done.



Rodent Control and -



Game Conservation

The gopher poisoning campaign is moving along at a rapid rate under the direction of J. W. Hammett, who is in charge of this work in the area. Additional men have been added to the crews in both the Mindon and Ruston section and they are putting out the poison as fast as possible. The crews are covering the farms in the Soil Erosion Service area for which co-operative agreements have been signed. Farmers who desire to do some poisoning on their own account and who want information about methods of putting out, should get in touch with Mr. Hammett.

The method being used is to put out poison on farms in the same vicinity at the same time in order to destroy the animals that may escape from one farm to another.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION*-

No progressive farmer overlooks an opportunity to derive revenue from his land, particularly when his income may be supplemented with so little effort and expense as required in the production of native wild game.

Proper food and cover are the two most important factors to consider in developing a farm-game program. These are basic requirements, since the survival and increase of all forms of wildlife depend on the quantity, quality and availability of food, and the quantity, distribution and usability of cover. Strict observance to game laws, farmers find, is very important in establishing a game-development program.

Man is already responsible for two of the worst enemies of game, the free-ranging dog and the stray cat. Dogs and cats have important places on the farm, but many people, especially from the cities and small farms have the habit of dumping their surplus cats on the countryside. Cats hurt day and night and, having no fear of man, they thoroughly search all game coverts.

No one can minimize the pleasures and values derived from

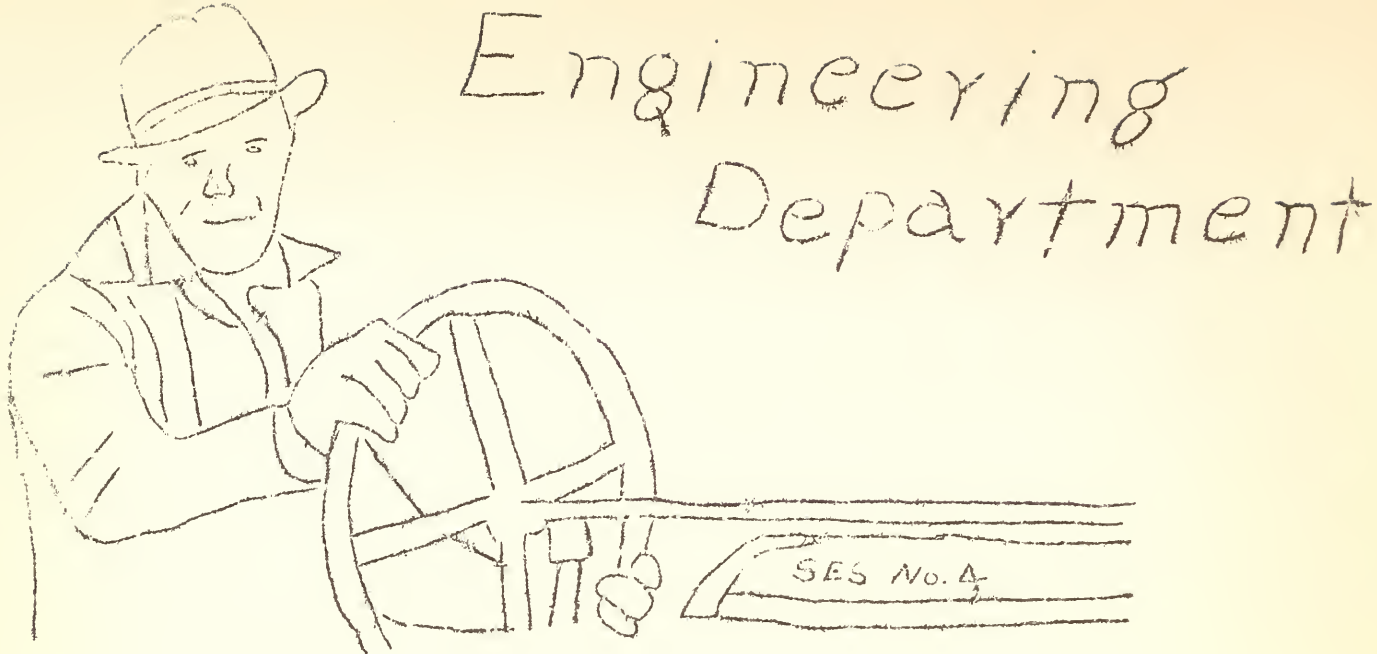
good hunting dogs, but to allow our dogs to increase incessantly and to seek their own food during the summer months is hard on the game. Young quail and other forms of wild life suffer from losses as a consequence.

Birds wage ceaseless warfare against the insect pests which do tremendous damage to crops. Each useful bird is worth about ten cents a year to the farmer. Each useful bird is worth about ten cents a year to the farmer. All birds, aside from those classed as game, except the English sparrow, and others, are protected by law in most states.

In any program to encourage bird and animal life forest-fire protection plays an important part. The forests and grasslands are the home and sources of food for most types of wildlife. Fires not only ruin the timber and encourage soil erosion but also drive out and often destroy the farmer's wild friends.

The value of good hunting and fishing is unquestionable. There is no one who can attest to the fact better than the farmer himself.

Ask Mr. Hammett about the wild-life conservation program. He will be glad to give you information concerning it.



F. S. Edmiston, Chief Engineer, urges all farmers to be ready for work at the time that the tractors and other equipment are brought on their farms for the terracing work. It was realized, of course, in the early fall that farmers had crops to gather and syrup to make and that they perhaps could not be ready for the work at some times because of this work. However, there is no real reason at this time why the farmers should not be ready with their teams and labor when the tractors arrive.

It is most important that fills and terrace outlets be made right behind the throwing up of the terraces. For this reason, the farmer can see that it is doubly important that he be ready to carry out his end of the cooperative agreement.

Fresnos are available at all times and there is always a man on hand to assist the farmer in making fills and terrace outlets.

Mr. Edmiston states that the Soil Erosion Service will only be able to terrace from 25 to 50 percent, certainly not over fifty percent, of any individual farm. It is necessary to have this ruling in order that as much territory as possible may be covered with the terracing equipment.

Any farmer wanting to use (in the Soil Erosion Service area) equipment of the Soil Erosion Service for the making of fills, etc. on his farm, may secure it. In addition the engineering department will run the lines.

Every farmer is urged to bear in mind that the Soil Erosion Service is here to help him and to work with him. It is therefore necessary that the individual aid in keeping the work moving along as fast as possible by being ready for work when his farm is reached.

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WASHINGTON ENGINEER VISITS PROJECT 15

T. B. Chambers, Engineer from the Washington office of the Soil Erosion Service, was a visitor to project 15 on Wednesday, Dec. 19. Mr. Chambers spent practically all of the day out in the field with Mr. Edmiston looking over the various phases of the engineering work. We are always glad to have visitors from the Washington office and it is a pleasure to show them over the project and have the advantage of any suggestions which they may make in regard to carrying on of the work.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR
READERS

Here's a great big wish from every member of the staff of the Soil Erosion Service to the people of Cypress-Brushy--Cooley Creek watershed for every joy and happiness of the New Year. A New Year of great hope stretches out ahead of us. Let us all work together, with common aims, for the betterment of farms and farming conditions in the North Louisiana Area.