

## SCS FROM THE NATIONAL VIEWPOINT

## I. Setting for Soil Conservation Service activities:

- A. Floods and water shortages.
- B. Soil erosion in town and countryside.
- C. Increasing environmental awareness, increasing concern about water quality.
- D. Land use laws and ordinances.
- E. Continuing need for improving aid to small farmer and rural community. - R.D.
- F. Inflation--food prices and energy prices & value of \$1.00
- G. Expanding SCS responsibilities, shrinking in-house resources.
- H. Improved decisionmaking system...more public participation,

less paperwork. - See Memo 1955 - Impact  
 - New systems - Civil Service Analysis  
 Comm. - Records

## II. We are likely to see:

- A. Broader understanding by more people of agriculture and of our basic mission of soil and water conservation--if we continue to work at it. RCA - Donate over site
- B. Renewed emphasis on:
  - 1. Controlling soil loss - for what purpose
  - 2. Upgrading water quality. " " "
  - 3. Preserving important agricultural land. " " "

Outline for talk by Norman A. Berg, Associate Administrator, USDA Soil Conservation Service, at a meeting of SCS employees, Burlington, Vermont, December 4, 1978.

4. Saving energy. - *thru Cons. Re. mgmt. systems*
5. Conserving and improving environmental quality.
6. Improving efficiency of water use in agriculture and elsewhere.

- C. Positive benefits from environmental conflicts and initiatives of past few years:
  1. Environmentalist approach--and SCS approach--becoming more practical, less emotional.
  2. New environmental policies and guidelines--follow them!
- D. Increasing competition between environmental interests and economic growth interests:
  1. Developing energy supplies.
  2. Increasing agricultural exports to offset dollar drain for foreign energy supplies.

III. Progress on major new <sup>USDA</sup> (SCS) assignments:

- A. RCA
  1. Status of first appraisal and program.
  2. National erosion survey and land use studies helpful.
  3. More than 8,000 RCA public meetings; excellent response from 160,000 people who attended.
  4. Secretary Bergland set up RCA coordinating committee--8 USDA agencies plus OMB and CEQ. I am representing SCS.
  5. We will:

*Do not read into the post.*

13 Policy issues

- c. Coordinate with other Federal and State agencies, conservation districts. *28 Major USDA programs*
- d. Seek full public comment on the draft RCA program.

B. RCWP

1. New era of local, State, Federal cooperation.
2. Will help control critical nonpoint source water pollution in high-priority areas marked in agriculture portion of "Section 208" plans.
3. Final rules and regulations published November 1 after considering 15,000 public comments.
4. Budget status...Congress (expecting) supplemental request.
5. RCWP training sessions planned for February, March, April--one at Boston April 3-4 for State and local people who will be involved in the program.
6. It is time to activate the State RCWP committees.

C. RAMP *2*

1. To aid reclamation of abandoned coal mines in 29 States.
2. Final rules and regulations published September 28.
3. Water quality also a chief concern in this program, along with the visual resource.
4. Under regular CO-01 program, need to help landowners and government agencies consider reclamation needs

## IV. Other important factors in our future:

- A. Status of reorganization proposals. *Nat. Res - Food & Nutrition*
- B. Civil Service reform. *SES*
- C. Water resources policy initiatives: *Marin Pany*
  - 1. Push on water conservation throughout government.
  - 2. Accelerate nonstructural ways to reduce flood damages and improve water quality...such as the La Platte watershed project in Vermont.
  - 3. Work to resolve water rights issues.
  - 4. Start some new watershed projects--recognize recent improvements in program.
  - 5. Continue using channel modification guidelines, consider improvements and binding regulations.
  - 6. Increasing State and local role in dam safety and in water conservation.

## V. Career opportunities in SCS are good:

- A. Stay ahead of the times, don't just keep up...you must grow or fall back.
  - 1. Premium on creativity.
  - 2. Give farmers forward-looking technology that fits the situation..."appropriate technology."
  - 3. Are we sure what best management practices are?
  - 4. Look for new solutions to land use and environmental quality

- B. Integrity...as a professional in a professional technical agency. 11.2 C
- C. Dedication and commitment...to public service, to USDA, and  
to the Soil Conservation Service and its mission.

D. Mobility....opportunities for increased responsibility seldom come right where you are. Prepare for opportunity... recognize it....take advantage of it.

VII. We need to expect of SCS supervisors:

- A. Provide a climate where employees have an opportunity for growth and success in their job.
- B. Assure that employees are recognized for their abilities and knowledge, and discuss with them need for training and guidance.
- C. Assure that all employees understand what constitutes "success" in their job.
- D. Provide truly equal opportunity for women and minorities in employment, advancement, contracting, and in the use of our technical assistance.
- E. Let all employees know where their jobs fit in the total mission of SCS.

VIII. In the middle of all of these expectations, we are very proud of all of you!