

YOUR STAKE IN CONSERVATION IN THE
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

Interstate commission on the
Delaware River basin

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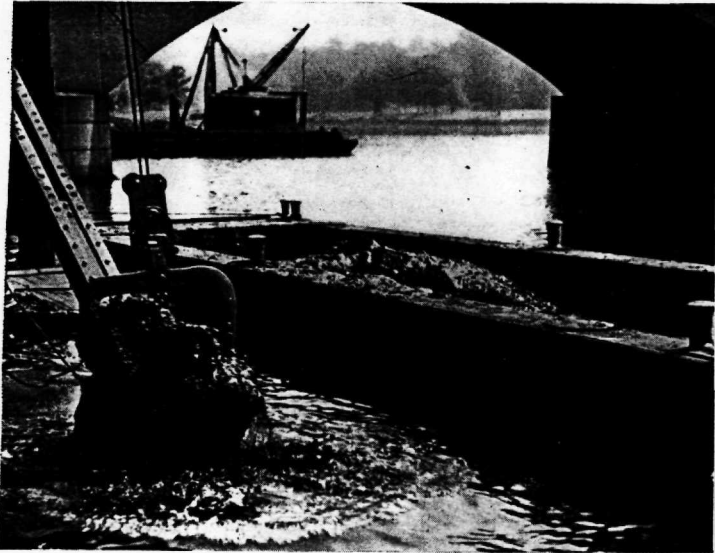
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Your Stake in Conservation

IN THE

Delaware River Basin

Thirteen thousand square miles of land comprising parts of four states — New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, make up the Delaware River Basin. Three-fifths of the land is in forests and most of the remainder is farmland.



Stopping stream pollution, dredging the accumulation of soil and silt from stream channels, together with soil and forest conservation, constitute the urgent PROBLEMS of conservation in the Delaware Basin. YOUR STAKE IS IN THEIR EARLY SOLUTION. **PROPERTY OF**

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Benefits of Conservation Farming

To the Farmer:

1. Reduced cost of machine operation.
2. Maintained or increased capital assets.
3. The effect of drought minimized.
4. More efficient use of labor, machinery, seed and fertilizer.
5. Higher yields. Twenty per cent average increase per acre.
6. Increased farm income.

To City Dwellers:

1. Greater business as the result of greater farm income.
2. Better nutrition; better health.
3. Higher water tables.
4. Improved water supplies.

The job is up to the people — City people and farmers alike. It is their responsibility to act.

City people are rapidly coming to realize their stake in the land and are giving their active support to conservation in hundreds of communities in the Basin and the nation.

Farmers Can Have Trained Help

When a farmer has learned the urgent need for conservation of soil and has made his decision to do something about it on his own farm, where can he get technical assistance and advice?

If his farm is located in a Soil Conservation District he can have the aid of a trained soil conservation technician by contacting one of the directors or supervisors of the district.

If his farm is not at present in a Soil Conservation District he can call on his County Agricultural Extension Agent for aid.

Soil Erosion Must Be Prevented

Fifty per cent of the original topsoil has already been lost forever from much farmland in the Delaware Basin by sheet and gully erosion. Their soils have washed away down the creeks to the river where they have plugged the harbor with mud.

Farmland in the river's mud no longer produces food for man or beast. It produces only public expense. \$75,000,000 has already been spent by various agencies to keep a shipping channel open through the mud of the lower Delaware. The magnitude of the real expense cannot be fully comprehended. It is in the soil fertility that has been lost from our farms.





We Must Protect Our Forests

Our forests once provided all the lumber needed to build new homes and satisfy the demands of the industries of the Basin. Within the life time of some living people, the forests gave profitable employment to thousands of loggers, sawyers and shippers.

Dense forests help to prevent disastrous floods. Land under forest cover absorbs about six times as much rainwater as open cultivated land. It is stored in the underground reservoir from where it finds its way slowly to the rivers.

To conserve and rebuild forest values, sprout and seedling hardwood forests must be thinned and cripples and crooked trees culled to permit profitable lumber development.

Thousands of acres of idle land must be reforested with softwoods to prevent erosion and absorb rainwater.

To get the job done will require, among other things:

Legislative authorization for tax adjustments on land devoted to timber growth, and

Recognition by the farmers and forest owners of their responsibility to conserve and replant forests.

