**Features**

4 Viewpoint: In defense of farmland
Douglas P. Wheeler and Stephen F. Harper argue that future uncertainty necessitates farmland protection policy

5 SCSA goes to Washington
Norman Berg talks about his new role as SCSA's Washington, D.C., representative

7 Land productivity and agricultural technology
Chris Elfring reviews a study by the Office of his new role as SCSA's natural resource base

10 The basis for soil loss tolerances
D. L. Schertz looks at the assumptions and controversies underlying present "T" values

15 Soil conservation and water quality improvement: What farmers think
Lee A. Christensen and Patricia E. Norris explore what research tells about farmers' attitudes toward conservation practices

**Features**

21 Horses in suburbia
Karl Decker describes a program to deal with a relatively new, but increasingly serious soil and water conservation concern

23 The living snowfence
Leon A. Koehmoos outlines a conservation program in which landowners and local, state, and federal agencies work to achieve multipurpose conservation

25 Commentary: Surplus madness
Ken Cook delves into the export era's influence on conservation programs

28 Commentary: Of whooping cranes and family farms: Another look at the High Plains study
Marty Strange contends that the High Plains study commissioned by Congress ignores a number of issues crucial to the Ogallala Aquifer region, the nation, and the world

**Research reports**

39 Productivity of soils: Assessing long-term changes due to erosion
F. J. Pierce, W. E. Larson, R. H. Dowdy, and W.A.P. Graham

45 Water storage capacity of natural wetland depressions in the Devils Lake Basin of North Dakota
Albert P. Ludden, Dale L. Frink, and Douglas H. Johnson

48 Effect of terraces on soil loss: USLE P factor values for terraces
G. R. Foster and R. E. Highfill

52 A test for inequity in river recreation reservation systems
John H. Schomaker and Earl C. Leatherberry

56 Forage yield and quality on Kentucky surface mine spoils
Donald S. Henry

58 Record dust storms in Illinois: Causes and implications
Stanley A. Changnon, Jr.

**Departments**

2 Pen points
33 In the news
37 Upcoming
38 Books, etc.

**Cover**

Like all wildlife, this snowy owl is a product of the land and benefits from good land and water management (see page 23). A National Film Board of Canada photo taken near Calgary, Alberta, by T. Fitzharrs.