Features

360 Viewpoint: Building constructively on the Conservation Title
Tony Vrana discusses the importance of striking a balance in assessing the Conservation Title

362 The environmental era of U.S. agricultural policy
Ken Cook suggests that the 1990 farm bill represent a new social contract between farmers and the public

367 Implementing the Conservation Title
Christine A. Ervin examines the diverse research on the conservation provisions

371 The Conservation Title: Concerns and recommendations from the Great Plains
B. L. Harris, J. N. Habiger, and Z. L. Carpenter outline proposals from the Great Plains Agricultural Council

376 Federal farm policy and water quality
Stephen R. Crutchfield presents possible new water quality initiatives

379 Planting flexibility: Implications for groundwater protection?
Ian McCormick and Kenneth A. Algozin focus on how the conservation provisions may affect use of fertilizers and pesticides

384 Agricultural policy and aesthetic objectives
Joan Iverson Nassauer looks at conservation practices with a different eye

388 Improving government farm programs for limited-resource farmers
E. Demissie says this group of farmers must be better informed about the new conservation provisions

392 Reaching for soil conservation's ultimate goals in Indiana
David T. Cooper and Robert V. Bollman review Indiana's T by 2000 program

395 Conservation planning: Group versus individual approaches
Thyrelle Robertson, Gerald Root, and Karl Reinhardt look at the pros and cons of different planning methods

399 Workshops for integrating resource management and agricultural production
Richard L. Farnsworth, Raymond J. Herman, and Robert D. Walker explain one method of conservation planning

403 Coordinated resource management and planning: The case of the Missouri Flat Creek watershed
Douglas Osterman, Frederick Stein, Theresa Hicks, Ray Ledgerwood, and Kelsey Gray relate how the CRMP process was used to prepare conservation plans

407 A lesson in interagency cooperation
James Lindstrom and James B. Johnson look at the cooperative nature of planning used in Montana

409 What affects progress in conservation compliance planning?
The Missouri experience
J. Sanford Rikoon and William Heffernan report the results of a survey on how local conservationists view the planning process

415 How goes conservation compliance in Mississippi?
L. Pete Heard and Paul W. Dillard outline special problems overcome in Mississippi

417 Land management effects on innate soil erodibility: A potential complication for compliance planning
Philip J. Gersmehl, Byran Baker, and Dwight A. Brown suggest that looking at management-induced changes in erodibility may be helpful in targeting conservation programs

421 CRP: What economic benefits?
Marc O. Ribaudo, Steven Piper, Glenn D. Schaible, Linda L. Lagner, and Daniel Colacocco calculate that a fully implemented CRP would generate $10 billion in natural resource benefits

425 Marketing the Conservation Reserve Program
J. Dixon Esseks and Steven E. Kraft evaluate the success USDA has had in informing producers about this program

431 CRP: A Baca County, Colorado perspective
Stephen O. Myers and P. Lorenz Sutherland review the CRP in a county where sign-up has been high

437 Forestation and the CRP
John Mixon and Larry Thompson tell why Georgia leads the nation in tree planting on CRP acres

438 Wildlife management on Conservation Reserve Program land: The farmer's view
Edwin J. Miller and Peter T. Bromley look at farmers' understanding of the wildlife benefits of the CRP

441 How some potential CRP participants were taught to bid and ensuing land market distortions
James B. Johnson and Richard T. Clark analyze the CRP bidding process used in two states

445 Beyond swampbuster: A permanent wetland reserve
Ralph E. Heimbach, March B. Carey, and Richard J. Braze present some alternatives for protecting America's wetlands

Commentary

451 Building a conservation-centered farm policy
Rudy Boschwitcz, Clifton Anderson, and Brad Anderson suggest that Congress must restructure farm policy
453 Cross compliance and water quality protection
David G. Abler and James S. Shortle question if cross compliance is the best way to protect water quality

454 Clean water, clear choices: An action agenda for American agriculture
Robert Wetherbee says improving water quality will take a major commitment by the federal government, producers, and the public

456 Unexpected consequences of the Food Security Act
Jim Jacobs outlines some lessons to be learned from the 1985 farm bill

458 Conservation compliance: What soil loss with what level of farm income impact?
James B. Johnson and Richard T. Clark review the debate about alternative conservation systems

462 FmHA conservation easements-for-credit program fails to save any farmers or land
Edward Thompson Jr. says the record on conservation easements is a failure

466 Dear Mr. Secretary
J. D. Hair challenges USDA's figures on swampbuster enforcement

Reports

483 An economic analysis of conservation tillage systems under the conservation provisions of the 1985 farm bill
Jeffrey M. Gillespie, L. Upton Hatch, and Patricia A. Duffy

487 Soil conservation as a goal among farmers: Results of a survey and cluster analysis
Steven E. Kraft, Paul L. Roth, and Angela C. Thielen

491 A nitrate groundwater standard for the 1990 farm bill
W. L. Magette, R. A. Weismiller, J. S. Angle, and R. B. Brinsfield

494 Landowner characteristics and the economic impact of the Conservation Reserve Program in North Dakota
Timothy L. Mortensen, F. Larry Leistritz, Jay A. Leitch, Randal C. Coon, and Brenda L. Ekstrom

498 Factors affecting tree planting by landowners under the CRP, southern Illinois, 1986-1987
Cynthia J. Olmstead and Dwight R. McCurdy

501 Farmers' response to a filter strip program: Results from a contingent valuation survey
Amy Purvis, John P. Hoehn, Vernon L. Sorenson, and Francis J. Pierce

504 CRP land and game bird production in the Texas High Plains
Peter S. Berthelsen, Loren M. Smith, and Charles L. Coffman

507 CRP effects on Montana's economy
James E. Standart and H. Arlen Smith

510 Socioeconomic characteristics of participants in the CRP: Texas High Plains
Michael L. Hatley, R. Terry Ervin, and Bob Davis

512 Participation in the CRP: Implications of the New York experience
David Force and Nelson Bills

517 National implications of mandatory conservation compliance
Leland C. Thompson, Jay Dee Atwood, S. R. Johnson, and Thyrele Robertson

521 Costs and implications of conservation compliance
Wen-yuan Huang

527 Economic impacts of conservation compliance on a representative Dawson County, Texas, farm
James W. Richardson, Delton C. Gerloff, B. L. Harris, and L. L. Dollar

532 Net returns from conservation compliance for a producer and landlord in northeastern Kansas
John S. Hickman, Colin P. Rowell, and Jeffery R. Williams

535 Implementing the conservation provisions in the 1985 farm bill: A follow-up survey of county-level U.S. Department of Agriculture agency personnel
Pete Nowak and Max Schnepf

Departments

356 The SWCS View

357 Pen points

468 In the news

477 Professional services & classifieds

478 SWCS Awards

480 Upcoming

481 Books, etc.

Cover: Dennis Roe (left) discusses a conservation plan with Whitman County, Washington, farmer Henry Seuss. Soil Conservation Service photo, Ron Nichols.