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## THE IRAQI DRAIN

With Saddam Hussein out of Iraq, the country is in a battle to restore the marshland that had been drained with devastating effects.

By Pat Hemminger

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## NITRATE LEACHING HAZARD INDEX DEVELOPED FOR IRRIGATED AGRICULTURE

This article is for any field staff, consultant, or farmer who needs a simplified nitrate leaching index applicable to irrigated land.

By Laosheng Wu, John Letey, Christine French, Yvonne Wood, and David Birkle

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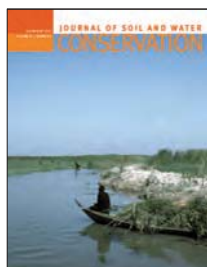
### GOING RETRO—CELEBRATING 60 YEARS OF THE JSWC

Hugh H. Bennett writes on the soil conservation national program (1946).

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### CONSERVOGRAM

The Soil and Water Conservation Society in Action



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Photo is of a 1976 Madan (marsh Arabs) with harvested reeds in Central Iraq. (by B.A. Whitton)



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## RAISE YOUR VOICE

YOUR FORUM TO REACT TO PUBLISHED ARTICLES, TO EXCHANGE IDEAS, AND DESCRIBE INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO CONSERVATION INCLUDING LEGISLATION

“The *Journal* has remained a valued source of credible scientific information on soil conservation, alternative agriculture, land use management, water quality, and other important issues relating to the profession of wildlife management.”

—Roger Applegate, Emporia, KS

### Why evaluate effectiveness?

Thomas Carpenter’s letter (January–February, 2005) brings to mind a 1998 symposium roundtable discussion where it was noted that we invest \$1.2 billion dollars on a B2 bomber on the premise that it will increase our national security. We do it because we are willing to invest in security, and we believe it works. At the time, a proposal to use about a billion dollars available for New York State’s best management practice (BMP) implementation would shift some of it for monitoring the effectiveness of those already installed. Although I would grant that there are some BMPs that under specific and often unusual conditions fail to improve the environment and many even make it worse, for the most part implementation of BMPs are good for the environment, work well, and we believe in them. Why waste precious funds on evaluating their effectiveness?

—Peter E. Black, PhD, professor emeritus  
SUNY ESF, Syracuse, NY

### JSWC critical to wildlife conservation

I have read the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* since 1968 when I was a student. The *Journal* has remained a valued source of credible scientific information on soil conservation, alternative agriculture, land use management, water quality, and other important issues relating to the profession of wildlife management. The *Journal* is an important source for the latest research, as well as thoughtful commentary, on all of these issues and I frequently request reprints of *Journal* articles for my reference files. The *Journal* has been most important because the articles are more practical than in many of the other journals covering soils, water, land use, and related subjects. As well, the coverage is rele-

vant to important national programs such as the farm bills, and changing agricultural technology. As a wildlife manager, the *Journal* coverage is critical to understanding the role of agriculture to wildlife conservation, and as a provider of tools that can be used to incorporate goals of soil and water conservation with wildlife conservation.

—Roger Applegate, Emporia, KS

### Mountain hazards

I am a doctor and professor of Chengdu Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chinese Academy of Sciences. The major of my research is on the mechanism and comprehensive control of mountain hazards (debris flow, landslide, and flash flood). In my opinion, I think mountain hazards are the most serious degree for development of soil and eater losses and no mountain hazards have occurred in the best soil and water conserved areas. We need to learn the related policy issues, current research, and technology from the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation (JSWC)*. Meanwhile it is important for the *Journal* to use and

#### Readers are invited to express their views on land and water management.

Please make your letter less than 150 words. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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— Deb Happe, editor

absorb research results from mountain hazards and environment. Best congratulations to *JSWC* [for the 60th anniversary].

—Ma Dongtao, *Institute of Mountain Hazards and Environment, Chengdu Sichuan, China*

### **Conservation's condensed encyclopedia**

Hello, I can just tell you that the *Journal of Soil and Water Conservation* is a condensed encyclopedia. Best wishes and congratulations owing to the 60th anniversary.

—Seyed Hamidreza Sadeghi, *professor at the College of Natural Resources Tarbiat Modares University*