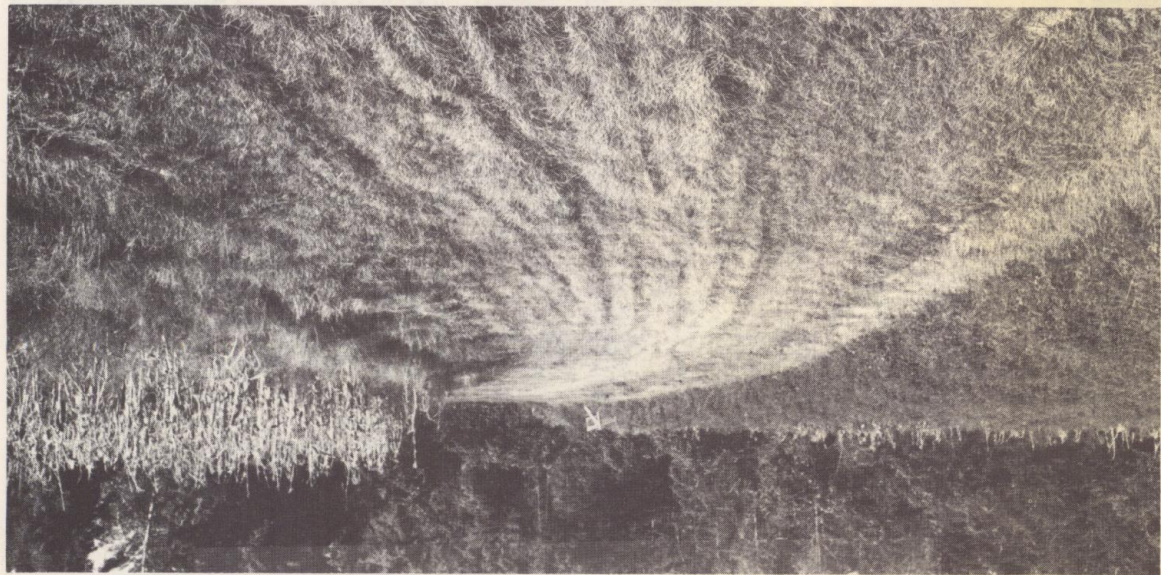




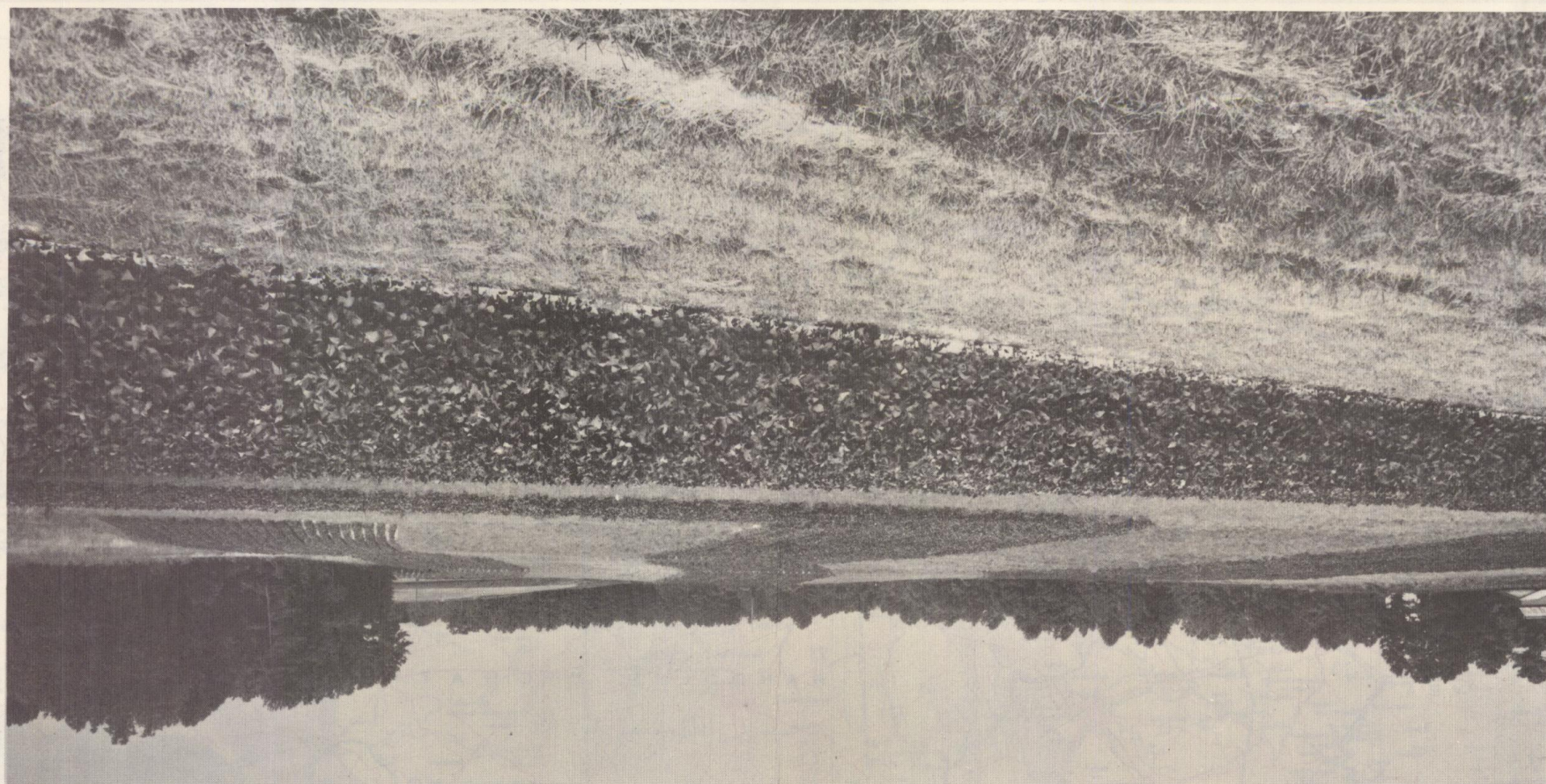
Two favorite farm conservation practices in North Carolina are pictured. Grassed waterways (above) like this one in Sampson County help carry excess water safely from fields. Field borders (below) like this one in Northampton County keep sediment and chemicals in the fields. In both photos, the soil is Norfolk fine sandy loam.



Conservation means increased production--more food for more people--and also can provide attractive parks and recreational areas, farm trial sites, and places to build a home. Carolina refuse to let their land run down, although some problem areas are created by building and development. But simple conservation practices, proven through the years, can prevent the losses associated with a lack of sound procedures to take care of this vital resource.

Which would you rather own--an eroded field? And which would you choose if offered a barren field, devoid of vegetation, or a similar area producing farm crops? The answers to both questions are pretty obvious, and dramatize why proven conservation practices of the type utilized in every county of North Carolina enhance land values. The well-kept land is much more valuable from any viewpoint than that which is neglected, just as a shiny new automobile is prized considerably higher than a battered old "clunker."

Conservation practices enhance land values



Soybeans and fescue, planted in strips, grow on Cecil fine sandy loam in Wake County.

PRIME FARMLAND THE FOOD PRODUCER

Map provides birds eye view of North Carolina prime farmland

The map on the reverse is the first of its type ever prepared. It shows prime farmland - of which North Carolina has a great deal - and other categories of land in the state. The data is based on general soils maps which have been prepared for each of the state's 100 counties.



This aerial photograph of Surry County shows stripcropping and other conservation practices. Soils pictured are a Cecil-Abing-Pacolet Association.

For easy reference, the map has been printed in full color to show the capabilities for production of agricultural crops and for other purposes. The data will prove useful to farmers, planners, and others who must make decisions about the best use of our land.



Trellis tomatoes like these in Madison County are a popular mountain crop. Soil is Hayesville fine sandy loam.

Most urban residents pride themselves on a well-kept lawn or landscaped yard, and also enjoy seeing green fields and forests while driving along the highways. But farmers have a unique appreciation of the qualities found in the soil, since it is the basic commodity that keeps them in business producing food, timber and other products--including the livestock that graze their pastures. Farmers were among the first people to utilize soil surveys to find the potential of their land, and they have an enviable record in conservation programs that control erosion and sedimentation. They have been called "conservation champions" for their work. Farmers know which lands are best for crop production, which should be planted in pasture and forage, and those best left for production of pine and hardwood trees. They manage the soil resource for themselves and for future generations. In many ways, farmers are "trustees" of the nation's soil resources.

Farmers consider land resources vital

Scientific techniques provide soils data

Soil survey information has an earned reputation for accuracy.

This happens because soil scientists use the scientific approach in studying and recording factual information about the soil. Soils with the same properties are given a common name, while differences in soil qualities and capabilities are given completely different names.

This is the basis for soil map preparation. The map shows where different soils are located.

Soil facts described in the field include:
.Rooting depth
.Degree of wetness
.Permeability
.Texture
.Degree of slope and erosion

What does this mean to the farmer? It gives him facts to manage the soil for profitable crop production, and allows him to plan conservation measures to use the soil to its fullest capability--and treat it according to conservation needs. Each soil has its own crop yield potential, fertilizer needs, and management problems. With soils data, the farmer knows this.



Scientific methods are used to determine soil types in a modern soil survey. Here three SCS soil scientists cooperate in a mapping effort. The results will be published for the use of interested people.



Standing in a field of corn, a farmer obtains advice from an SCS man. The soil is Georgeville loam.

Rural and Urban benefits provided

Data on prime farmland has an obvious use to the farmer and to others who must carefully plan the best use of the available land in North Carolina. Farmers need to plan their agricultural production, and also to decide tracts that will produce timber, pasture and hay, and for other purposes--including the place for a recreational lake or similar facility.

But government leaders must also make decisions on land use--whether it involves the location of a superhighway, the new sanitary landfill, the municipal reservoir or the park where families can enjoy outdoor fun.

City residents also have a key interest in food production, since they rely on farm produce--grains, vegetables, livestock--for food as much as the farmer does as a means of livelihood. Someone once said: "They aren't making any more land," and this truism is emphasized by the statistic that every day in North Carolina more than 200 acres of rural land is lost to "urbanization" as a shopping center, industrial park, residential area, airport, or highway is built.

So everybody has a keen interest in the amount and location of prime farmland--whether they are aware of this interest or not.

They really aren't making any more land.



Timber is an important Tar Heel crop that is also used in homebuilding and for furniture. The soil is Norfolk fine sandy loam.