

SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

MAY 3-10th

... a word of concern

Family, Land and Water



One of God's rich blessings is the privilege of family life.

The sense of unity, of loyalty, of devotion and of mutual respect and understanding—these priceless gifts are nourished to fullest development in the family home.

The rural home gives opportunities for these to flourish. There is a kinship with and dependence upon the Creator which rural families can experience.

The close relationship, the daily observance of the orders of God's creation can engender human qualities that are closely aligned with God's plan.

Understanding the needs of the land as it yields its bounty year after year in maintaining the economic stability of the family and the continuing strength of the land. If the land, through erosion and depletion of its power, no longer can support the family, then the family loses unity and security essential to its well being.

As children in the home near maturity, the shadow that has fallen across the misused land hovers also above them. They must go elsewhere, for the land which nourished them in their youth is no longer able to sustain them. Gone then are the close ties of family. When families leave, the foundations of church and community are shaken. Here, indeed, is a lesson for mankind.

There is in every man, latent though it may have become, an awareness of his responsibility to God for the wise use of our soil and its related resources—water, plants and wildlife.

It is the responsibility of those who assume the leadership for spiritual and moral matters to include in their sphere of effort the awakening of man to his soil stewardship responsibility.

The church is, and truly ought to be, a factor for reminding man of his obligation to God in the use of God's rich natural gifts. For too long our people have neglected or used without appreciation or understanding these divinely created resources.

Already in this comparatively young nation we have lost millions of acres of good productive land. We have let water, a necessity and a boon to every community, become a scourge as it rushes seaward, bearing loads of sediment to stream, channel and precious reservoir.

Therefore, we may see in every muddy rivulet, in every dust laden wind a warning from God. His rules regarding the use of His earth by man are being violated.

All people must now realize the importance of an abundance of good water and its relationship to our soil and our watersheds, for soil and water are life itself.

The stewardship of soil and water resources must be the concern of every one who loves his nation. The responsibility of this stewardship rests with the people who own and operate the land. These are the farmers and the ranchers. Upon them we must depend to save and to improve what we have left in soil and water resources.

The nation's Soil Conservation Districts need the help of the churches and their leaders in this divinely-directed responsibility.

HARVEY KRUGMAN,
Chairman of the Board,
Holt County Soil Conservation Dist.,
O'Neill, Nebraska.

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"ONE GENERATION PASSETH AWAY, AND ANOTHER GENERATION COMETH:

BUT THE EARTH ABIDETH FOR EVER." — ECCLESIASTES 1:4.

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