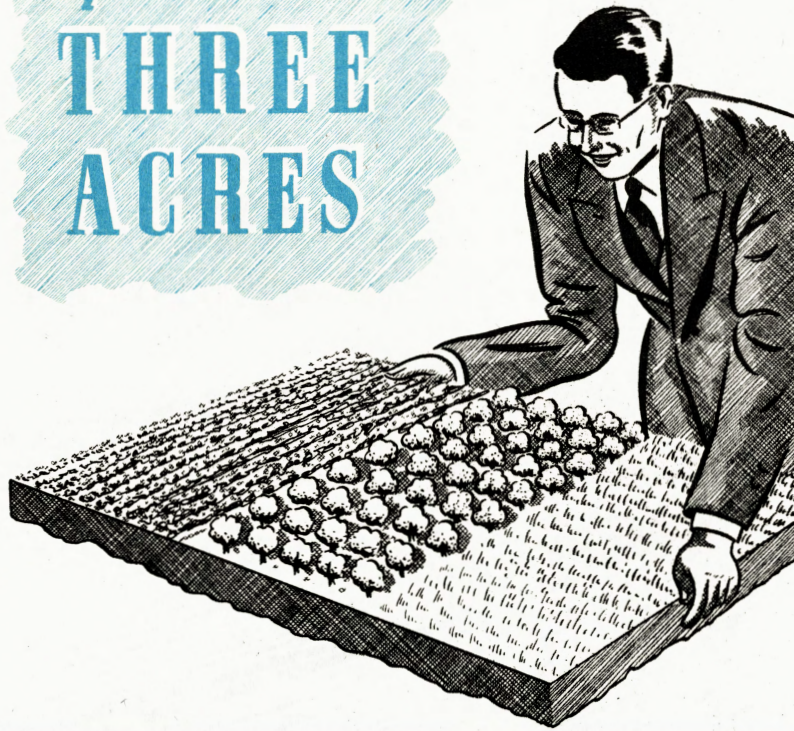


*Your*  
**THREE  
ACRES**



**CONSERVE, IMPROVE AND PROSPER  
WITH THE SOIL**

**OKLAHOMA A. & M. COLLEGE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
CIRCULAR 476**

**SHAWNEE BROWN, Director**

**STILLWATER, OKLA.**



## ARE YOU TAKING CARE OF *Your Three Acres?*

You should. They're all that stand between you and starvation.

Today about 144 million Americans are dependent on 460 million acres of productive crop land for their existence. This means that your share is about three acres.

Whether you realize it or not, your future is tied to those three acres. They may be fertile or poor—they're still yours. It is important how **you** use your three acres.

You're a businessman—a farmer, a merchant, a doctor or a school teacher. You may never see your three acres but they are there. They are growing food and fiber to help feed and clothe you and a hungry world. They've been the salvation of the country in times of war—its greatest asset in times of peace.

The population may increase but the acres won't. There are just so many.

For countless centuries the soil on your three acres was built up by the elements.

It happened by raindrops pounding, wind blowing, freezing and thawing. It took from 400 to 1,000 years to form one inch of soil. So, you can see how important it is that every bit of the top soil on your small "farms" be conserved. There are only between 7 to 9 inches.

At one time your three acres was like a good bank account. It was high in deposits of soil fertility. No one had been checking on it. But in the 1870's when Oklahoma first started growing, fertility was checked out to pay bills of a rising young state. Your fertility was spent like money. It paid expenses of the hundreds of farm families settling in the old Indian territory. It paid for streets, school buildings, railroads, water supplies. It paid for life on a new frontier. It fought the wars and served as security when times were both good and bad.

We found out that we couldn't go on spending our fertility account without making deposits. We saw bill collectors in the form of dust storms, gullies, muddy streams, and poor farms take a heavy toll.

Depression spread over the land. Your three acres weren't productive any more.

Prices fell. Jobs were scarce. Businesses failed. And thriving communities became deserted as farmers left worn-out farms to find jobs elsewhere.

Then soil conserving practices were placed in effect on your three acres. You filled in the gullies. You contoured the land so it wouldn't blow. You placed land likely to erode back into protective cover crops. You made pastures out of worn fields.

Today, the picture is much brighter. Conservation measures are saving a lot of three acres. Soil fertility deposits in some areas are almost balancing expenditures. We are on the road back.

But a lot of land hasn't been touched. Some feel our three acres are too remote to do anything about it. We still have a big job to do to get the other fellow to conserve his three acres. When we can pay back our long-overdrawn account of fertility — we can feel safe that our three acres will continue to provide for us.

As we said at the start—you may never see your three acres. But you are still vitally concerned with what happens to them. And 85 out of every 100 are affected by harmful

erosion. You can't let your neighbor down. You can't let yourself down. Erosion reduces the production of the farmer. This cuts his purchasing power. It means business can't be prosperous. How can goods be sold if there is no money with which to buy them?

No food is richer in minerals than the soil from which it came. Poor soil will not produce healthy and nutritious plants. Underfed plants will not produce healthy animals. Mineral deficient plants and undernourished animals will not make healthy people.

**Will you protect your three acres?**



## *What is Being Done*

Conservation, improvement, and wise use of our greatest single resource, the soil, is of vital concern. We cannot remain a first rate nation if our soil is permitted to wash away. The destructive force of erosion is a common enemy.

Conservation is the Number One Job.

The Oklahoma Experiment Station is conducting research investigations to determine the most efficient and economical means of maintaining and improving soil fertility. The Extension Service, through county and home demonstration agents, is conducting an educational program with adults and 4-H club members to bring these practices to practical application on Oklahoma farms. Terracing, contour farming, mineralizing, legume and revegetation demonstrations have been **established** and used in connection with tours and field **meetings**. The Soil Conservation Service supplies technical **aid and** assistance to farm operators through organized **districts**. The Production and Marketing Administration makes conservation payments to farmers to assist in **getting** improved practices adopted on farms. More than **seven** million dollars were earned by farmers last year **for** constructing terraces, applying phosphate and limestone, building ponds, contouring, establishing permanent pastures, and other improved practices.

The job of conservation is tremendous. It is a challenge. The stakes are great. Through united, cooperative effort of farmers and businessmen, the job **can** and **will** be done.

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