

“A Partner in Conservation Since 1935”

Quotable Quotes

April 2005

Note - These quotes by Hugh Hammond Bennett remain as relevant today as when he spoke them more than 50 years ago. Bennett was the first chief of the Soil Conservation Service—now the Natural Resources Conservation Service..

“Out of the long list of nature’s gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil.”

“National action may be led and aided by government, but the soil must be conserved ultimately by those who till the land and live by its products.”

“In this democracy, national action to conserve soil must be generated by these millions of land users. If they are active and willing participants in such a movement, it will endure; otherwise it will fail.”

“Take care of the land and the land will take care of you.”

“Conservation farming put first things first by attending to the needs of the soil—by seeing to it that the starting off place, the base, is put into sound health and kept that way. Any other approach, no matter what it may be, always has and always must lead eventually to agricultural disaster.”

“Too many people have lost sight of the fact that productive soil is essential to the production of food.”

“Almost invariably, conservation farming—which, after all, is common sense farming with scientific methods—begins to show results the very first years it is applied.”

“...land must be nurtured; not plundered and wasted.”

“Before any work is done, each farm or ranch is carefully analyzed, both as a piece of land and as a business enterprise.”

“...soil conservation is not just an incidental bit of the mechanics of farming; it becomes part and parcel of the whole business of making a living from the land, and is the only way by which we may have permanently productive land for a permanent agriculture to support a permanent nation.”

“I consider the soil conservation districts movement one of the most important developments in the whole history of agriculture.”