

In his concluding chapter (Faust in the Wheatfield), Doyle suggests that the Faustian bargain struck by advanced capitalist societies on "the altar of high technology" in the 1930s is coming up for renegotiation. He asserts that the new genetic technologies "can be applied in a beneficial direction. All that is necessary is the institutional will and political force to move the system in the right direction" (p. 377). Unfortunately, he has little to say about the basis for or means of mobilizing such movement. That, however, is probably too much to ask. For the moment, it is enough that the problems and issues raised by Doyle are brought into the public eye. -- *Jack Kloppenburg, Jr., Assistant Professor of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin*

Eroding Soils: The Off-Farm Impacts.

1985. By Edwin H. Clark, II, Jennifer A. Haverkamp, and William Chapman. 252 pp. The Conservation Foundation, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036. Paper \$15.00.

This book may well contain the best collection of information available on the many faceted problems and impacts associated with water pollution from agricultural nonpoint-sources. Documented with an impressive number of sound references (about 137 references in each of the main chapters), the authors have gleaned, organized and presented in very readable form, vital material which further reinforces the need for attaining a sustainable agriculture.

Chapter 1 describes the magnitude of the problem, with particular reference to erosion rates and off-farm impacts. Chapter 2 provides a comprehensive review of the processes responsible for moving agricultural contaminants off-site. Chapters 3 and 4 describe the results of an extensive literature search for documentation of the range, extent, and seriousness of off-site impacts. Chapter 5 delves into economic costs and Chapter 6 summarizes current knowledge of the techniques for achieving improved agricultural nonpoint-source pollution control. The final chapter explores policy options and suggests some implementation strategies.

Although the authors estimate the annual off-farm costs of agricultural nonpoint-source pollution to be in the neighborhood of \$6 billion, and bolster their argument with compelling physical, biological, technical, and economic facts related to in-stream and off-stream impacts, they do not solve the policy hurdle. Some policy options are suggested in the last chapter, turning largely on the concept of targeting, coupled with mechanisms such as soil-loss tax, zoning to restrict certain agricultural uses or practices, enforceable contracts and public purchase. But implementation of these policies is left largely to the reader's imagination or the next publication of The Conservation Foundation.

The challenge is clearly summarized in the last paragraph of the book: "In short, the question is not whether an effective program to control the off-farm impacts of soil erosion is possible. Rather, the question is whether U.S. society has the will."

One topic treated too lightly in the opinion of this reviewer is contamination of groundwater by agriculture.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June 25-26. Alternative Farming Field Day at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. Contact Department of Soil Science, P.O. Box 7619, Raleigh, NC 27695.

Aug. 3-6. Annual Meeting of Soil Conservation Society of America at Winston-Salem, N.C. Contact SCSA at 7515 N.E. Ankeny Road, Ankeny, IA 50021.

Aug. 8-10. International Permaculture Conference at Evergreen State College at Olympia, Wash. Contact Permaculture Institute of North America, 6488 Maxwellton Road, Clinton, WA 98236.

Aug. 10-16. Fourth International Congress of Ecology at Syracuse, N.Y. Contact College of Environmental Science and Forestry, State University of New York, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Aug. 18-21. Sixth International Scientific Conference of the International Federation of Organic Agriculture

Growing evidence suggests that groundwater contamination from agricultural chemicals may be more wide spread than originally thought. If this is true, then it is likely that off-farm impacts of agricultural contaminants may be even greater than those estimated by the authors.

This book is not The Conservation Foundation's first on this subject. Publications preceding this one include *The Future of American Agriculture as a Strategic Resource* (1980), *Soil Erosion: Crisis in America's Cropland?* (1983), and *State of the Environment: An Assessment at Mid-Decade* (1984).

Eroding Soils: The Off-Farm Impacts is a useful addition to the library of all agriculturalists, policymakers, environmentalists, and those involved in soil and water management. It is written in a clear and interesting style, making it quite suitable for the lay reader and those involved with environmental education. -- *Eckhart Dersch, Professor and Extension Specialist in Soil and Water Conservation, Department of Resource Development, Michigan State University*

Movements at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Contact Agroecology Program, University of California, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Sept. 5-6. Third Annual Field Days sponsored by Regenerative Agriculture Association and Thompson's On-Farm Research. Contact Dick and Sharon Thompson, R.R. 2, Box 132, Boone, IA 50036.

Sept. 19-21. Tenth Annual Common Ground Country Fair sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association at Windsor, Maine. Contact MOFGA at P.O. Box 2176, Augusta, ME 04330.

Nov. 20-21. National Conference on Sustaining Agriculture Near Cities in Boston. Contact William Lockeretz, School of Nutrition, Tufts University, Medford, MA 02155.