

---

## CHANGES IN AGRICULTURE AND THEIR IMPACT UPON CONSERVATION IN OKLAHOMA

DAVID C. WINSLOW, Oklahoma A. & M. College, Stillwater

### ABSTRACT

How conservation has changed agriculture and modified farm activities within the state or portion thereof is an often-considered matter, but the opposite approach as to how agricultural changes have brought about the development of new conservation objectives and procedures is usually a neglected approach, yet possibly as significant. Many improvements in farming, as well as modifications in rural educational and political concepts, have had their impact upon the conservation program in Oklahoma.

Over the state it is noteworthy that conservation planning and activities have changed so greatly because of such agricultural improvements and land use innovations that many of the original recommendations of the eighty-one Soil Conservation Districts, which encompass more than ninety-seven per cent of the agricultural lands, are no longer applicable. Hence, long range planned programs, painstakingly prepared by scientific specialists, must now be changed to meet prevailing conditions.

The factors that have brought about changes in agriculture with consequent repercussions upon conservation planning and endeavors in Oklahoma may be divided into these seven categories:

- (1) farming improvements based upon mechanization, discoveries and new techniques;
- (2) new types and modes of farming, usually with more intensive land use;
- (3) increase in farm ownership and in size of holdings;
- (4) educational gains and public acceptance of conservation;
- (5) stress upon conservation by political leaders and public agencies;
- (6) fostering of ideals of man's stewardship of the land by researchers and educators;
- (7) recognition of the necessity to adjust land use to the character of the soil and water resources.