

# Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	ix
Acknowledgments.....	vii
Foreword.....	xiii
Preface .....	xv
Introduction.....	xix
Chapter 1—A National Program is Born.....	1
The Soil Conservation Service.....	2
Beyond Demonstration.....	3
Conservation Districts Begin.....	5
Working Together.....	7
Chapter 2—New Conservation Challenges.....	9
USDA Programs Expand.....	9
NACD and Districts Gear Up.....	11
Federal Funding Shrinks.....	11
The Environment takes the Stage.....	12
Chapter 3—The Rate of Change Speeds Up.....	15
Chapter 4—The Conservation Policy Environment.....	19
Chapter 5—New Focus on Soil Conservation.....	27
The Resources Conservation Act (RCA).....	29
The 1981 Farm Bill.....	34
Lasting Effects.....	35
Chapter 6—The 1985 Farm Bill.....	39
Developing Concepts.....	39
Sodbuster.....	40
Conservation Reserve.....	42
Conservation Compliance.....	44
Swampbuster.....	46
Shaping the Legislation.....	47
Chapter 7—Budget Battles.....	51
The Larger Context.....	51
Saving Conservation Assistance.....	53
States Step Up.....	59
Chapter 8—Living with the Farm Bill.....	63
Programs Launch.....	64
Workload Impacts.....	65
Adding Flexibility.....	67
Meeting the Deadlines.....	70
American Agriculture at the Crossroads.....	71
Chapter 9—Water Issues Remain.....	73
The Rural Clean Water Program.....	73
The 319 Program Emerges.....	76
Wetland Issues.....	77
Chapter 10—Changes in NACD.....	81
The President’s Leadership Seminars.....	86
Fifty Years of Soil Conservation.....	88
New Bylaws.....	89
New Headquarters.....	89
Computers Come In.....	90
NACD Field Offices Change.....	92
Chapter 11—Planning for the Future.....	93
The 1988 RCA.....	94
Chapter 12—Water Quality Decade.....	97

Third District Outlook Report.....	98
Agricultural Water Quality.....	99
Clean Water Act.....	101
The Watershed Program.....	103
Wetlands and Swampbuster.....	107
Chapter 13—The 1990 Farm Bill.....	113
From Planning to Implementation.....	119
Conservation Compliance.....	121
Wetland Reserve Program.....	125
Chapter 14—Building the Partnership.....	127
Changes at USDA.....	130
Changes in NACD.....	136
Funding Conservation Programs.....	141
Chapter 15—The 1996 Farm Bill.....	149
Green Ticket Ideas Resurface.....	150
Shaping the Legislation.....	152
Conservation Reserve Program.....	156
Locally Led Conservation.....	162
EQIP—The Environmental Quality Incentives Program.....	166
After the 1996 Farm Bill.....	168
A Geography of Hope.....	169
Chapter 16—Growing Programs.....	171
Urban Conservation.....	172
Forestry.....	176
Healthy Forests Act.....	180
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program.....	180
Tribal Lands.....	181
Grazing Lands Conservation.....	182
Chapter 17—Water Concerns Continue.....	183
Restoring Watershed Structures.....	183
Water Quality Concerns Continue.....	186
Bridging the Headgate.....	187
Chapter 18—Affiliated Programs and Activities.....	189
Resource Conservation and Development.....	189
The Conservation Tillage Information Center.....	195
The Goodyear Conservation Awards Program.....	199
Farmland Protection.....	200
Earth Team.....	203
National Envirothon.....	204
National Conservation District Employees Association.....	206
Chapter 19—Into the 21st Century.....	207
Communications Changes.....	207
2001 Strategic Plan.....	208
The Western Coalition.....	209
Chapter 20—The 2002 Farm Bill.....	215
Chapter 21—Funding Technical Assistance: The Battle Continues.....	227
Private Providers.....	235
Disaster Recovery.....	238
Chapter 22—NACD Takes a Hit.....	239
Chapter 23—Living with the 2002 Farm Bill.....	243
The Conservation Effects Assessment Project.....	243
The Conservation Security Program.....	245
EQIP—The Program Grows.....	249

Conservation Innovation Grants.....	250
Chapter 24—Into the Future.....	251
<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix A—Those Who Have Served.....	257
Appendix B—NACD Presidents.....	263
Appendix C—NACD Timeline.....	265
Endnotes.....	287
Index .....	309