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EC63-155 Conservation Education for Elementary School Children : Contour Bench Leveling

Harold Gilman

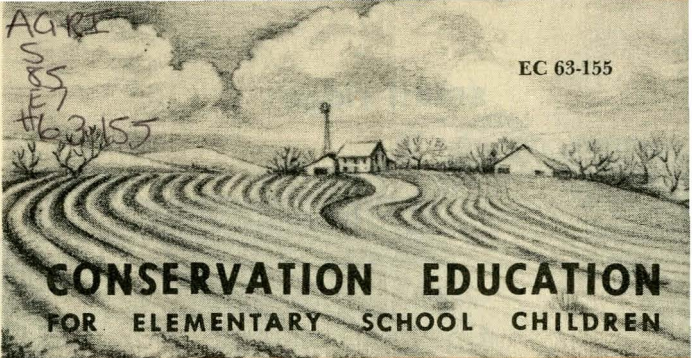
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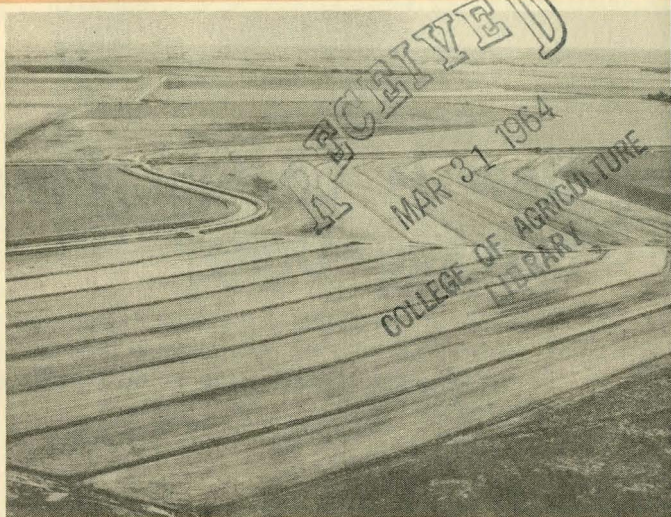
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Contour Bench Leveling

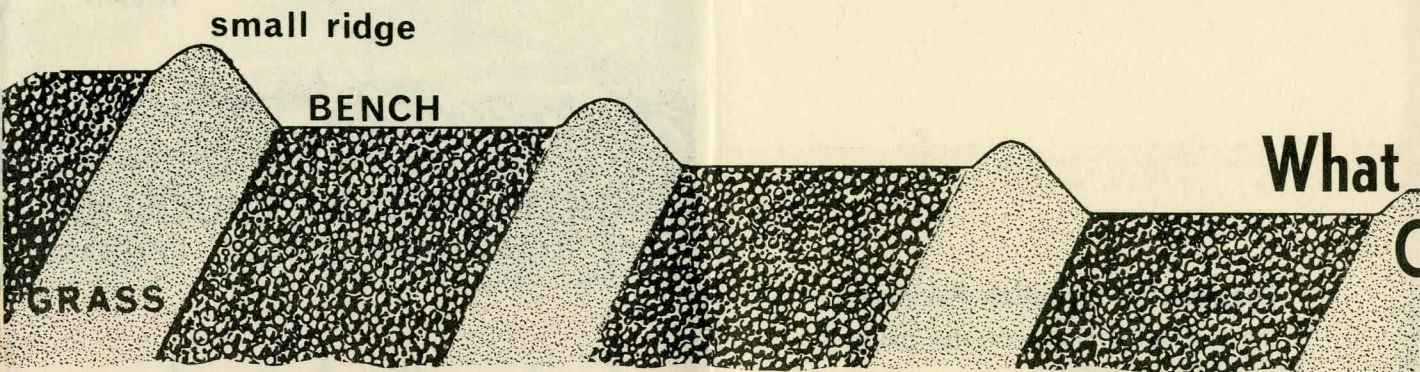
By Harold H. Gilman



What Is Contour Bench Leveling?

Contour bench leveling is the changing of a large sloping field into a series of small level fields. These small fields are arranged in a stairstep pattern and usually follow around the hill.

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Bench leveling is shaping a sloping field like stair steps with a small ridge of soil at the edge of each step. This small ridge is to keep water on the step (bench).

What Is the Purpose of Contour Bench Leveling?

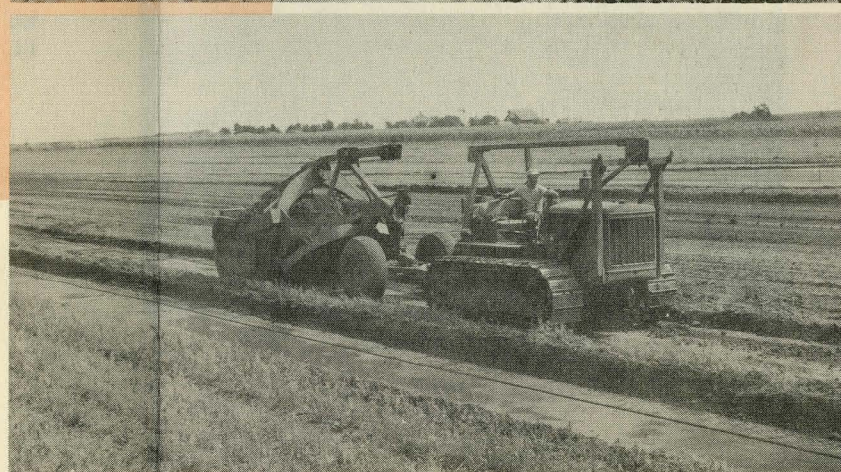
The purpose is to make possible better irrigation on sloping fields.

How Is Contour Bench Leveling Done?

1. Fields are surveyed so that each bench will hold water.
2. Large earth moving equipment is used in construction.
3. A small ridge of earth is left on the outside edge of each bench to hold water on the bench.

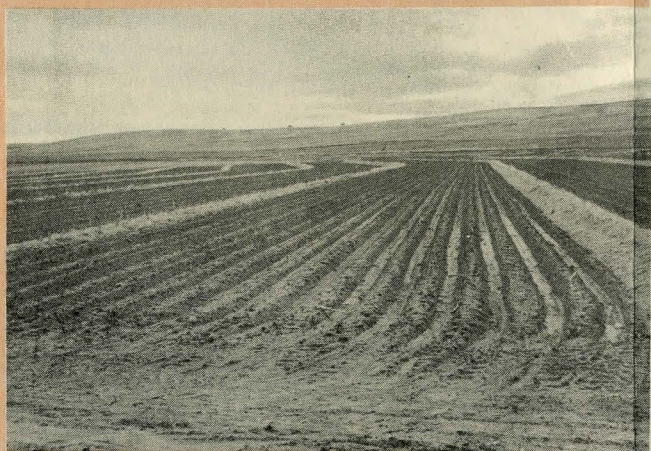
Where Is Bench Leveling Done?

Most bench leveling is done in the irrigated areas of southcentral, southwestern and western Nebraska.





Contour bench leveling—bench irrigation.



Contour bench leveling.

Conservation Education Publications

The following circulars form the conservation education series.

- EC 63-139 What Causes Soil Erosion?
- EC 63-140 Kinds of Erosion
- EC 63-141 What Causes Gullies?
- EC 63-142 Can Gullies Be Controlled?
- EC 63-143 What Is a Terrace?
- EC 63-144 What Is a Grassed Waterway?
- EC 63-145 What Is Wind Strip Cropping?
- EC 63-146 How Should Farm Ponds Be Managed?
- EC 63-147 Conservation Practices in Eastern Nebraska
- EC 63-148 Conservation Practices in Western Nebraska
- EC 63-149 Conservation Practices in the Sandhills
- EC 63-150 Shelterbelts?
- EC 63-151 Who Helps Nebraskans With Soil and Water Conservation?
- EC 63-152 Grass in Soil and Water Conservation
- EC 63-153 Stubble Mulch
- EC 63-154 Conservation Rotation
- EC 63-155 Bench Leveling