
FOREWORD

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This record of the proceedings of the Strip-mine Symposium held under the sponsorship of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and the Natural Resources Institute of The Ohio State University at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in Wooster, Ohio, on August 13-14, 1962, is, insofar as possible, a complete compilation of the presentations and discussions which took place during the two-day meeting. The event brought experts in reclamation and conservation of natural resources from nine states, Canada, and several agencies of the Federal Government in Washington, D. C., and Chicago, Illinois, to the campus of the Experiment Station.

The program was built around presentations made by Dr. Wilhelm Knabe, soils scientist with the Federal Research Experiment Station for Forestry and Forest Products, Reinbek, Germany. Dr. Knabe's presence in the United States, prior to and during the Symposium, was in connection with a post-doctoral fellowship sponsored by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. His fellowship studies involved comparisons of strip-mine reclamation problems in the United States and those in various European countries, notably West Germany.

Throughout the presentations and discussions of the Symposium, the principal objective was to give serious study to the problems of soil, plant, and water relationships involved in the stripping of land for its deposits of coal and subsequent efforts at reclamation.

The response of the more than 150 participants registered for the Symposium provided testimony of the intense interest which students of strip-mine reclamation have in seeking solutions to these perplexing problems.

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The Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station and the Natural Resources Institute are pleased and proud to present this record of presentations dealing with the methods and results of strip-mine reclamation in the Brown Coal regions of West Germany as presented by Dr. Wilhelm Knabe, as well as the current thinking of a cross section of experts in both Federal and State agencies and from the Ohio coal industry relative to strip-mine reclamation problems in the United States. In view of the long and sustained interest of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in meeting the research needs incident to the reclamation of Ohio's more than 180,000 strip-mined acres, it is deemed highly appropriate that the Station jointly sponsor a thorough-going review of strip-mine reclamation in Germany as well as in the Appalachian Plateau area of the United States.

To the various individuals, committees, agencies and organizations involved in exploring the problems inherent in strip-mine reclamation, the sponsors of the Symposium wish to express appreciation. Special thanks are due Dr. Wilhelm Knabe for his large share of the program presentations and to Dr. O. D. Diller, Chairman, Department of Forestry, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station. It was largely due to his untiring efforts that plans for a Strip-mine Symposium were developed, and through his contacts that Dr. Knabe was brought to the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station for post-doctoral study.
