Lesotho’s population (1.3 million) is growing at an annual rate of 2% while agricultural production is decreasing on a continuously deteriorating land base. The rehabilitation of seriously eroded lands and conservation of the remaining soil resources is of vital importance for the future of this young African nation.

References


News and Announcements

End of An Era

When Everette Francis retired from the Soil Conservation Service in January 1981, an era came to an end. (Everette was soil survey party leader headquartered in the Littleton, Ma., field office.) To the best knowledge of John Rourke, former Head of the Soils Staff, Northeast Technical Service Center, Broomall, Penn., Everette was the last of the field soil scientists who started their career with the old Division of Soil Survey-Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils and Agricultural Engineering. Everette and John worked together on the soil survey of Brazos County, Texas, during the winter of 1947–1948. John started with the Mobile Soil Survey Staff in Missouri during 1946. When John retired in 1980, there were only three soil scientists still employed in the Soil Conservation Service that started with the old Division. They were Everette, Bill Johnson, and Victor Link. Everette’s retirement marked the end of that era.

1 This information was taken from the Newsletter of the Society of Soil Scientists of Southern New England, Vol. 5, No. 3, August 1981. Everette Francis is Vice President of this society for the 1981 year. If Everette was not the last, and there is still a soil scientist working for SCS that started with the old Division, please let the Editor of Soil Survey Horizons know about it.