

Meigs County Fish and Game Association, Pomeroy, Ohio:

As citizens, taxpayers and sportsmen, we think that this issue is years behind correcting. We all know that it is useless to purchase licenses to hunt and fish in Meigs County under the conditions caused by strip-mining in the county.

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee, Pomeroy, Ohio:

We would like to further state the damage to cropland in the area is resulting in farmers being unable to take advantage of programs offered by the Federal Government due to heavy silting of the cropland which takes it out of production. It has resulted in a loss of income to the family-size farmer which is the backbone of Meigs County agriculture.

Meigs County Game Protector Donald Williams, Pomeroy, Ohio:

It has been my sad experience to see the streams and land deteriorate in Meigs County from strip-mining for the past five years. As Meigs County Game Protector, I work very close with the outdoors, fish and wildlife throughout Meigs County.

During my time here in Meigs County, I have seen several of our streams go from good fishing streams to completely acid conditions from strip mines and fish can no longer live in these waters.

Meigs County auditor's office, Pomeroy, Ohio:

After the reappraisal of real estate in Meigs County, Scipio township valuation has shown more than \$150,000 decrease in valuation. Most of this decrease is due to strip mine operations within Scipio township.

Meigs County sheriff, Pomeroy, Ohio:

The pasture lands no longer make a beautiful scene as they had in the past but make an ugly picture that will remain or even grow worse unless something is done in the future to help the people that have had the burden placed upon them by other persons.

The dwellings that are left standing in this particular area are usually occupied by persons that cause much trouble to the people of the communities and to the local law enforcement agencies.

The Farmers Bank & Savings Co., Pomeroy, Ohio:

From a purely economic standpoint, this damage caused by stripping has run into hundreds of thousands of dollars, not only has it caused the loss of farm income but it has caused the loss of bank deposits, tax revenue; and has added untold burdens on our county and State highway departments.

Snowville Store, Wendell Hooper, owner, Albany, Ohio:

I have been in the store business for 35 years in a farming district and done a good business till strip mining came along and damaged the farms till the farmers could hardly pay their taxes. That hurt my business until I can hardly pay taxes.

Meigs County Farm Bureau, Tom Sayre, president, Pomeroy, Ohio:

We cite such evidence as loss of farm income being loss of land value, loss of tax revenue, damage to roads, destruction of wildlife habitat and damage to the rural social structure.

Commissioners of Meigs County:

The strip mine operations in this area of Meigs County have caused heavy damage to county and township roads. (Statement of damage to be prepared by the County Highway Department.) It is a noted fact that the farm land in this area is decreasing in value which causes a loss on the tax duplicate in Meigs County.

Department of Highways, Division 10, Marietta, Ohio:

State Routes most seriously affected are 143, 680, 684, and 692. Direct costs incurred to date are derived from both documented cost figures and estimated cost portion of overall maintenance expenses attributed to strip mining, total