

# HISTORY & FOLKLORE



Water land leveling on Haidusek Bros. farm. Water leveling saves time, labor, fuel and machinery cost in growing rice.

From The Liberty Gazette, Thursday, January 27, 1977 –

## LIBERTY COUNTY FARMERS STRONGLY ADVOCATE EASIER & FASTER WATER LAND LEVELING

Charles LeBlanc, who farms about 1,250 acres in Liberty County, plus other land in Chambers County, is a strong advocate of water land leveling. “I like it, that’s why I water leveled about 300 acres this year.” LeBlanc recently leveled 170 acres on the Liberty County farm.

The Haidusek brothers, who farm in the Devers community, have water leveled much of their land and plan to level it all as time permits. “I can’t afford to not water level,” said Paul “Bubba” Haidusek. “It makes farming easier and faster. The cost of leveling is repaid the first year that rice is farmed.”

Water land leveling eliminates about 60 to 70 per cent of the levees in a field. Conventional levees are usually spaced on 0.2-foot vertical interval. On water-leveled fields, the levees are spaced on about 0.4 vertical interval and leveled within the cuts. Conventional levees must follow the exact contour of the land and are usually crooked and winding. Levees on water-leveled fields are straighter and make for larger, easier working

cuts. Haidusek estimates that water leveling can reduce the time required for working the field by 30 percent, because of the larger size cuts and fewer odd areas. The time saved in planting and harvesting is very important. When the weather is right, he can get the job done before the weather changes. A 30 percent reduction in labor, fuel and equipment amounts to a considerable amount during the year.

Irrigation water distribution is greatly improved on water-leveled land. Haidusek has averaged using about an acre-foot less water per acre for a rice crop on water-leveled fields. Since there are fewer levees, less labor is required in irrigating and there are fewer water breaks. Water land leveling is eligible for cost sharing through the Agricultural Conservation Program, which is administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The land user can earn approximately 50 percent of the actual cost for water land leveling.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, April 6, 1972 –

They really knew how to build barns in the old days! This picturesque specimen off Highway 105 near Dolen in north Liberty County is a real comfort to livestock and one of the few early attractive barns around.

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Liberty Gazette

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