of these soils the rains soak readily through the soils, the excess water escaping downward through underground channels dissolved in the rocks. It is rare that water will stand on the surface of the limestone soils for more than a few hours after the heaviest rain, and ponds or pools are seldom found. Sink holes are a typical feature of the Hagerstown landscape.

"With this exceptionally active drainage, the soils are not droughty. The larger percentage of silt and clay, especially the latter, in the subsoil gives a soil of high capillary power and water-holding capacity. With care to reduce evaporation losses by cultivation, crops can be carried through any but the most severe droughts without serious reduction of yield.

"In Northampton County a belt of Hagerstown soils 6 to 8 miles wide crosses that part of the county lying north of the Lehigh River. Another area lies beyond the mountains south of Bethlehem, to the north and west of Hellertown, and a third along the Delaware in the southeast corner of the county, in Williams Township.

"The soils occupy generally a country of gently rolling topography and have good natural drainage. Practically all of the land is cultivated, the general farm crops, corn, oats, wheat, rye, and grass, being grown. More wheat is grown than usual on the farms of this State. Wheat is put in the rotation after corn and oats, and also after clover, about twice as much wheat being grown as of corn and oats. Grass is seeded with the wheat and usually left for two years. Considerable stock is kept, dairying being the dominant type of farming.

"The loam is the principal type found, but small areas of clay loam also occur. A phase of the loam occurs in a strip 2 or 3 miles wide, extending from Martin Creek to Easton. Here the soil contains an appreciable amount of sand to a depth of six to eight inches, making it lighter and easier to work than the typical soil. This phase is used chiefly for general farming, but there is a relatively large area devoted to trucking and market gardening. This phase, because of its location and adaptation to trucking, is valued higher than the typical loam. It is sold at $100 to $150 an acre. The loam, farther from towns, sells for $75 to $125 an acre, averaging about $100. Crop yields are high. Corn yields about 75 bushels, oats 40 to 50, wheat 25 to 30, rye 18 bushels, potatoes 100 bushels, and hay 1 to 2 tons per acre.

"Lime is of great benefit to these soils and is in general use. Stable manure or green manures give good results, and the former is carefully saved and applied to the land. Commercial fertilizers are in common use.