

Upstream Dams Reduce Texas Flood Damage by Million Dollars, SCS Says

One hundred and thirty-eight upstream dams combined with land treatment measures on the Upper Trinity Watershed of Texas prevented estimated damages of \$1 million to crops, pastures, livestock, homes, buildings, roads, bridges and utilities during the current floods, the Department of Agriculture announced.

The savings were to valley bottoms in tributary watersheds. The dams, which supplement soil and water conservation practices on the land, temporarily held 122,000 acre-feet of floodwater and trapped 3,000 acre-feet of sediment that would otherwise have moved downstream to clog channels and downstream reservoirs.

D. A. Williams, administrator of the USDA's Soil Conservation Service, estimated that if all 1,116 detention dams and land treatment planned for the Upper Trinity had been completed the dams would have temporarily held 990,000 acre-feet of floodwater, prevented \$8,800,000 in upstream damages, and trapped 40,000 acre-feet of sediment.

The Soil Conservation Service has built 209 upstream detention dams on tributary watersheds in Texas, Mr. Williams said. He cited

some typical benefits:

On Honey Creek, a 30,000-acre tributary of East Fork of the Trinity, 14 of 16 dams planned and supporting watershed protection prevented damages of about \$47,000.

On East Laterals of the Trinity, southwest of Athens, the watershed work including 4 dams and 2 diversions prevented estimated damages of \$143,000.

On Gray's Creek, northeast of Corsicana, the installed program including 11 dams prevented estimated damages of \$36,000.

On Green's Creek at Dublin, Texas, a pilot watershed project conservation on the land plus 13 dams, reduced damages to an estimated \$37,000.

These projects, the SCS administrator said, are the same type as those authorized under the new Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, which provides for Federal technical and financial assistance in upstream watershed work. More than 700 applications for SCS assistance on local watershed projects have been received from 46 states. Thirty-five projects under the new act, which specifies local cost-sharing, are in the early stages of construction.

Mr. Williams pointed out that flood damages in the Lampasas community, Texas, estimated at \$4 million, would have been only about \$70,000 if the Sulphur Creek watershed work plan, completed just prior to the storms, had been in effect. The plan includes 5 detention dams estimated to cost less than one-third of the amount of flood damage in this one flood.

"Upstream watershed projects offer the only protection that can be given to towns, farms, ranches, roads, bridges, utilities and other property on the tributaries of our streams where approximately two-thirds of our average annual flood damage occurs," Mr. Williams said. "They also offer the only practical means of reducing the movement of sediment into stream channels and reservoirs downstream."

Witmer Guernsey Completes Record

PETERSBOROUGH, N. H. — A registered Guernsey cow, Zettler Drucilla Valencia, owned by R. F. & L. A. Witmer, Willow Street, has completed an official production record in the Herd Improvement Registry division of the American Guernsey Cattle Club.

This record was for 11,190 pounds of milk and 553 pounds of fat.



GROUND WAS BROKEN for the new Poultry Center a little more than a year ago. The public is invited to visit the Center tomorrow while it is open for Open House. (LF Photo)

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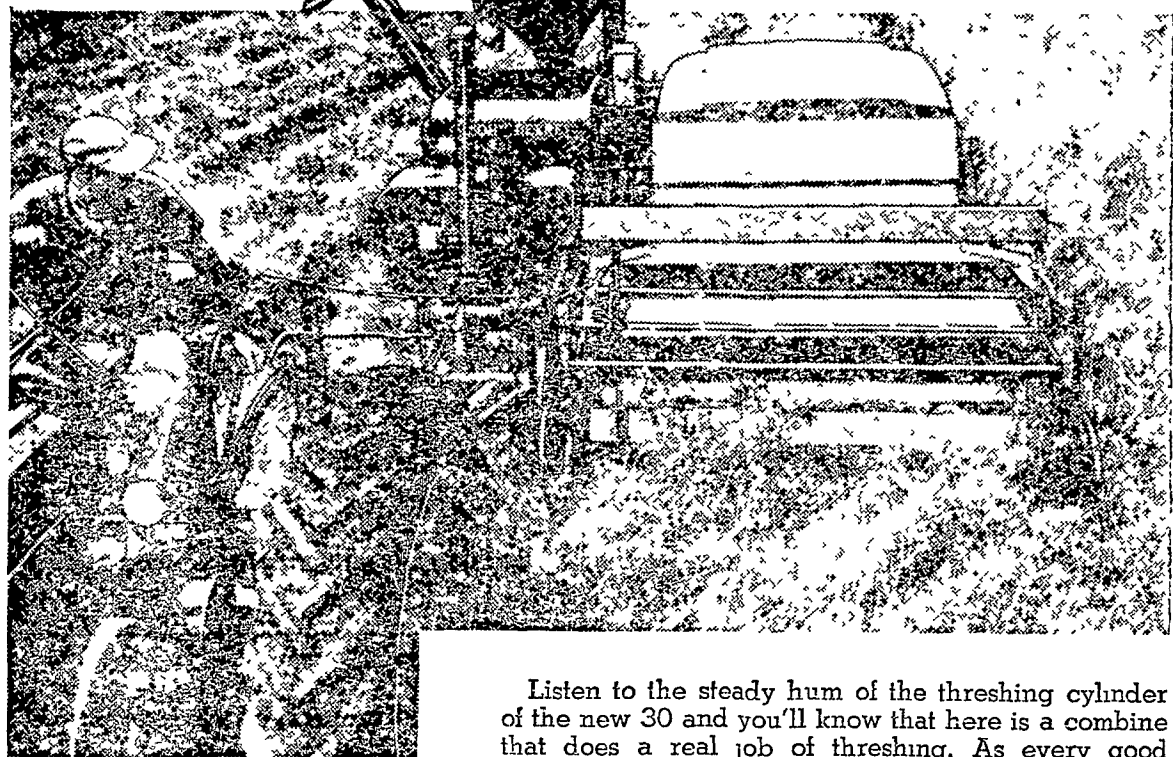
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