

REVIEWS

During the month ended March 15, the index of prices received by U. S. farmers rose four-tenths of one per cent, mainly due to price increases for cotton, beef cattle, onions, tomatoes, cucumbers, corn and wheat. Partially offsetting this however, were lower prices for milk, eggs, lettuce and strawberries. The index of prices paid by farmers for commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates, increased one-third of a point during the month, primarily due to higher prices for production goods. Thus, with the parity in-

be unreasonable.

State Studies Show

69 Tons of Soil Lost Per Acre

HARRISBURG—The Pennsylvania State Soil Conservation Commission today reported preliminary findings in a 10-year stream characteristics survey being made in three small watersheds in Perry and Tioga Counties.

The findings show that some 2,565 tons of soil washed downstream from the 'creek-size' watersheds from October 1954 to September 1955. This is an average of 69 tons per square mile in the watersheds studied.

Most spectacular finding was that Hurricane Diane carried away 450 tons of topsoil in one day in Bixler Run in Perry County. The hurricane damage was not so great in Corey and Elk Creeks in Tioga County.

The Corey Creek damage amounted to 66 tons and Elk Creek 13 tons. This followed the general pattern of damage throughout the state.

These facts emerged from the first phase of the 10-year program being carried out by the State Soil Conservation Commission and the U. S. Geological Survey. Rainfall, sediment, water quality and channel changes are measured and then related to soil conservation programs installed by farmers.

"This tells us exactly how long it takes for erosion control to work," William L. Henning, commission chairman said. "In this way, we are building more scientific ammunition for our 50 Pennsylvania county Soil Conservation Districts to use in selling soil and water conservation practices," he added.

"Now is the time for everyone to note the color of water in the streams," Henning said. "Muddy water means that soil conservation measures up stream can save soil fertility, increase farm income and improve the value of water for drinking and recreation."

Preliminary records also show that stream beds in the watersheds are building up



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