

Water Resources
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a portion of their supply.

TOTAL GROUND WATER CONSUMPTION

Total consumption of ground water in Lancaster County in 1964 is estimated at 17.3 million gallons per day (M.G.D.). This broke down as follows: 3.9 M.G.D. by water supply agencies; 5.5 M.G.D. by private on-lot wells of persons not connected to any water system; 3.4 M.G.D. by industries not supplied from municipal systems; and 4.5 M.G.D. for agricultural uses, not including irrigation which is estimated at 10 M.G.D.

RECHARGE OF SUPPLY

While the study did not attempt the nearly impossible task of measuring the total quantity of ground water available, it estimated the total on the basis of ground water recharge from annual precipitation. It is estimated that of the 42-inch average rainfall in the county, 10-12 inches is recharged to the ground water. The total average recharge for the entire county would be about 500 M.G.D. This recharge is the primary source of the base flow of the surface streams.

NORTHERN PART OF COUNTY BEST POTENTIAL

The ground water portion of the study found that the

greatest potential for ground water development is in the northern part of the county. Much of the northern land is underlain by aquifers — water-bearing rock — with large yield potentials. Wells in the northern section may yield up to 700 gallons per minute (g.p.m.), while yields in excess of 100 g.p.m. from wells in the southern end of the county were not judged possible.

The variation in rock type within the county accounted for the variation in ground water resources. The quality of the water, it was found, was constant throughout the county and generally acceptable.

WELL CONTAMINATION

Water from some of the wells in the county have a coliform bacteria contamination, and where considered necessary, the water was disinfected with chlorine chemicals or gas. The high incidence of bacteria contamination in domestic wells does not seem to be a problem with commercial and industrial users, the study finds, because of the relatively low cost of chlorination for large volumes of water. Bacteria contamination in domestic wells is the result of improper well construction and poorly located or constructed sewage disposal units.

In addition to sewage, wells can become contaminated by leakage of chemicals from storage tanks and pipelines,

although these were not found to be a problem where large volumes of water were used. In small, domestic on-lot wells, however, such contamination can put a well out of use for several years (One Soil & Water Conservation District figure on this suggests it may take as long as 50 years before contaminated ground water sources can purge themselves of some contaminants.)

AGRICULTURAL WATER USE

Agricultural water use needs were treated in the study as rural, farm animals, and irrigation, and totaled an estimated 1964-usage rate of 31.5 M.G.D.

The rural water use — the use of water by those persons not connected to any water supply agency — was estimated at about 5.5 M.G.D. With the expected increase in total non-farm rural population and expected increases in per capita daily use, the total rural water use is expected to increase to 8.5 M.G.D. by 1985, and to 13.5 M.G.D. by the year 2010. This category of water use is presently being met by well sources, and all the projected rural water needs are also expected to come from wells.

Farm animal water usage in 1964, from ground and surface sources, is estimated to have exceeded 40 M.G.D. By 1985,

this is estimated to reach 60 M.G.D., and by 2010, 7.5 M.G.D. to come from wells, streams, and farm ponds. Irrigation water usage in 1964, from ground and water sources, is estimated to have been 22 M.G.D. during the growing season. The authors of the study prepared estimates of approximate potential irrigation usage from stream water which are 85 M.G.D. in 1985 and 150 M.G.D. by 2010.

The report suggests that irrigation associations or districts be formed in each stream basin by local farm interests to further study irrigation needs, and to determine the irrigation storage finance needs if these magnitudes of irrigation demands do materialize.

Farm Calendar

(Continued from Page 1) will gather at their respective tables, or at other designated spots, to celebrate Thanksgiving Day

November 25 — 6:45 p.m., Lancaster-Chester County Farmers Association's testimonial dinner for Congressman Paul B. Dague at the Dutch Town & Country Inn, Vintage.

November 27—December 1, National 4-H Club Congress Chicago

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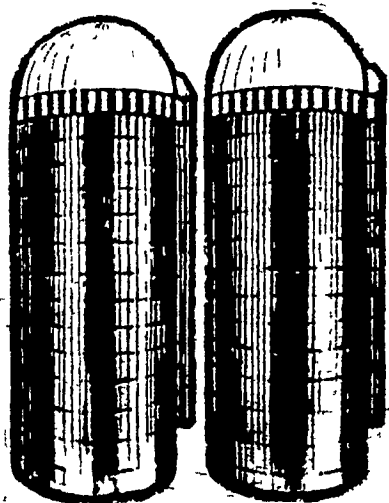
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