

Changing Land Use Can Influence Water

Changing the land-use pattern between forests and open land can influence the time needed to produce a given amount of water from streams, a forestry scientist from Penn State University stated recently at the 14th Congress of the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations in

Munich, Germany. Speaking was Dr. William E. Sopper, associate professor of watershed management at Penn State, describing his findings in association with Dr. Howard W. Lull, adjunct professor of forestry from the U. S. Forest Service.

Their analysis of 17 years of streamflow from 134 watersheds in the Northeastern United States indicates that runoff is generally more available in the southern urbanized areas at times of the year such as

Summer when it is needed. This occurs, Dr. Sopper indicated, because streamflow from agricultural lands runs off more slowly in the Spring than streamflow from forested lands.

To illustrate the effect of land use on streamflow, Dr. Sopper reported that reforestation of an experimental watershed in the state of New York speeded up by 16 days or 22 percent the time required to reach one-half annual streamflow. This manipulation of land use took 23 years to re-establish the forest.

Due to runoff from melting snows, a tremendous amount

of streamflow comes off northern New England watersheds in March, April, and May — reaching half the annual flow in 72 days.

In contrast, streamflow from the more non-forested coastal plains of New Jersey, Delaware, and Maryland takes 128 days to reach half the annual flow. The runoff starts in January on the coastal plains whereas in northern New England concentrated flow starts in March. Both reach the half-

way total annual water yield by mid-May.

Dr. Sopper and Lull are experimenting to find the best combination of forest and non-forest land to control annual Winter-Spring runoff and to create a more uniform streamflow. Their long-range studies in the Stone Valley Experimental Forest, Huntingdon County, are using clear-cut areas to simulate what happens when land changes from forest to non-forest use.

State Price Level Declines

Declining crop and meat animal prices more than offset increasing prices for dairy products, poultry and eggs, to drop the September Index of Prices Received by Farmers 2 points (1 percent), according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service. Declining hog, sheep, lamb and vegetable prices were primarily responsible for the drop.

The index of prices received for livestock and livestock products was up from the previous month despite the sharp decline for some meat animals. Hogs, at \$20 per cwt, were \$1.40 below the previous month, and \$3.40 under the year ago price. Lamb and sheep prices also dropped sharply, with declines from a month earlier of \$1.30 and 60 cents respectively. Calves, at \$32.20 were off 60 cents, and slaughter cow prices dropped 40 cents per cwt. Heifer prices were slightly to \$25.40, with milk cows for herd replacement, the only other gainer, up \$10 per head.

Grain and hay prices were mixed, with corn, wheat, oats and soybeans declining. Corn and wheat both dropped 3 cents to \$1.38 and \$1.27 respectively. Hay prices increased slightly — a result of better quality hay, not a short supply. Potato prices dropped sharply to \$2.35 per cwt.

The index of poultry and egg prices increased 4 points despite another drop in broiler prices, which were down 2 cents from the previous month. Advancing prices for farm chickens, turkeys and eggs overcame the decline for broilers. Eggs, at 35 cents per dozen, were 2 cents above the previous months, but 11 cents below September last year.

The prices received index for all farm products, a measure of the change in prices received by farmers, was 249 percent of its 1910-14=100 percent base. This compares with 251 the previous month and 262 last year.

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