

Crop damage exceeds \$40 million

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corn and crops due to erosion.

Persistent and steady rains throughout last week caused much erosion in corn fields. Conservationists are afraid that the gullies and rills will make it difficult to harvest corn in the coming weeks.

The erosion problem was echoed by James Haldeman, county agent for Berks County. Haldeman noted that although there had been little damage to crops due to actual flooding, erosion in the corn fields would certainly be a factor of concern.

"There has been some washing in the corn acreage which could offer problems, but it seems there is no widespread damages."

Nearby Counties Hurt

Portions of northern Lebanon County received the brunt of Eloise last week. Karl Hellerick, district manager of the area SCS office noted that some 5 inches of rain fell on the area on Friday alone, causing the Swatara Creek to overflow.

"We did suffer some corn damage, but compared to Agnes, we were lucky."

"There will definitely be problems with the winter grains because in the low lying areas the soil is much too wet to work."

Hellerick also explained that much of the land that had been plowed for winter grains was washed away.

Hellerick noted that good conservation practices had helped a number of the farmers in the northwestern portions of the county.

"It was of no doubt, that sod waterways and good terraces proved their worth during the storm," the SCS official commented.

"I think most farmers feel lucky it was not worse but some will be feeling the effects especially where the creek did overflow."

Dauphin County Loses Corn and Tomatoes

Dauphin County was one of the hardest hit areas in the state. An estimated total of \$250,000 worth of damage severely hurt the crops in that portion.

While the rain damaged much of the corn in Lancaster Farming's prime coverage area, corn was actually knocked down by the force of water overflowing streams in Dauphin County.

"We suffered a lot of erosion damage in the fields and that is going to hurt us

when it comes time to pick the crop," stated Harold Stewart, agricultural agent. "With the ground so wet and cut up it will be difficult for the machinery to work in the fields."

Along with the heavy losses of corn, tomatoes were also hurt by the flooding and water.

"Many of the farmers just couldn't pick their tomato crops," Stewart noted.

"Also the canneries closed in this area due to the flooding so much of the vegetable crop was lost."

Across the river, Cumberland County was also greeted by heavy rains and flooding, that destroyed some 3000 acres of corn.

Kenneth Ketterer, agricultural agent, explained the problems which had severely hurt the south-central Pa. area.

"We estimated that much of the corn was lost or will be before it can be picked." "I don't know how they'll (farmers) get it out of the fields now - unless they use airboats."

"Much of our pasture land was also hurt with the excessive moisture in the soil the primary factor."

Ketterer also noted that the fourth cutting of alfalfa in his region had been lost.

"About three thousand acres of alfalfa was lost because of the intense rain and wetness," Ketterer explained.

"Although it was fourth cutting, some acres would probably have produced a ton per acre and that is quite a loss."

As in many of the other surrounding counties, erosion was also described as a problem. Ketterer

Flood meeting set

A special report on recent flooding in the Susquehanna River Basin and a review of SRBC action since 1972 relative to Flood Plain Management and Protection measures will highlight the forthcoming monthly meeting. The meeting will be held on October 9, 1975, beginning at 10:00 a.m. at the Penn Harris Motor Inn located on U.S. Routes 11 & 15 in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania.

Also slated for discussion at this meeting will be: comments on the final draft of the proposed Water Resources Program; Commissioners' comments on the staff review of the 1975 Master Siting Study; status reports on criteria being developed for consumed water make-up; preliminary plans for a new commission headquarters and agreements of understanding relative to Review of Projects under consideration with the signatory parties.

Butz praises farmers

WASHINGTON — Speaking before the House Agriculture Committee last month, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, Earl Butz praised farmers and explained to Congress how they (farmers) fight inflation. Following are the first several paragraphs of the 10-page message he delivered to Capitol Hill.

When the credits are handed out for pulling our economy out of the doldrums this year, the American farmer will rightfully be first in line, first among few, in fact.

Doubts have been raised over whether some others of us can still hack it in today's world. Detroit worries about its ability to compete in car making. Washington agonizes over how to get people to save energy and rely less on foreign oil. New York can't muster the discipline to save itself from financial humiliation.

Meanwhile, the farmer has been busy working. And now

the results of his efforts are becoming apparent: Record production and a new all-time high in productivity for American agriculture. Here's the acid test — the farmer's output per unit of input (labor, fertilizer, land, etc.). It will be one percent above the previous records in 1971 and 1973, and seven percent above 1974's showing. This is how to fight inflation.

Butz's speech then went on to say that "agriculture's earning power is also perking up. Even with the bumper harvest prospects, farmers' prices are responding to increasing consumer demand and foreign sales."

He told Congress corn at a dollar a bushel is a thing out of the past just as are a hamburger or gallon of gasoline for a quarter.

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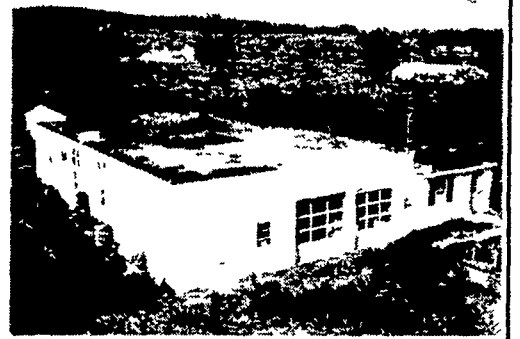
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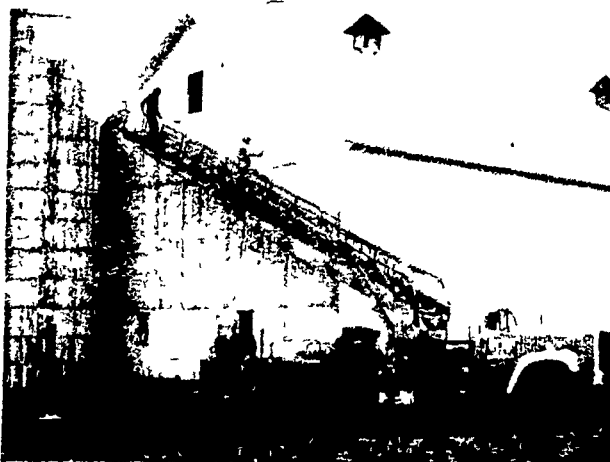
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