

Storm water management seminar notes problems

By KENDACE BORRY

LANCASTER — Back in November of 1977, the Lancaster County Conservation District adapted a resolution on storm water management. They noted that stormwater runoff, having a definite impact on the physical environment, including changes in stream geometry, land erosion, siltation, stream turbidity, flooding and decreased ground water recharge, adversely affected the human life around the area. It could also cause damage to public and private property. Therefore, they decided to include storm water management as a new dimension to their erosion and sedimentation control program.

The effects of part of that resolution could be seen this week as 60 municipal officials and engineers met at a storm water management seminar, sponsored by the Lancaster Conservation District. Held at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center, the men gathered to learn of the problems of storm water management and possible solutions.

Most of the men came from Lancaster County but there was also representation from Berks, York, and Cumberland County.

The problem with storm water management occurs when land use is changed or the earth is disturbed, resulting in storm water runoff which leaves the property at a greater rate than that of before the land

was disturbed. The increased runoff results in increased downstream flooding, floodplain enlargement, and streamland and channel erosion for frequent smaller storms.

The storm water management plan does not intend to provide flood control but hopes to cover the problem of providing protection against streambank and channel erosion as related to the increased runoff. This means that storm water management techniques are actually soil erosion control techniques to prevent streambank and channel erosion rather than techniques to control sedimentation.

According to Richard E. Laudenslager, soils engineer with the Department of Environmental Resources, understanding of the problems of storm water management and the terms used in explaining it, is one of the biggest dilemmas facing officials.



Richard E. Laudenslager

"In simple terms, with storm water the problem is this," he explained. "If you change the land, you change the amount of water that will run off. This can result in localized flooding, erosion, sediment damage to streams and property, and put an added strain on purification plants."

"Basically, urbanization is costing individual owners money. If you consider the

farmer, storm water runoff is resulting in his machinery getting stuck in wet fields and the topsoil being eroded off."

Laudenslager, one of the speakers at the seminar, went on to explain that since the Lancaster County Conservation District decided to tackle the problem of storm water management, they have had many calls for help come in.

"They want to assist in solving the problems," Laudenslager noted. "And that's one reason for this seminar today. One of the first steps is letting the public know of the problem and solutions."

Another part of the conservation district's resolution deals with helping with favorable legislation in Pa.

"Right now there is a Senate Bill 744, which has passed the Senate and now is in the House Conservation Committee. It's a very encouraging bill, and will assist in letting local people establish ordinances on

watershed planning. It's a planning tool, and will mandate watershed planning in municipalities in the same basin. The DER will be the lead agency for such a program."

Speaking of the storm water management program offered by the Lancaster County Conservation District, Laudenslager related that he felt it was an "outstanding program", one with a good start and fine goals, one of the best he has seen.

"It seems that the farmer is always on the receiving end of the problem," he stated. "Urbanization and farming interests need to get together."

When asked if he foresaw this in the future, the soils engineer nodded yes. "It can happen," he stated. "You need to get their attention and establish credibility, and then you can mediate on the problems which arise. This is what the conservation district is trying to do, and problems are being solved."

Adams Co. youth win art awards

GETTYSBURG — Four Adams County youth won art awards in a farm safety poster contest held by the Women's Committee of the Adams County Farmers' Association. Thirteen contestants entered 14 posters to be placed in county business establishments.

Elaine Stock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Stock, New Oxford R2, was first prize winner in the senior division with David Donaldson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Donaldson, Gettysburg R3, in second place.

In the junior division Danny Wilkinson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Wilkinson, Gettysburg R4, placed first, and his brother Eddie came in as second prize winner.

Judges were Mrs. John C. Bream, Cashtown, a former Franklin Township school teacher, and Nadine Waybright a student at Indiana State University, Indiana, Pa.

A planning meeting was held Tuesday at the Women's Committee Chairmen of the nine counties in PFA's Region II. The purpose was to plan for the regional ladies' day out to be held in July at Chilcoat's Restaurant, Reedsville near State College. The main speaker will be Pat Leimbach, an Ohio Farm wife, a lecturer, writer of two novels and feature writer for Farm Journal magazine. Her well known book is "A Thread of Blue Denim."

Mrs. Arthur Musselman, a member of the State PFA Women's Committee and Mrs. Lloyd Benner, co-chairman of the Adams County Farmers' Association Women's Committee attended Tuesday's planning

session held at Chilcoat's Restaurant and announced July 13 as the date for the region's Ladies' Day Out.

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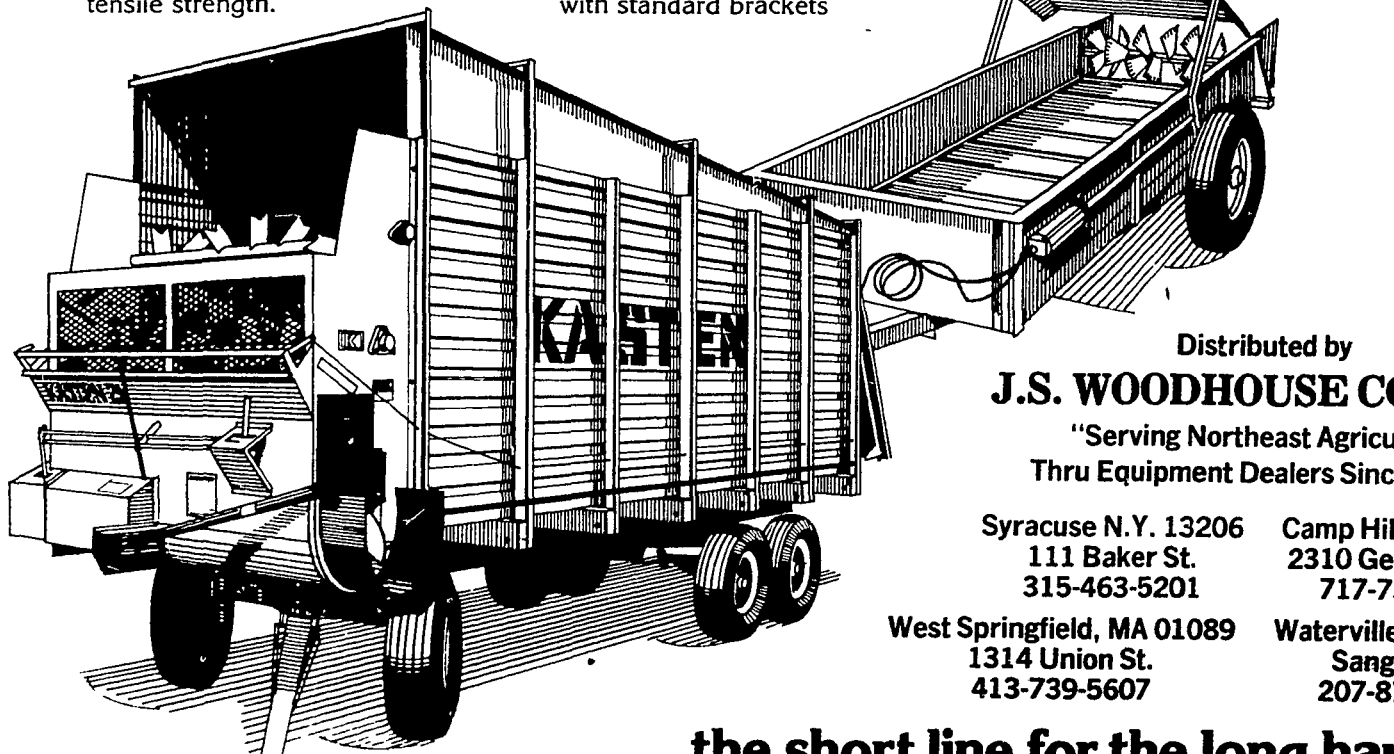
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