

Land treatment

(Continued from Page 33)

project. At the present time, close to \$4,000 in funds are still available to the area farmers. Anyone interested in the details of the project should contact the Lancaster ASCS Office, located at the Lancaster County Farm and Home Center, Lancaster.

There are approximately 23,500 acres of land used for cropland in the watershed. This makes up around 46 per cent of the total land involved in the area.

Estimates of erosion from the land that is being cropped average 11.2 tons per acre per year. The maximum allowed soil loss on cropped field is four tons per acre per year, for good conservation.

Surveys of the cropland in the Chickies Creek area have shown that the crop yields have stayed basically the same over the last five years. It is believed that the installation of conservation practices will reduce the soil loss through erosion, conserve water, and increase yields.

According to Eberly, around 2,700 acres of cropland are presently adequately protected, but there are 8,113 acres which

are considered not "adequately protected" in the watershed. It is the 8,000 plus acres that need the land treatment to help in the Chickies Creek problem.

As was reported earlier in Lancaster Farming, the Chickies Creek Watershed creates a problem in the Manheim area of Lancaster County. Developing a flood plain and reducing the sediment capacity of the stream are part of the plan. The effects of the floodwater and its damage are to be considered, along with the evaluation of fish and wildlife resources and the management of them. Appraised will also be the water supply of the creek and its potential for future needs.

People interested in learning more about the Chickies Creek project can obtain information from the information center now located at the Manheim Chamber of Commerce, 32 N. Main Street, Manheim.

Farmers located in the northern end of the Chickies Creek watershed would benefit from the land treatment as well as those from the area near Manheim.

"Land treatment just makes good sense," Eberly observed. "And this program might fold up without public interest. Without local support, it could fall apart. But now, the money is available."

As part of the Chickies Creek project, two township meetings, one in Penn and one in Rapho, will be held in July or early August. There conservation practices will be discussed, and representatives from the SCS, ASCS, and the Lancaster County Conservation District will be available for questioning and discussion.

Sponsors of the Chickies Creek project include the Lancaster County Commissioners, the Lancaster County Conservation District, and the Manheim Borough.

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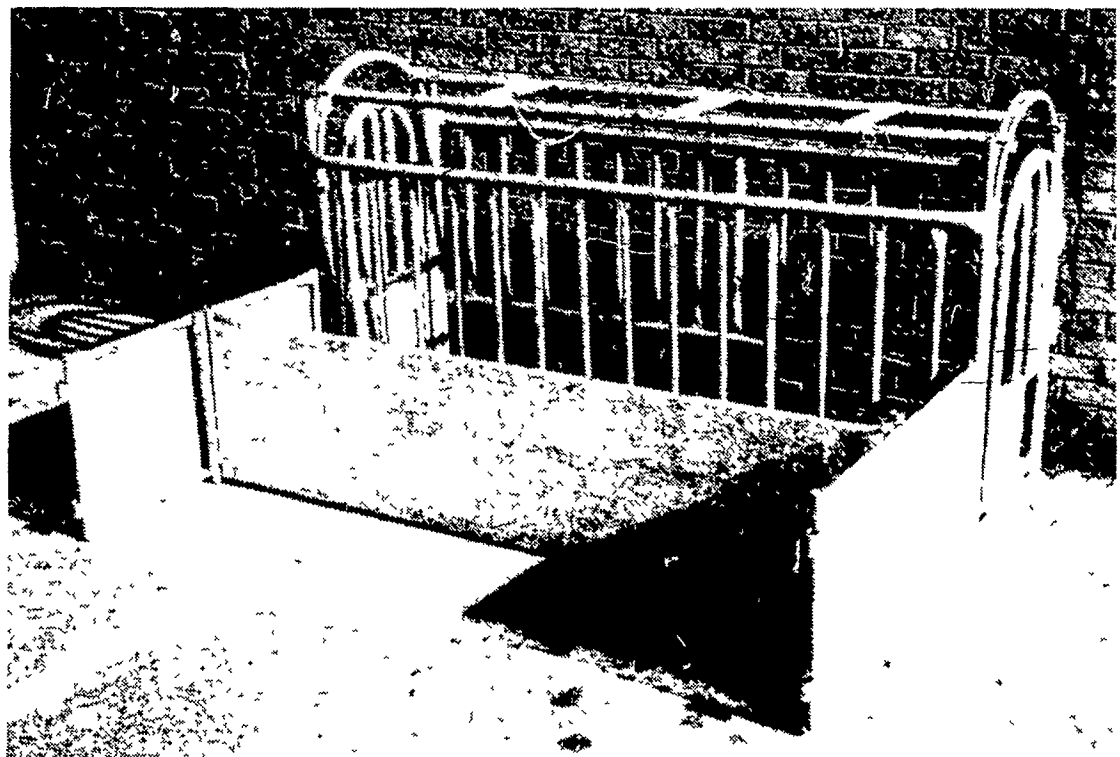
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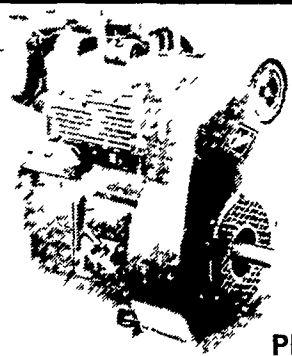
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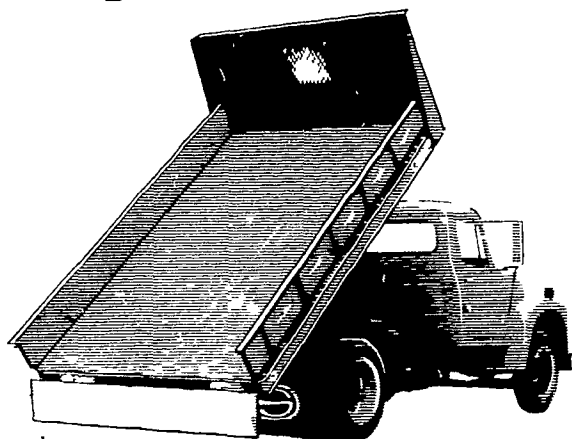
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