The combined cost of a dam and channel brought the total for this alternative to over \$18 million with only a \$3 million benefit.

In this site the number of farmsteads that would be affected was reduced to five. And, only fifteen homes would have been involved. However, the cost-benefit ratio indicates that this is not a feasible solution.

Another dam site southhave similar problems as the

previous two sites. This project would cost close to \$17 million, and had the same benefit value as the prvious two.

All of these dams were planned with the sole purpose of flood-control. The addition of recreation, water supply, or fish and wildlife to the purpose would have increased the cost tremendously.

At a public information west of Elstonville proved to meeting held in September of 1978, residents of the area

requested that SCS technicians investigate the possibility of controlling the flood waters with a series of small dams.

SCS reported that in their study, they looked at the possibility of constructing 23 small dams, with a concrete channel running through the borough. Here, too, the cost far outweighed the benefit with a ratio of 1:0.2.

The federal engineers also pointed out that in this study, they had not included the costs of obtaining access from individual landowners to get to the pond sites.

And, they explained that

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the ponds would not really be small. During normal rains the the area covered by water would be fairly small; but during times of catastrophic flooding, the area under water would double.

What this means is that if a farmer were using the land around the small dam for crops, there would be a possibility that the crop would be covered with water in the event of a storm.

The SCS staff looked into the alternative of what they refer to as nonstructural flood control.

This would include "flood-

#### Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 17, 1979—29

proofing' buildings, moving buildings out of the floodplain, or building a utility shed where the residents could store valuables safely above the flood water level.

This would be coordinated with a flood-warning system that would alert the residents of flooding hazards, giving them about four hours to prepare.

The nonstructural approach was found to be the only aternative with a costbenefit ratio that would permit the program under the USDA's Public Law 566 Watershed Protection and Flood Control Act.

It was explained that the maximum nonstructural protection would involve relocating 58 residences and 5 commercial buildings, and flood proofing 65 residences and 17 commercial sites.

The total cost of a project of this scope was estimated to be \$3,172,000 with a benefit of \$3,178,000, or slightly over

Under the federal program, the government would pay for 80 per cent of the cost, with the local sponsors paying 20 per cent. The local costs could be obtained from State or other sources.

Public meetings have been scheduled for December 6th at the Community Building in Manheim for local residents to hear and question the alternatives presented by SCS. The technicians will also be available in the Borough Building on December 7th and 11th to answer individual questions.

The SCS officials stressed that this project would be the local people's If they want to pursue it further, there will be a rough road ahead.

To date, no nonstructural flood control measure has been funded in Washington D.C. There hasn't even been any appointments to the Water Resources Council, an 11 member board, who must

review and approve the projects before they go before the Office of Management and Budget and finally the U.S. Congress and Senate.

The project must also travel, on its way to be approved for funding, through the SCS area, state, and national offices. And, from there it will go through the USDA maize.

So, it appears there may be some tough sailing for the sponsors of this flood-control project.

Sponsors include: Lancaster County Conservation District, Lancaster County Commissioners, and the Borough of Manheim.

Representing the sponsors at Wednesday's meeting were: Raymond Herr, County Commissioner; Jean Mowery, County Com-missioner; Jim Huber, County Commissioner Elect; Ronald Hetrick, Manheim; Jım Browsey, Manheim; Dan Lane, Manheim; LaVerne Heistand, Mayor of Manheim; and Aaron Stauffer, District. Also present was Wayne Shenberger, Chickies Creek Watershed Association.

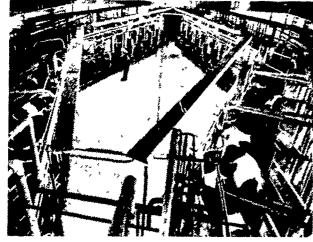
The SCS has already begun to assist farmers in the upstream watershed in applying conservation practices to control storm water and reduce erosion.

With the aid of federal cost-share dollars through the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, 12 acres of stripcropping systems were installed along with 8100 feet of diversions, 7015 feet of cropland terraces, and 12,421 feet of grassed waterways.

These practices were funded through a special program set up solely for Chicknes Creek. To date, the ASCS has provided \$25,615 dollars to the watershed's landowners to establish the needed conservation.

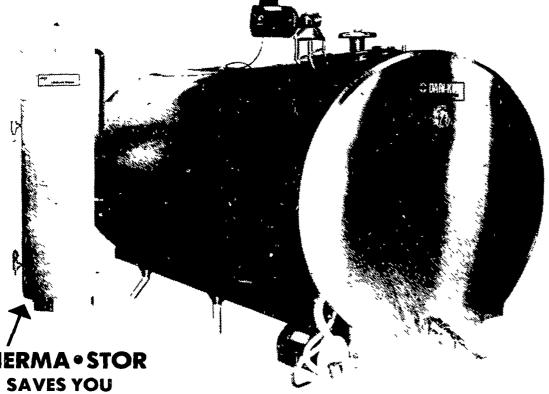


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