

## Chickies flood plan rejected

MANHEIM — The non-structural flood protection plan proposed for the Chickies Creek Watershed in Lancaster and Lebanon counties has been rejected in Washington due to new, tougher economic criteria.

"The rejection is another example of Administration policy to get the federal government out of the flood control business," according to James Shaffner, Watershed Planning Staff Leader in the State Soil Conservation Service Office in Harrisburg.

"This project is one of the best we had in the state for

non-structural flood protection and it now appears that no plans are going to receive approval."

The new, tougher economic criteria now being used to review such plans deal with the manner in which the cost benefit ratio is determined.

Previously, blocks or groups of properties could be lumped together and considered as a unit to arrive at a favorable one-to-one cost benefit ratio. This means that properties with a more favorable ratio could help carry those properties with a less favorable ratio.

Now, under the tougher guidelines, each property is considered individually. Each must qualify for the one-to-one ratio in which the flood damage to be prevented has to equal the cost of preventing the damage.

The Chickies Creek Watershed plan as proposed in December called for the relocation of five commercial buildings and 58 homes.

Under the new guidelines, approximately 70 percent of these properties would not qualify. Most of these are residential properties.

Previously, some of the larger commercial properties, such as Raybestos-Manhattan in Manheim, with a very favorable cost benefit ratio helped carry the less favorable residential properties.

Sponsors of the non-structural plan, including the Lancaster County Commissioners, the Lancaster County Conservation District and Manheim Borough, now appear to have little choice but play a waiting game.

It is expected that only a change in Administration or a change in economic conditions to promote public

## 1980 wheat loan rates issued

WASHINGTON, D.C. — County loan and purchase rates for 1980-crop wheat grading No. 1 or better were issued Friday by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

The rates are based on the national average loan rate of \$2.50 per bushel, the same as the final rate for 1979-crop wheat.

All 1980 county rates for wheat have been increased by one cent to adjust for some shifts in production from higher to lower loan rate counties.

Loan rates for selected counties in the Denver, Colo., area were further increased between one and four cents to reflect recent changes in wheat marketing patterns.

Copies of the rates issued works projects would have any favorable impact on the plan.

In addition to the property relocations, the \$3 million plan also called for flood-proofing additional commercial and residential properties and various other measures to protect at least half of the land in the 23,500-acre Chickies Creek Watershed in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

today are being sent to Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service state offices and also are available from the price

support and loan division, USDA-ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C., 20250. Or phone Carl Thomas, 202-447-4417.

## Beaver harvest up 50 percent

HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania's trappers harvested 50 per cent more beavers during the 1980 season than they were able to take the preceding year, according to final Game Commission figures.

During the past season, trappers took 5321 of the big flat-tailed aquatic fur-bearers in the Keystone State. The 1979 figure was 3547, and the 1978 figure was only 1404.

Normally, trappers will take between 3500 and 5000 beavers per year in Pennsylvania, mainly depending

on weather conditions during the open season in February and March.

The leading county for beaver pelts in 1980 was Crawford, with 894. Following were Wayne with 467; Erie, with 406; and Susquehanna, 342. Altogether, fourteen counties produced more than 100 beaver hides in 1980, compared with eleven in 1979 and just three in 1978.

Although Pennsylvania's prime beaver range is in the northern part of the state, flat-tails were taken in 54 counties this year.

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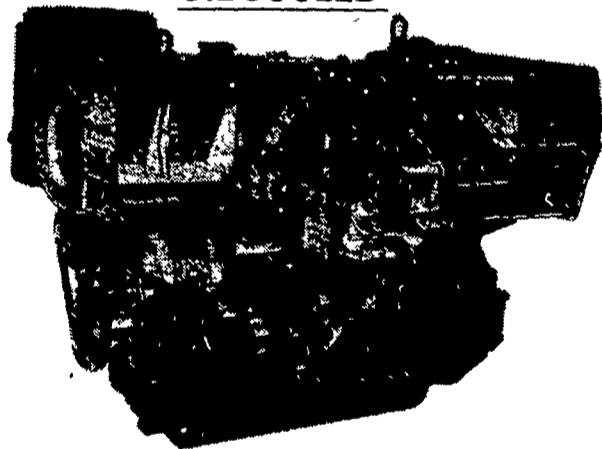


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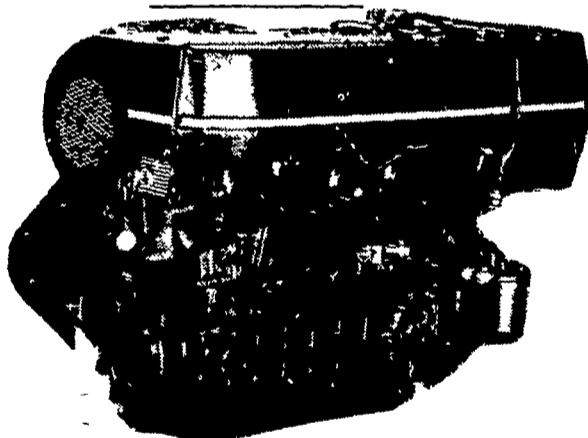


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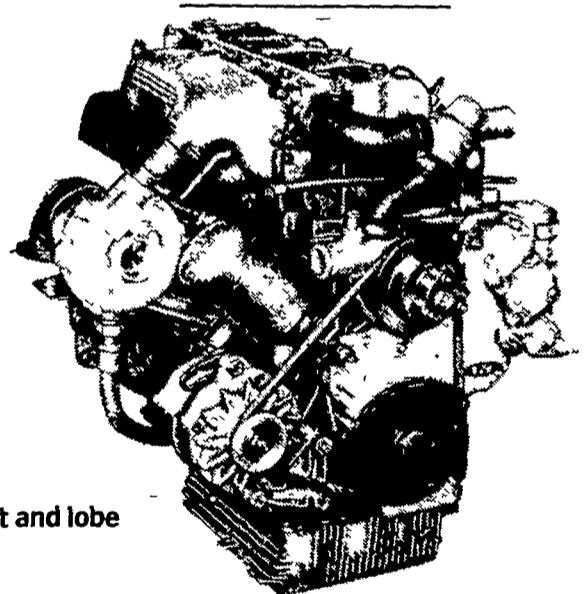
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