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# Chickies Watershed Assn. to discuss flood problems

MANHEIM — Soil and water conservation practices, as well as related flooding problems in the Chickies Creek Watershed, will be aired at the watershed association's annual meeting on March 23.

The meeting, to which anyone is invited, will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Manheim Community Building, 15 East High Street, Manheim.

Severe flooding in the watershed, especially in Manheim Borough, prompted an extensive three-year study for solutions to the problem by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service.

The study, which was completed last year, offered few economically feasible solutions except possible clearing of the floodplain through the borough and flood-proofing various properties affected by flood waters.

Included in the other alternatives studied but rejected by SCS were the controversial flood control dams at various locations on the stream north of Manheim. The dams were considered to have too low a cost to benefit ratio to be practical.

Hence it appears that it's up to persons living within the watershed to assume some self-help responsibility to alleviate the flooding problem, according to a spokesman for the association.

This with the technical help in planning for flood control by soil conservation technicians in the county SCS personnel will be on hand at the March 23 meeting.

Farmers in the 23,000-acre watershed already have this assistance from SCS in laying out such soil conservation practices as diversion terraces, contour strips for crops, sod waterways, etc.

Many of these practices qualify for up to 80% cost-sharing by the federal government. In fact, the Chickies Watershed has been cited as a "high priority" area for such cost-sharing benefits.

Such soil conservation practices, of course, not only conserve precious topsoil but also slow down the movement of rain water into the stream and its tributaries, thus also controlling flooding in the process.

The Chickies Creek Watershed is defined as the area drained or affected by the creek itself, and

to the confluence of the creek with the Little Chickies Creek near the Susquehanna River. The watershed includes all of the borough of Manheim, as well as major portions of Rapho, Penn, East and West Hempfield Townships. On its northern boundaries the watershed also includes Elizabeth Township, South Lebanon and West Cornwall Townships.

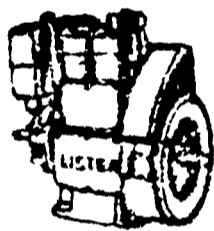
The election of directors from these areas will be part of the annual meeting this month. Several vacancies need to be filled if the association is to function properly. Technicians from the Lancaster County Soil and Water Conservation Service will present the evening's program on flood control and answer any questions from area residents.

All persons interested in soil and water conservation are urged to attend this important meeting.



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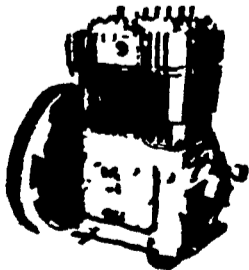
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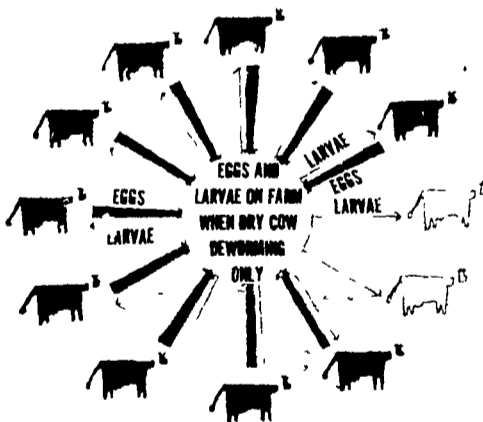
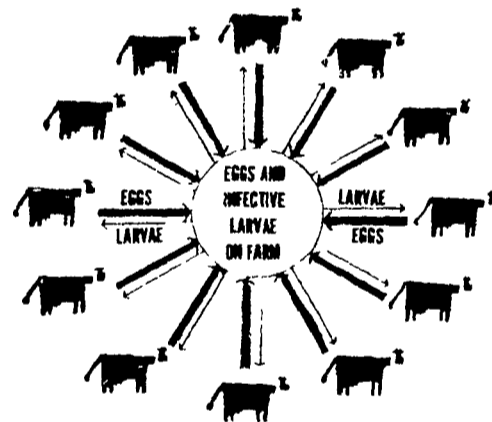
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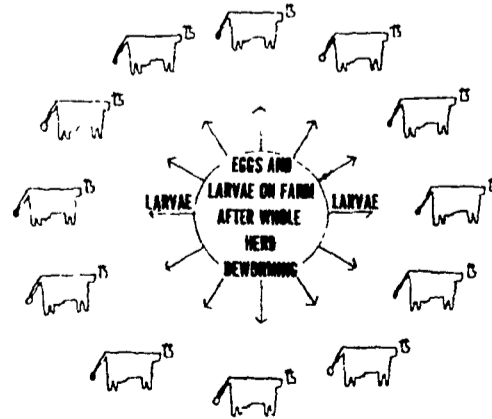
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