

FLOOD DAMAGE TO FARMS OVER HALF MILLION

Agricultural damage from the Skagit county floods will total "at least half a million dollars," a Soil Conservation Service official said today.

Based on a nearly completed SCS survey, which shows 28,776 acres of Skagit county land flooded, Austin Summers of the local soil conservative office placed the estimate on flood damage, which does not include damage to houses, furnishings or personal property, or to roads and bridges.

It does include damage to land and crops, dikes, ditches, farm buildings and equipment and livestock.

Of the total acreage inundated, 8,320 acres were flooded by the Samish river in the northwestern corner of the county and the rest by the Skagit river.

Approximately 117 acres of land were "destroyed" for agricultural purposes by erosion, the report shows, with 50 acres of that land on Fir Island and most of the rest around Lyman. All the Fir Island land was under cultivation, and the Lyman area land was cultivated or in pasture. Included in the loss was an acre of mature, bearing filbert trees on the Loop place in the Nookachamps area.

A large acreage of strawberries and seed crops on Fir Island and in the Conway area was inundated and the slow runoff will apparently mean virtually a total loss of those plantings. One of the heaviest strawberry field losses was on the Noble Lee farm on Fir Island, washed over by the river when it broke a private dike.

About 75 acres of bulbs were flooded, with almost no chance of any salvage on most of them.

The survey revealed the confirmed loss of 83 head of cattle, six sheep and a flock of 200 chickens. The washing away of a chicken house on the Hanson place near Lyman caused the heavy poultry loss. Most other birds apparently found perches above the flood waters.

Fifteen cars and trucks and 10 tractors were damaged by the flood in Diking district 13 on Fir

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Flood Damage

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Island, the report shows. Thirty-three miles of fence will have to be replaced.

Diking districts have a monumental task of repairing flood damage. A total of 4,300 feet of dikes were washed out (200 feet on the Samish river), and the tide gate of District 13 was ruined. The district's tide box, installed in 1937 at a cost of \$7,000, was wrecked by the flood and salt water has been coming in on the land at each high tide.

HARD TO ENFORCE CEILING ON CARS

DETROIT, Feb. 22—(U.P.)—Automobile dealers agreed at least in principle today with the government's price ceilings on cars, but warned of difficulties in enforcing them.

A United Press survey across the nation showed that most dealers regarded the order, which becomes effective March 2, as fair.

The temporary ceilings on new