

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **Use of Climatic Data Station Index**

Virtually every NRCS agricultural operation, and many engineering activities, is dependent on weather or climate. Climate parameters are the driving force in the physical processes of soil erosion and plant growth, and are also key factors in water quality and quantity concerns. A network of some 7000 cooperative stations collects climatic data. Sites are identified that are useful in conservation planning and application of conservation measures. These sites are incorporated into the erosion prediction model.

#### **The National Weather Service Cooperative Station Network:**

The stations are in the National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Network. A cooperative station is a station at which observations or other services are performed by private citizens, institutions (such as utilities and television stations), etc. Services rendered usually consist of reading instruments or taking visual observations and transmitting reports. The cooperative network is managed by

the Cooperative Program Manager (CPM).

The CPM is responsible for the installation of all furnished instruments, observer instruction in techniques of weather observation, data recording, and caring for instruments and equipment. The observed data are sent monthly to the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) in Asheville, North Carolina. NCDC digitizes, quality controls, and archives the data.

#### **Parameters**

The following measured parameters may be available:

- Precipitation
- Air Temperature
- Soil Temperature
- Agriculture Data

For specific climatological data contact the Climate Data Liaison, NRCS, State Office, Morgantown, WV.