

# \$140 Mil. Allocated to 1973 REAP Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced a 1973 Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP) that will strengthen conservation and diminish air and water

pollution.

Through REAP the Federal Government shares with farmers the cost (usually on a 50-50 basis) of carrying out needed conservation and environmental

protection measures on their farms. Practices emphasized are those which help to provide long-range preservation of the environment and return greater benefits to the public.

The initial funding level for 1973 will be \$140.0 million, the same as the initial funding for last year's program. A final decision regarding the program level will not be made until determinations are made on overall spending targets.

Farmers will receive Federal cost-sharing for these new practices: (1) Installation of excess water management systems where they are essential to combat adverse environmental conditions such as water pollution from contaminated water runoff caused by high water table, or incomplete recycling of animal or human waste, sedimentation, and salinity or alkalinity; and (2) use of conservation tillage on a demonstration basis to reduce soil loss from land devoted to intertilled (row) crops.

Also, the 1973 REAP expands the authority to cost-share for practices to solve agriculture-related air pollution problems. In the past, cost-sharing for pollution abatement was limited to those practices with soil and water conservation benefits.

County committees will develop their 1973 programs within National program guidelines and will have opportunity to keep some or all of their 1970 county practices as was the case for 1971 and 1972.

The following conservation and environmental protection features will receive high priority during the coming year: Establishing permanent vegetative cover; improving or protecting permanent vegetative cover; developing facilities for

livestock water; water impoundment reservoirs; constructing terrace systems; diversion terraces, ditches or dikes; permanent wildlife habitat; animal waste storage and diversion facilities; sediment

retention and water control structures; sediment or chemical runoff measures; disposal of crop, orchard or woodland residues without burning; and disposal pits for solid waste.



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