SCS to administer clean water program

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland has given the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service (SCS) leadership in administering the rural clean water program, under the 1977 Clean Water Act.

That program, the secretary said,, provides for five to ten year cost sharing contracts with farmers and ranchers to help them install the "best management practices" to keep soil and chemicals from washing into nearby streams and lakes, thereby improving water quality.

Secretary Bergland said the department's new water quality effort will be organized by a Rural Clean Water Coordinating Committee, headed by SCS administrator R.M. Davis. Five other USDA agencies will be represented on the committee: Forest Service; Farmers Home Administration; Science and Education Administration; Economics, Statistics and Cooperatives Service and Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, which will provide guidance to state and county Agricultural Stabilization Conservation (ACP) committees.

The Environmental Protection Agency will approve water quality plans and provide concurrence in USDA rules, regulations and project proposals.

The SCS administrator also will enter into agreements with local soil conservation districts, state soil and water conservation agencies or state water quality agencies for administration of the program.

Karl Hellerick, Soil Conservation Service Lebanon, called the rural clean water program "the most important new authority for the Soil Conservation Service in many years."

Hellerick pointed out that "SCS is no longer helping just one segment of the public with soil erosion problems. Now SCS is equally concerned with maintaining and improving water quality, a matter that affects all Americans. In its new role, SCS will be working closely with the Environmental Protection Agency to help achieve the national goal of water fit for swimming and fishing by 1984."

No-till success depends on details

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of two articles dealing with no-till corn management. It was prepared by Doris Henrique of the University of Delaware.

NEWARK, Del. – "It's the details that make the difference between success and failure when you're growing no-till corn," says University of Delaware Extension crops specialist Frank Webb, in explaining how some farmers manage to fail with this production method. In just about every case of no-till corn failure he's seen in the last few years, the problem has turned out to be the same – somehow the grower goofed.

It's not enough to have a good formula for successful no-till production. You've got to have the patience to apply it properly, right down the line. Take the guy who's in too great a hurry at planting time, for instance. Haste than makes costly waste, when it results in poor stands and unnecessary wear on machinery parts from excessive planting speeds.

Your planter must be properly adjusted, too, says Webb, who's given a lot of thought to the problems associated with no-till corn production on the Delmarva peninsula. For farmers intending to grow no-till corn this year, he has some advice on the pitfalls to avoid.

Seed planted too shallow is likely to be eaten by birds and mice, he warns. So for good stands it's essential to place seed 1½ - two inches into the soil. Make sure it's well covered and firmed down, too. No-till coulters should run one - 1½ inches deeper than planting depth. Depth bands should be set deep enough to allow for surface unevenness and debris.

Also make sure weather conditions are right for planting. Temperatures should be at least 50 degrees on the soil surface and soil should not be too wet.

Another place where a no-till operation can go wrong is in the effectiveness of its spraying program. Researchers and extension specialists at the University of Delaware have established a combination of herbicides which give excellent cover kill and residual weed control. But, says Webb, unless these materials are properly mixed, properly timed and properly applied, they can be practically worthless.

Take, for instance, the control of fall panicum – the number one annual weed problem in no-till corn. Its control is largely a matter of timing. Miss on this and you could be in for serious weed problems.

This weed is one of the first to germinate in the spring. Before it has sprouted, the herbicide to use is Simazine. But once it's out of the ground, that will have no effect and you'll have to go to Bladex instead– unless the plant has already grown beyond the two leaf stage. After that, Bladex won't work either and your only control is Roundup – a very costly solution to the problem.

The answer then, if you're planting no-till corn,. is to keep close tabs on troublesome weeds. And make sure to treat them early so they don't get ahead of you. Sometimes you may want to apply your herbicide spray one or two weeks before planting to get at the fall panicum before it germinates, if you intend to delay planting until the first of May.

While you're applying your herbicides, include some materials for early insect control as well, advises the agronomist. An application of Toxaphene can prevent loss of worm control. Use Furadan in your planter to control flea beetles, the first brood of corn borers, bill bugs, wireworms and even root worms, if these are a problem in your particular area.

The best chemical program in the world won't give you control over weeds and insects if you goof up the mixing process, however. During mixing of materials, you've got to get good agitation in your spray tank. Mix wettable powders or suspensions first. Add your sticker last if no anti-foam agent is present.

Be sure to use clean water, too. Both Paraquat and Roundup are deactivated if there's silt or clay in the water. If you've been drawing water from a

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YEAR ROUND MARKETING PAYS OFF

Besides speeding harvest by eliminating some dependence on other people our farm storage pays its way in higher prices. Table shows that if you had sold your crop in November every year, you would have received the lowest price of the year 13 out of 27 years. Highest prices were heavily concentrated in May through September and not once did lowest price of the year fall during this 5 month period!

MONTHLY U.S CORN PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS

Yr	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Spread Hi Lo
50	*1 15*	1 16	1 19	1 26	1 34	1.36	1 44	1 44	*1 44*	1.37	1.37	*1.45*	.30
51	*1 54*	1 60	1 60	1 62	1.64	1.62	1 63	1.65	1.65	1 64	1.61	**1 68**	14
52	1.68	1 65	1 65	1.68	1 70	1 73	1 73	1 73	1 71	1 53	*1 45*	1.50	28
53	1 48	1 4[illegible]	1 46	1 46	1 49	1 46	1 47	1 48	1 50	1.34	*1 33*	1 41	17
54	1 42	1 43	1 44	1 45	1 47	1.49	1.50	1 53	1 53	1 45	*1 37*	1.39	16
55	1 40	1 40	1.36	1.36	1 40	1 40	1 40	1.30	1 24	1 14	*1 09*	1 15	.31
56	*1 16*	1	1 20	1 22	1 39	1 42	1 43	1 45	1 43	1 19	1 21	1 22	.29
57	1 23		1 20	1 21	1.23	1 22	1.23	1 23	1 15	1 06	985	*984*	.25
58	*937*	[illegible]	00	1 10	1 15	**1 19**	1 18	1 18	1 13	1 04	942	1 02	26
59	1 03		1 06	1 12	**1 16**	**1 16**	1 13	1 13	1 09	991	988	*978*	18
60	999		1 02	1 0[illegible]	1 08	**1 09**	**1 09**	1 07	1 06	992	*902*	919	19
61	970		1 31	*968*	1 02	1 03	1 05	1 04	1 04	1 02	992	994	08
62	95[illegible]	[illegible]	1 00	1 02	1 04	1 04	1 05	1 03	04	1 03	*987*	1 04	06
63	1 07		1 11	1 10	1 11	1 16	1 19	1 19	1.21	1 11	*1 05*	1 09	16
64	1 12		1 13	1 15	**1 17**	1 16	1 12	1 1[illegible]	1 17	1 13	*1 07*	**1 16**	10
65	1 1[illegible]	[illegible]	1 21	1 [illegible]	**1 26**	1.25	1 22	1 16	1 16	1 10	*1 04*	1 13	22
66	1 13	1 0	*1 17*	1 19	1 21	1.20	1 27	1 34	1 35	1 29	1 26	1 29	18
67	**1 28**	1 [illegible]	**1 28**	1 26	1 25	1 26	1 21	1 11	1 12	1 04	*975*	1 03	.30
68	1 04	1 06	1 06	1 06	**1 09**	1 07	1 04	986	1 01	*962*	1 04	1 05	13
69	1 08	1 09	1 09	1 12	**1 19**	1 18	1 18	1 18	1 15	1 12	*1 07*	1 09	12
70	*1 12*	1 14	1 13	1 15	**1 18**	1.21	1 24	1 27	**1.38**	1.34	1 29	1.36	26
71	1 42	**1 43**	1 43	[illegible]	**1 38**	**1 43**	1.36	1 19	1 11	1 00	*974*	1 08	.46
72	*1 09*	*1 09*	10	1 [illegible]	1 15	1 13	1 14	1 [illegible]5	1 22	1 19	1 20	**1.42**	.33
73	1 39	1 35	[illegible]7	1 42	1 61	1 99	2 03	**2.58**	2 15	2 17	2 18	2.39	1.33
74	2 59	2 76	2 68	*2 41*	2 45	2 57	2 91	3.37	3 30	**3.45**	3.32	3.27	**1 04**
75	**3 07**	2 86	2 67	2 68	2 66	2.68	2 72	2 95	2 76	2 62	*2 33*	2 37	74
76	2 44	2 48	2 50	2 46	2 61	2 74	**2 82**	2.64	2 60	2 33	*2 02*	2 24	80

The average price spread between the yearly low and high was 31 6 cents a bushel