

Letters To The Editor

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service needs to spend more time convincing farmers of the benefits of soil conservation programs. More favorable loans for conservation projects should be made available.

Under present SCS guidelines, the farmer still bears too much of the cost of a project that will benefit the society much more than the individual farmer.

I don't know of any farmers who would not participate in a soil conservation program if they were convinced that it would be profitable to do so. In the long run, the society would be the real profitter.

I believe this positive type promotion is a much more practical approach to the problem of soil loss.

Tony Novak
Delaware Valley College

Dear editor:


I was surprised that your editorial on mandatory soil conservation did not include any suggestion of positive incentives to promote soil conservation.

Farmers are not willingly washing away their own most valuable resource, they simply lack the expertise in land management and the financial capability and incentive to correct the problem. The suggestion of a

"clean up or else" measure enforced by more regulatory legislation is the wrong approach to the problem.

In essence, this approach dumps the tremendous responsibility of preserving the future food production potential on today's already struggling farmer.

Instead, we need a stronger system of support, both in technology and financial backing to encourage soil conservation.



Blessings...

Every Christmas candle beams the light of the Star that shone over Bethlehem the night when Christ was born. May the holy, blessed meaning of that Birth be reflected in this Christmas season, for you

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FmHA loans for hydroelectric plants considered

WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland is considering a proposal to permit the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) to make low-interest loans to build small hydroelectric generating facilities.

To be made through FmHA's community facilities loan program, the loans would go to communities with populations not larger than 10,000.

Purpose of the proposed change would be to enable small rural communities, many of whom operate their own generating facilities, to stabilize their electricity costs and reduce dependency upon fossil fuels.

The proposal specifies that loans could be made to restore deactivated dams and hydroelectric generators; enlarge or improve existing plants, or construct new facilities.

The action is intended to support the President's small community and rural development policy by making FmHA more responsive to rural energy needs.

Within USDA, the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) has primary responsibility for rural electrification. However, REA authorities restrict its loans to places under 1,500 population.

USDA officials have determined that a need for financing exists in places of up to 10,000. FmHA authorities extend to that size community.

The proposal was based in part on public input at meetings, from telephone inquiries and requests for loans from potential applicants, according to a notice in July 24 Federal Register.

FmHA would process loan applications in the same manner as for any other community facility loan, including the determination that other credit is not available at reasonable rates and terms.

FmHA also could finance connecting lines to the nearest practical point of an

existing distribution system.

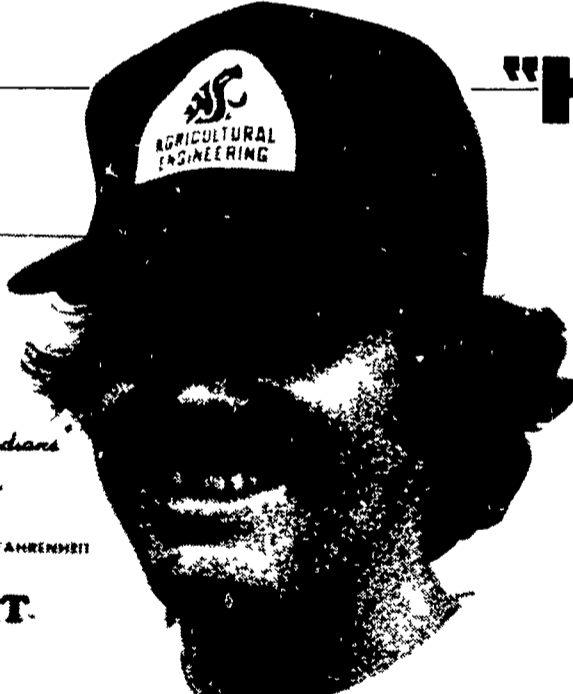
Potential loan applicants would be public bodies, such as municipalities, counties, districts, authorities, or other subdivisions of a state. Nonprofit organizations such as associations and cooperatives also will be eligible if they have legal authority to operate, maintain and finance such facilities.

Comments on the proposal are invited; closing date for these is Sept. 22. Comments should be submitted in duplicate to the Office of the Chief of Directives Management Branch, FmHA, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 6346, South Agriculture Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.



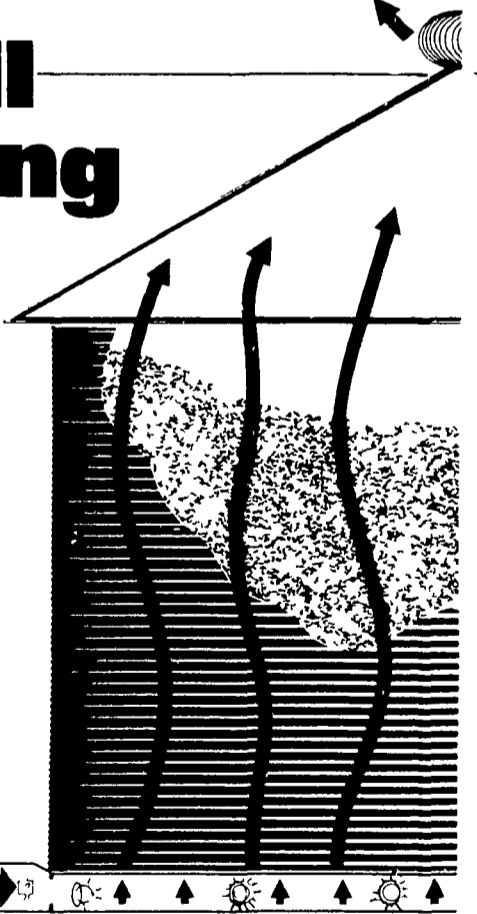
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GREG EHELMAN
Mohnton, PA

I really couldn't be more satisfied. First of all I like the efficiency at harvest. With just two of us working the entire harvest was non-stop. Then the 5¢ per bushel curing cost even included power for installation and our night light. My buyer was quite impressed with my corn. Test weight was from 57 to 58 lbs. That means I got an extra \$300 per 25 ton truck load. Even the drivers commented on the good quality.

I'm an Ag Engineering student at Penn State and we do a lot of work with drying systems. Out of curiosity I ran the Harvestall design through our computers and found that for the most important aspect of drying, air flow, the Harvestall bin is the optimum design. Actually the Harvestall is the most profitable part of my operation. With better marketing control I make an extra dollar per bushel. For the farmer who needs storage or drying, the Harvestall Chillcuring system is the best investment I can think of.

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It's simple. When corn comes out of the field it's a living seed. So instead of destroying the seed with high heat, moisture is removed with natural air ventilation. The grain keeps all its feed value, there is less shrinkage than with heat drying because only moisture is removed, not dry matter. You'll never see white dust in Chillcured corn. You actually save half of what you're used to losing in heat shrink. There's no gas or oil to buy. Natural air carries away heat and moisture as the corn releases it. Harvestall Chillcuring is a back-to-basics system that just simply makes good sense. Find out more about it.