

## USDA soil and water appraisal now available

HARRISBURG — The most comprehensive appraisal ever conducted of the Nation's soil and water resources is available for reference in local offices of the Soil Conservation Service and the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

SCS Chief Norman A. Berg said that the appraisal which was called for by the Soil and Water Resources Conservation Act of 1977 reveals that soil erosion is critical in many important farming areas of the United States. If continued, Berg said, these high erosion rates will reduce the future ability of the country to produce

food and fiber. He added that upstream flood damage and other resource losses are likely to increase if current trends continue.

The appraisal is published in two volumes. Part I, Status Condition and Trends, presents data on soil, water, and related resources in the United States. Part II, Analysis of Resource Trends, shows likely future consequences if current practices continue.

These documents replace earlier drafts of the RCA Appraisal. Extensive public comments on the drafts are reflected in the final version of Parts I and II.

## Corn, tobacco production up

HARRISBURG — Based on November 1 conditions, Pennsylvania's 1981 crops of corn for grain and tobacco should be above last year's production, according to the Pennsylvania Crop Reporting Service.

Production of corn for grain is forecast at a record high 123.7 million bushels, up 29 percent from last year's drought-reduced crop. A record 1,330,000 acres will be harvested for grain with an average yield of 93.0 bushels per acre.

Tobacco production is forecast at 25.2 million pounds, up two percent from last year. An expected 13,600 acres will be har-

vested with an average yield of 1,850 pounds per acre.

At the United States level, feed grain production (corn, sorghum, oats and barley combined) should be 24 percent above last year's production. Corn for grain production is forecast at a record high 8.10 billion bushels, 22 percent more than last year. The forecast is two percent above the previous record set in 1979.

Soybean production nationally is forecast at 2.08 billion bushels,

down one percent from last month's forecast, but 16 percent above the 1980 crop.

National tobacco production is forecast at 2.03 billion pounds, 14 percent above last year's crop. Area for harvest should increase five percent from last year to 963,370 acres, with an average yield of 2,102 pounds per acre.

Pasture and range feed condition was rated good at 80 percent of normal, compared with 65 percent a year ago.

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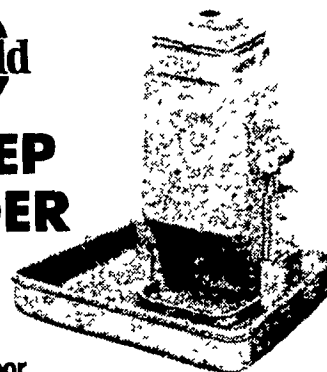
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