

# Md. districts urge conservation

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—  
With government budgets getting tighter, soil and water conservation programs will have to be targeted to areas with the most critical problems.

That was the message over 150 representatives of Maryland's 24 soil conservation districts, U.S. Soil Conservation Service and other agencies heard at a meeting Jan. 10-11 in Baltimore.

Maryland Secretary of Agriculture Wayne Cawley urged the conservationists to shift to a targeting policy "if it can be done without completely denying the requests from cooperators in other areas." Cawley also warned that districts would have to take a stronger approach to working on a critical soil erosion and water quality problems. Otherwise, he said, the current voluntary program might be perceived as a failure and be taken out of their hands.

Farmers who have serious water pollution problems and who refuse to cooperate should be referred to the health department for en-

forcement action, said Cawley. "If we refuse to take action against a violator, then we are in effect protecting him." He added that he didn't want to see good farmers hurt by the actions of a few "bad actors."

In laying out strategies for the 1980's, Cawley said conservation districts should take a more aggressive role in keeping sediment and animal waste from polluting streams. "Soil is literally the base of agriculture," said Cawley. "If we allow that base to erode away, our loss becomes everyone's loss."

Graham Munkittrick, assistant chief for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, told districts that the Northeast states would suffer under a new SCS budgeting policy which emphasizes targeting funds to critical areas. The budgeting formula favors large agricultural states in the Midwest.

According to predictions in a recent study, said Munkittrick, "Over the next 50 years, because of erosion of our fragile (Northeast) soils, we are not going to be able to farm our land. It will take 200

years before soils in the Midwest will become unproductive." The SCS operating budget will continue to decrease in Maryland over the next five years, said Munkittrick, unless officials seek special project funding for critical area.

MASCD members passed resolutions calling on Maryland's congressional delegation to support new funding for targeting and to seek more funding for SCS technical assistance to districts and landowners. They also voted to support an application to SCS for funding a special critical area project in eight Maryland and 14 Pennsylvania counties called the Mason Dixon Erosion Control Project.

In other actions, MASCD members voted to petition SCS to change its wetlands policy to allow drainage of wet soils that have been in agricultural production for decades. They voted to ask Congress to modify cumbersome procedures required by the Corps of Engineers for farmers to obtain dredge and fill permits.

## Plans underway for 100th Holstein convention

VERGENNES, Vt. — New England Holstein breeders are enthusiastically looking forward to celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America by hosting the 1985 convention in Hartford, Connecticut. The dates of June 23 through June 27 have been confirmed.

Plans already are underway to make this a very special and memorable occasion for Holstein breeders and friends. The convention is expected to attract more than 3,000, many of whom will be representing Holstein breeders from throughout the world. This Holstein Convention, because of its unique significance, anticipates an unusually large delegation of

foreign visitors. Activities will include two days of Association business, Host Day with special New England activities planned, a President's Reception, a sale of some of the best Holstein cattle in the nation, a Junior Member Mini-Convention, special Ladies' Day activities, and many other exciting events.

Officers have been appointed and committees formed with the following serving as chairpersons: Honorary Chairpersons, Harold Shaw and R. DeWitt Mallary, Vermont; General Chairman, Howard Patch, Lebanon, N.H.; Secretary, Joyce Haggarty, New England Holstein Office, Vergennes, Vt.; Treasurer, Lee Salonen, Agawam, Ma.; Arts & Crafts Contest, Ella Maynard,

Donna Hall, Vt.; Banquet, Hilton Boynton, Ma. and Tom Fairchild, N.H.; Convention Sale, Bill Briggs, Me; Dairy Bar, George Cross, Richard Naczi, M.P.S.I., Windsor, Ct.; Junior Convention, Roger & Elaine Ives, Ct.; Bill and Cindy Putnam, N.H.; Ladies Activities, Cindy Whittier, Mass.; Pre-convention Program, Bill & Marian Fitzgerald, Mass.; Publicity/Information, Marion Seifert, Ct.; Reception/Hospitality, Gary & Jean Darling, Vt.; Registration, Richard & Sue Howe, Vt.; Secretary's Dinner, Joyce Haggarty, Vt.; Souvenir Book, Mary Briggs, Me; Transportation, Tony Malnati, Mass., and Director's Wives Dinner, Jean Patch, N.H., Shirley Keene, Me.

## USDA issues Dec. signup report for '83 crops

WASHINGTON, D.C. — During the current signup for the 1983 farm programs, farmers so far have enrolled 1.5 million base acres under the upland cotton program, 21.4 million under the feed grain program and 24.4 million under the wheat program, according to figures released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Everett Rank, administrator of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, said the signup is required before farmers are eligible for program benefits such as commodity loans, target price protection, land diversion payments and the grain reserve.

At the time they sign up, producers may request an advance of 50 percent of their projected deficiency payments and 50 percent of their land diversion payments.

Enrolled base acreage on which advance deficiency payments have been requested, to date, totals 1.1 million acres under the upland cotton program, 14.9 million under the feed grain program and 18.3 million under the wheat program.

Enrolled base acreage on which advance diversion payments have been requested totals 15.9 million acres under the feed grain program and 18.6 million under the wheat program. Cotton intended diverted acreage on which advance diversion payments have been requested totals 75,890 acres.

Farmers who sign up to participate in the upland cotton, feed grain and wheat programs agree to reduce their base acreage of these commodities by at least 20 percent. The acreage taken out of production will be devoted to a conservation use, Rank said.

In Pennsylvania, the acreage reduction enrollment report lists the following statistics:

**Barley** - Of the total 4,277 farms with acreage bases, only 156 or 3.65 percent have enrolled. This represents 2,703.6 acres of a possible 39,762.5 acres. Of those farms enrolled, 27.43 percent have signed up under the advance diversion provision and 19.57 percent have signed up for advance deficiency.

**Corn** - Of the total 40,681 farms with acreage bases, only 1,837 or 4.52 percent have enrolled. This represents 89,107.8 acres of a possible 1,145,611.5 acres. Of those farms enrolled, 53.16 percent have signed up under the advance diversion provision and 47.30

percent have signed up for advance deficiency.

**Grain Sorghum** - Of the total 366 farms with acreage bases, only 23 or 6.28 percent have enrolled. This represents 935.9 acres of a possible 5,060.4 acres. Of those farms enrolled, 72.35 percent have signed up under the advance diversion provision and 60.26 percent have signed up for advance deficiency.

**Oats** - Of the total 18,622 farms with acreage bases, only 699 or 3.75 percent have enrolled. This represents 9,679.6 acres of a possible 198,851.6 acres. Of those farms enrolled, 28.81 percent have signed up under the advance diversion provision.

**Wheat** - Of the total 13,351 farms with acreage bases, only 719 or 5.39 percent have enrolled. This represents 16,514.6 acres of a possible 186,496.3 acres. Of those farms enrolled, 46.93 percent have signed up under the advance diversion provision and 40.12 percent have signed up for advance deficiency.

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