

Sign up for Agricultural Conservation Program

LANCASTER — The annual Agricultural Conservation Program will be open for sign-up during January 1985 at the Lancaster Office of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) located in the Farm and Home Center. Producers may request cost-share assistance for conservation projects on farmland which needs treatment because of erosion, sedimentation, or pollution problems.

Ray A. Brubaker, County Executive Director, stated that funds will be available for high priority problems at the cost-share rate of 75 percent of the cost but not to exceed \$3500 per farmer. Lower priority practices may be cost-shared at 50 percent of the cost.

Following the sign-up period, which closes January 31, the local ASCS county committee will review all requests to determine priorities for approval. All requests will receive equal consideration. No approvals will be

made on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Eligible practices, according to Brubaker, are sod waterways, cropland terraces, diversions, contour stripcropping, no-tilling demonstration, and animal waste storage structures. Each practice must be designed by the Soil Conservation Service and the completed project must meet their specifications.

With increasing water quality problems throughout the county, the program will lessen the burden for individual farmers in meeting installation expenses. The established conservation measures will not only benefit the farmer with increased production and nutrient savings but will also be beneficial to the public with improved water quality for consumption and recreation.

For more information about the program, interested persons should call the ASCS Office at 397-6235.

USDA Wants Comments On Dairy Referendum

WASHINGTON — Comments will be accepted until Feb. 4 on U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed procedures for conducting referenda on the Dairy Research and Promotion order and proposed amendments to the order.

The action is in preparation for a referendum on continuation of the order that the secretary of agriculture is required to conduct within the 60-day period ending Sept. 30, 1985.

The research and promotion program, which was authorized in the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, is financed by a 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced in the contiguous 48 states and marketed commercially by dairy farmers. The program is administered by a board of 36 dairy farmers appointed by the secretary of agriculture with representation based on area milk production.

Proposals include procedures for conducting the initial referendum and any subsequent referenda. The proposed amendments would

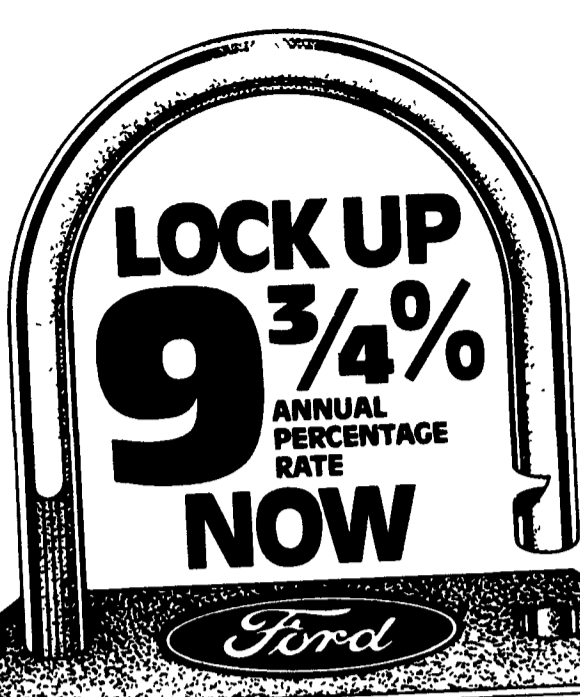
change the name of the order to make it consistent with the name of the board and make a change in board voting procedures.

The proposal is published in the Dec. 5 Federal Register. Comments should be sent to the Dairy Division, room 2968-S, AMS, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

The Dec. 5 Federal Register is available for public review at County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Offices in Pennsylvania.

Crop Conference

The Garrett County Crop Conference will be held Thursday, Jan. 3 from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Bittinger Community Building, Bittinger, Md. The program will address problems many farmers have encountered this year, as well as information on up-to-date research and programs occurring in Maryland and at the University of Maryland. More information can be obtained by contacting the county Extension Service, phone 301-334-2145.



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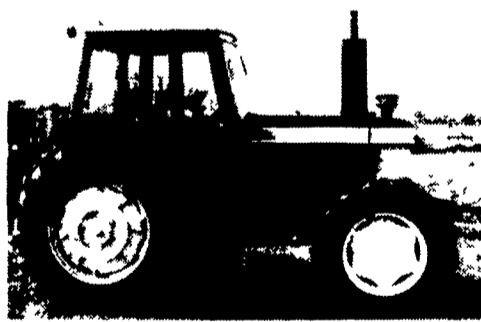
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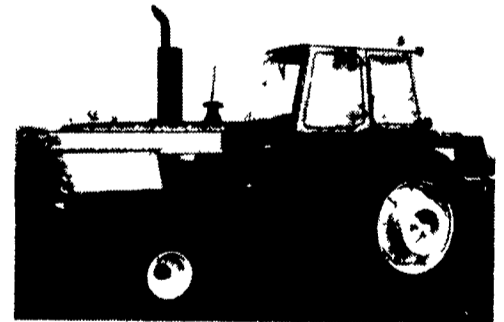
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