

Conservation Reserve Program could idle 1.5 million acres here

HARRISBURG — Farmers may begin in early March to volunteer highly erodible cropland for entry into the new farm bill's Conservation Reserve Program.

According to Eugene Thompson, state executive director,

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS), there are about 1.5 million acres of land in Pennsylvania eligible for the Conservation Reserve Program. The goal of the program over the next five years is to bring

approximately 45 percent of the eligible land into the program.

Erodible land that enters the Conservation Reserve Program must be planted with permanent vegetative cover and cannot be farmed for 10 years.

"It is one of the most important provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill. The program will go a long way toward conserving America's eroding farmland for the future," said James H. Olson, state conservationist, Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

Nationally, up to 45 million acres could be enrolled in the reserve during the five-year period, 1986 through 1990. The yearly program acreage goals are at least five million for the 1986 crop year, 10 million or more each year 1987 through 1989, and five million or more for 1990.

Participating farmers will receive annual rental payments. The amounts will depend on the per-acre bid for the number of acres under the 10-year contracts. Participants also will receive 50 percent of eligible costs of establishing trees or grass on the acreage placed in the reserve.

The program also includes the following provisions:

- Rental payments compensate farmers for retiring highly erodible cropland from crop production. Conservation payments will reimburse farmers for half the one-time costs of establishing vegetative cover.
- Rental payments will be made annually after October 1. Cost-share payments will be made when individuals report their conservation treatments are completed.
- The total amount of rental

payments for any fiscal year may not exceed \$50,000. There is no payment limit on cost-sharing for cover establishment.

• Farmers who decide to return land to production during the 10-year contract must repay the government, with interest, all of its costs.

Signup dates are expected to be announced soon. Farmers interested in the program should contact their local office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

USDA agencies will work together to administer the program. SCS technicians will help farmers determine eligible land and prepare soil conservation plans; the Extension Service will lead public information and education efforts; and the Forest Service will coordinate and provide technical assistance for tree planting.

State and local agencies also will lend assistance, Thompson and Olson said. DER's Bureau of Forestry will help prepare and approve tree planting plans. Pennsylvania Game Commission representatives will serve on the conservation review groups to recommend practice specifications for wildlife enhancement. DER's Bureau of Soil and Water Conservation will recommend and assist with erosion control requirements. Local conservation districts will approve all plans.

Farm Show corn champions announced

HARRISBURG — Bill Dreisbach of Unionville, Chester County, was the winner of the 10-ear hybrid dent class for eastern Pennsylvania corn growers at Farm Show. Winner in the 10-ear hybrid dent class for central and western Pennsylvania was Roger Saner of RD 1, Thompsettown, Juniata

County. He had won this class the last two years.

In the statewide 10-ear open pollinated class, Deb-Lyn-V Farm of West Chester, Chester County, was declared the winner. Bryon Almony of RD 1, Mount Wolf, York County, was champion in the 10-ear open pollinated Flint or

Indian corn class, while Corey Martin RD 4, Lititz, Lancaster County, took first place in shelled corn, District I. Roger Saner of Thompsettown, Juniata County, placed first in District II shelled corn, while Janet Rudy of RD6, Sewickley, Allegheny County, had first place in white corn. Winner in the yellow 10-ear popcorn was R. B. Mull of Lititz, Lancaster County, as well as the strawberry 10-ear popcorn. Henry Keener of Lititz, Lancaster County, won the pearly red 10-ear popcorn class, and A. B. Brubaker of RD 1, Ephrata, Lancaster County, won the 10-ear waxy corn class.

Joshua Grim of RD 2, Breinigsville, Lehigh County, won the 10-ear Hybrid dent 4-H club class, District I, while Bill Vonada of Mackeyville, Clinton County, had the District II 10-ear hybrid dent 4-H club winner.

District I vocational 10-ear hybrid dent winner was Eric Schweinhart of RD 1, Jonestown, Lebanon County, while the District II winner was Ken Maben of RD 1, Thompsettown, Juniata County.

Dairy Day set in Westminster

WESTMINSTER, MD. — Dr. John A. Speicher, Dairy Farm Management Extension Specialist from Michigan State University will be this year's featured speaker at the 1986 Dairy Day Tuesday, Feb. 4 at the Agriculture Center in Westminster.

Dr. Speicher is a well-known extension specialist that has been associated with Michigan State since 1956 when he was a Lapeer County Dairy Extension Agent. He is now a professor with the University and has been an Extension Specialist since 1976. Dr. Speicher has authored numerous publications for professional journals and has written many articles for Hoard's Dairyman.

While in Carroll County, Dr. Speicher will present two topics according to County Extension Agent, Stan Fultz. The first, "Steps to Profitable Dairying" will deal with management techniques that lead to greater production, efficiency and profitability for the dairy producer. The second topic, "Personnel Management on the Farm" will deal with the ever increasing difficulty of finding and then keeping good farm workers.

"Both of these topics are important to all dairy producers

regardless of herd size or amount of farm labor involved", said Fultz. Other topics for the day include a look at the use of IsoPlus in a feeding system, the importance of forage quality, a review of the Maryland demonstration herds, and a detailed look at the whole herd buy-out program. All topics for the day will focus on the theme of increasing profitability through efficient production.


The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. at the Agriculture Center in Westminster. The Center is located on Smith Avenue near the Farm Museum.

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