

Conservation Reserve

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meet the erosion requirements outlined to be eligible.

Land set aside in the reserve must be planted in permanent vegetative cover for the 10-year duration of the contract, and if the land is returned to crop production before the contract expires, the farmer must reimburse the government for all costs plus interest.

Participating farmers will receive annual rental payments and will be reimbursed for one-half the cost of establishing vegetative cover on reserve acreage. Technical assistance for establishing cover will be provided by the Soil Conservation Service and Conservation Districts, as well as other agencies.

In addition to working in an advisory capacity, the Game Commission will be providing seedlings, as well. According to Jake Sitlinger, director of the Commission's Bureau of Land Management, tree and shrub seedlings will be provided free of charge to farmers already par-

ticipating in one of the Commission's public access programs.

Cover crops eligible for the program include legumes, grasses, trees and other wildlife habitat crops, but grazing will not be permitted, and reserve acreage may not be planted in Christmas trees, vineyards, orchards, nut trees or nursery stock.

Although USDA has established a ceiling \$50,000 in annual rental payments per participant, no per-acre rental rates have been recommended. "We don't know what an acceptable bid will be, by any means," says Pennay, who advises farmers to sit down with local extension personnel to discuss bidding rates. A bidding worksheet, developed by extension farm management specialist William McSweeney, is available at all county extension and ASCS offices, and farmers should contact their local Soil Conservation Service offices to find out what acreage on their properties is eligible for the program. Signup for CRP will take place at all local ASCS offices across the state.

Who does ASCS expect to see

knocking at their doors? Richard Pennay feels that farmers nearing retirement, or those not needing their own grain production due to a reduction in livestock numbers might find the program attractive. Farmers interested in establishing trees and wildlife cover are also potential participants, he says. One other government official predicted that landowners disenchanted with their current rental arrangements might decide to enter their rented ground in the program.

For farmers who might be unwilling to jump into the program on short notice, Pennay notes that a signup for 1987 participation will be scheduled later this year.

Lancaster ASCS schedules meeting

According to Lancaster ASCS director, Ray Brubaker, a public meeting will be held to discuss both the Conservation Reserve and acreage reduction programs. The meeting is scheduled for Mar. 11, 7:30 p.m. at the Lancaster Farm and Home Center.

Inter-State District 26 sets meeting

SOUTHAMPTON, PA. — The Chambersburg and Mercersburg Local of Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 26 will hold its annual dinner meeting March 14 at 7 p.m. at Kauffman's Ruritan Building, Director V. Myers Metcalfe announced.

Guest speaker will be James S. Fraher, Inter-State economist. Fraher will review the cooperative's goals for the coming year and will discuss dairy

provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill.

The meeting will be conducted by Kenneth Schoenberg, Chambersburg and Mercersburg Local president. He will present 25-year membership plaques to John W. and Louise Myers Jr., Chambersburg, and Alfred B. Burkholder, Fayetteville.

Inter-State Milk Producers' Cooperative District 26 covers Franklin County and the southwest part of Adams County.

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