

# Sodbusting, Swampbusting Prohibited Under Farm Bill

LEBANON — When producers sign up for the 1986 farm programs, Edward Krebs, chairman of the Lebanon County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, tells them that sodbusting and swampbusting will result in the loss of all farm program benefits.

Sodbusting is the production of an agricultural commodity on highly erodible land that is not now in production. Swampbusting is the production of an agricultural commodity on wetlands converted for agricultural production after December 23, 1985.

"Any producer who, after December 23, 1985, brings into production a field which is predominantly highly erodible land, or who converts wetland to

production of any agricultural commodity, will be ineligible on his or her entire farm or farms for any farm program benefit or payment," Mr. Krebs said.

Highly erodible land, and hydric soils that contribute to wetland will be identified in the county ASCS office.

Mr. Krebs said highly erodible land is defined as land in capability Classes 4, 6, 7 and 8, or land that if used to produce an agricultural commodity, would have an excessive rate of erosion in relation to the soil loss tolerance level. Wetland is land that generally contains hydric soils and hydrophytic vegetation, and is inundated or saturated by surface or ground water. Converted wetland is wetland that since

December 23, 1985, has been drained, dredged, filled, leveled, or otherwise manipulated for the purpose of making the land suitable for producing an agricultural commodity.

According to Krebs, there are some exemptions to the sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. Wetlands exempted from the regulations are those used for the production of a crop on (1) wetlands converted or under conversion before December 23, 1985; (2) wetlands artificially created to provide water for livestock, fish production, rice production, irrigation, or flood control; (3) a wet area created by a water delivery or irrigation system; and (4) wetland on which production of an agricultural

commodity is possible because of a natural condition such as drought.

The ASCS official said until January 1, 1990, no producer shall become ineligible for program benefits for producing a crop on highly erodible land that was cultivated to produce any of the 1981-1985 crops; set-aside, diverted or not cultivated under a farm program for production adjustment "The producer may be exempt if he or she requests and obtains an approved conservation plan, and the land is farmed ac-

ording to the approved plan "

Other exemptions include highly erodible land planted in a crop (1) before December 23, 1985; (2) during any crop year beginning before this date, or, (3) in reliance on a determination by the Soil Conservation Service that such land was not highly erodible

Further explanation of the sodbuster, swampbuster provisions or the Farm Act may be obtained from the local ASCS office

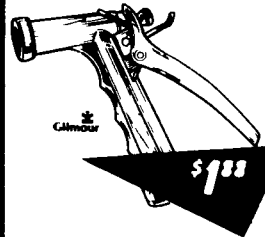
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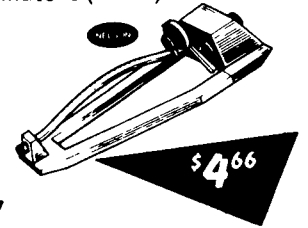


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