Second CRP Signup nets 8,285 Acres

HARRISBURG - An additional 255 farms with 8,285 acres of highly erodible cropland entered the Conservation Reserve Program during the recent second signup period ended May 16, 1986. Acceptable bids were \$65 and \$60 per acre, the same as the earlier signup, in the two pools set for Pennsylvania. Farmers on 361 farms submitted bids on 13,447

Eugene F. Thompson, state executive director of ASCS, and Jim Olson, state conservationist. Soil Conservation Service, commended the efforts of the Pennsylvania Game Commission in aggressively publicizing the second signup and encouraging its public asccess cooperators to enter land in the CRP and devote it to a wildlife cover to benefit hunters.

"This had to have an impact on the numbers of farms and acres coming into the program this time around," said Thompson. "Also. farmers coming in this time knew the rates that were accepted earlier and had a better idea of where to set their bids," he added.

"This is a 36 percent increase in the numbers of farms enrolled and a 30 percent increase in acres over

the first signup when only 93 farms submitted bids for 2,463 acres," Olson said. "We think this is significant and we are pleased with the numbers," Olson added.

The 10,748 acres to be taken out of production fell short of the goal for Pennsylvania of 75,900 acres for 1986, but represents an increase.

of 8,285 acres over the first signup. Farmers will have one more opportunity later this year to submit their bids for the 1987 crop year.

Annual rental payments to be made to farmers total \$592,697 (\$110,832 for the first round of successful bidders and \$481,865 for the second round). Some payments will be made as early as October of this year.

Nationally, 3,000,681 acres of highly erodible cropland on 22,863 farms were entered into the program.

USDA officials are pleased with the excellent response from farmers. "With this level of participation we are well on our way

to the goal of taking 40-45 million acres of this cropland out of production without the next 5 years. Combined with acreage accepted from the first signup in March, CRP acreage now totals 3.8 million acres," according to Daniel G. Amstutz, Acting Secretary of Agriculture.

Maryland Ag Cost-Share To Receive \$8.5 Million

ANNAPOLIS, Md. - Maryland's Governor Hughes announced recently that \$8.5 million from the State bond sale tentatively scheduled for June 25 will go toward funding the Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share Program (MACS). Funding sources for the program had been threatened recently by proposed federal tax legislation.

MACS provides farmers with financial assistance to install eligible conservation practices to protect water quality. Proposed federal legislation may restrict the use of tax-exempt State bonds to fund the MACS program and other Bay cleanup programs.

MACS helps farmers address a 1983 EPA Chesapeake Bay Study

implicating agriculture as a nonpoint source of pollution. Farmers may receive a maximum of 87.5 percent toward the cost of installing eligible conservation practices. Conservation practices protect water quality by preventing the movement of soil nutrients or pollutants off the

The \$8.5 million will be immediately applied to assisting the 755 farmers with pending applications and future applicants to MACS. To date, farmers have completed the installation of over 1.650 conservation practices receiving \$3.8 million from MACS. Currently over 3,100 applications have been approved as eligible for

close to \$8 million in cost-share for the installation of conservation practices.

Information about MACS may be conservation district.

obtained by contacting Amin Yazdanian, Cost-Share Administrator, at 841-5864 or the local

Upjohn Recognizes Sales Achievement

KALAMAZOO, Mich. -Maryland resident Chris Cochran has been honored by The Upjohn Company for outstanding achievement in sales for 19085. He is one of 17 sales representatives recently named as repeat winners to the company's Agricultural Division Sales Academy.

A sales specialist for Upjohn/TUCO Animal Products,

Cochran joined the company in 1980. His sales territory encompasses Maryland, Delaware and southeast Pennsylvania. He received his B.S. degree in Animal Science from Cornell University.

A native of Harford County, Maryland, Cochran, was selected previously for Sales Academy honors in 1984. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Havre de Grace.

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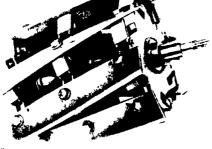
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