## **5** Million Acres Entered In August Conservation Reserve Signup

HARRISBURG - The U.S. Department of Agriculture has accepted 5,091,618 more acres of highly erodible cropland into the Conservation Reserve Program, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter Myers announced recently.

"We now have almost 9 million acres total from three signups," he said. "Our 5-year goal is to remove 40 to 45 million acres of highly erodible cropland from production for 10 years and with this level of participation, we feel we are well on our way to meeting that objective. It's obvious that more farmers have been seriously weighing the benefits of participating in the Conservation Reserve Program.'

In this latest signup, farmers on 45,081 farms had submitted bids for a total of 6,420,964 acres. The accepted bids ranged up to \$90 per acre with an average of \$64.94 per acre.

In Pennsylvania, a total of 202 farmer bids out of 231 submitted were accepted in the Conservation Reserve Program. The bids cover 7,137 acres of land at an average price of \$61.40 per acre.

Annual rental payments will compensate farmers for retiring highly erodible land from crop production. The amount of payment is determined by the bid per acre and the number of accepted acres.

Participants will also receive conservation payments of up to 50 percent of eligible costs of establishing trees and grass on the acreage placed in the reserve. The conservation payments will partially reimburse farmers for the one-time costs of establishing required conservation practices on the cropland.

Myers said land entered into the Conservation Reserve, as directed by the Food Security Act of 1985, will be ineligible for farming for 10 years and must be planted with permanent vegetative cover. "This program will bring many

ment of wildlife habitat," he said. said.

Farmland signed up to date totals 8,930,655 acres. During the first summer neriod March 3 to 14,

benefits, including the enhance- USDA accepted bids to enter 838,356 acres on 10,307 farms into the program. Bids on the signup ranged up to \$90 per acre with an average of \$41.82. During the second period.

3,000,681 acres on 22,863 farms were accepted. Accepted bids in this period also ranged up to \$90 per acre with an average of \$44.23. Additional signup periods for bidding will be announced later.

## **USDA Contracts For More Grain Storage**

WASHINGTON - Under Secretary of Agriculture Daniel G. Amstutz today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has contracted for an additional 1,355 covered grain barges in an effort to alleviate the tight storage situation in corn belt states.

Under this and other Commodity Credit Corporation actions, storage problems will be eased by the storage or movement of more than 1.25 billion bushels of grain, particularly corn. Amstutz said this is the estimated amount of space which represents the CCC's share of the expected 1986 grain storage needs.

Other actions the CCC has taken to alleviate grain storage problems resulting from the projected large 1986 grain harvest includes approval by the CCC of 500 million are already loaded and the bushels of new, temporary and remaining 1,500 will be loaded as warehouse emergency storage space, which in addition to barges includes hopper cars and outside storage.

Amstutz said "We are trying our best to beat the fall harvest and assist the farmers and the grain industry during this peak demand period.

These additional barges bring the total number contracted for by the USDA to 2,000 with storage space for 100 million bushels of grain. They were obtained under grain, Amstutz said.

competitive bids from warehousemen having current Uniform Grain Storage Agreements.

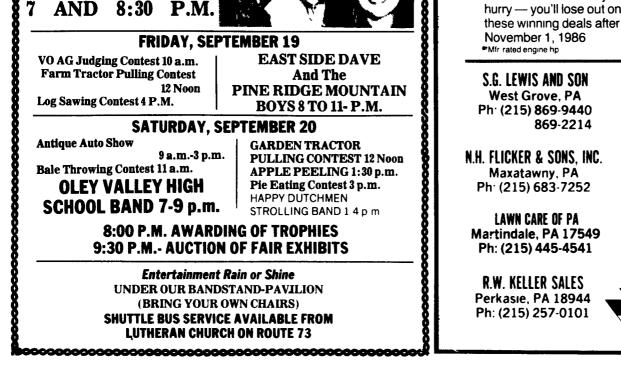
Amstutz said 500 of the barges soon as practicable. The barges are being loaded in the heart of the corn belt, mainly on the upper and mid-Mississippi and the Illinois Rivers to take care of the most critical load-out needs in that area. Some corn will also be stored on barges on the Missouri and Ohio River system.

Temporary and emergency storage space on land is expected to provide for the storage of approximately 400 million bushels of



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