Lancaster Farming, Saturday, November 15, 1986-A23

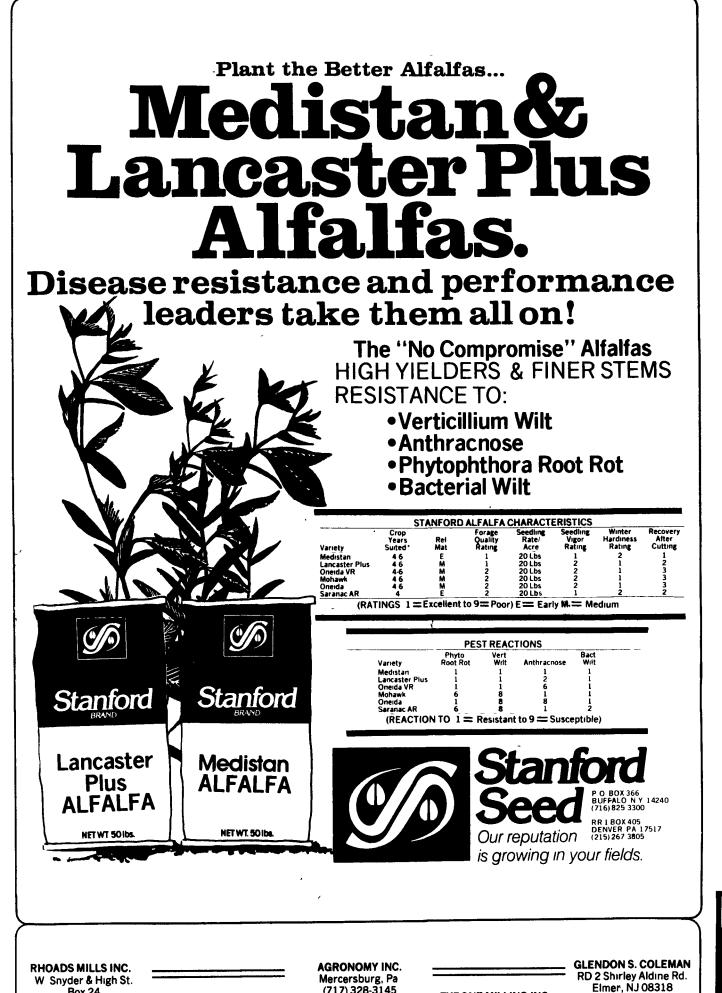
Md. Cost Share Program Adopts Flat Rates

ANNAPOLIS, Md. The Maryland Agricultural Cost-Share program has adopted flat rates as of Oct. 1, 1986 as an additional

standard in the approval of funding assistance for best management practices. of cost-share "A review

years of our program revealed inconsistencies in construction charges for the same practices in

payments during the last three the same county," explained Amin Yazdanian, program ad-ministrator. "Flat rates will establish reasonable costs for best



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management practice installation and in the process will stretch program dollars to increase public water quality benefits."

Flat rates are the newest criteria for evaluating agricultural water quality projects for cost-share eligibility. Soil Conservation Districts have worked with MACS over the past year to develop average rates of payment for services and materials required for the installation of best management practices. "Flat rates are designed to be responsive to supply-demand conditions and construction constraints particular to each county," commented Yazdanian. "They were recommended by the field people who work with bmp design and installation daily.

Payments may still be made to cost-share approved projects even if the cost submitted is above the flat rate. The flat rate will "ceiling" represent the 01 maximum level at which the percentage of cost-share payment is figured. This ceiling is similar to existing program caps which limit allowable projects to \$10,000 each and assistance to any one farm to \$25,000.

The Maryland Agricultural Cost Share Program offers up to 87½ percent of the cost of approved best management practices which address potential agricultural nonpoint source pollution problems. Information about the program may be obtained from the MACS office, 50 Harry S. Truman Pkwy., Annapolis, Md. 21401 (841-5864) or by contacting local conservation districts.





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