

Pa. Adds 19,000 Acres To Conservation Reserve

HARRISBURG — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has accepted 19,665 more acres on 458 Pennsylvania farms to be set aside under the Conservation Reserve Program, according to Eugene Thompson of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service.

Maximum bids in the fourth sign-up period will be \$65 an acre in

Pool 1, representing the southeastern part of the state, and \$60 in Pool 2, representing the rest of the state.

Nationwide, 101,020 farms submitted bids on a total of 11,254,837 acres, and USDA accepted 10,572,402 acres into the CRP. Bids accepted ranged from \$51 to \$90 per acre.

Land entered into the Con-

servation 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.

Participants will receive cost share payments of up to 50 percent of eligible costs to establish trees and grass on acreage placed in the reserve. These payments will partially reimburse farmers for

the one-time costs of establishing required conservation practices on the cropland.

Producers designated 1.9 million acres of corn base acreage to take advantage of a corn "bonus" rental payment that was offered to entice highly erodible land into the Conservation Reserve. The bonus, to be paid in generic commodity certificates, amounts to \$2 a bushel, based on the ASCS

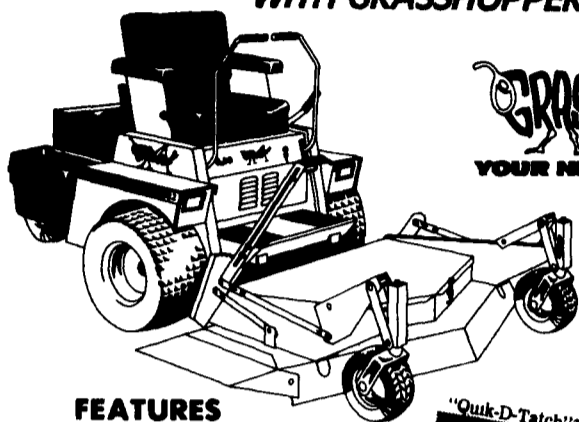
program payment yield for corn for each acre of corn base accepted into the Reserve.

Farmland signed up to date totals 19,488,587 nationally, 36,000 acres in Pennsylvania. Thompson stated that these figures are acreage for which bids were accepted.

Secretary Lyng also announced that the next sign-up period for Conservation Reserve Program would be July 20 through July 31. Additional information on CRP is available from ASCS and Soil Conservation Service offices.

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