Sixth CRP Signup Brings Additional 4.5 Million Acres

LEESPORT - The US Department of agriculture has received bids submitted on 4,507,170 acres during the sixth signup of the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), announced Milton Hertz, Administrator of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. An additional 18,464 acres were submitted by 461 farmers in Pennsylvania.

Hertz also announced that the seventh CRP signup will be held July 18th through August 5th.

According to Hertz, USDA plans to announce on or about May 20th the acreage accepted during the sixth signup. He said the information will not be available before then because of program changes called for by Congress in the FY 1988 appropriations.

These changes required ASCS Committees to review individual bids to determine whether the annual rental rate reflected or exceeded the local prevailing rental rate for comparable land.

"The program will significantly reduce cropland erosion as well as improve water quality, enhance wildlife habitat, and increase tree production," Hertz said. "Cropland areas 66-99 feet wide, next to

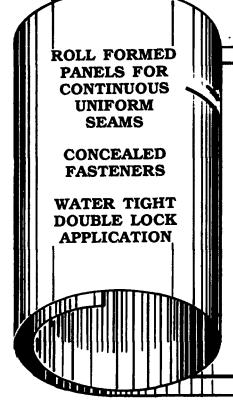
streams, lakes and other permanent water bodies were eligible as filter strips in the sixth signup. The filter strip area did not have to meet normal CRP criteria."

Interest in tree planting occurred etative cover, including trees, must

in some states, although interest remained low in Pennsylvania with only 266 acres submitted for tree planting.

On land placed in CRP, a veg-

be established on the land for a minimum of ten years. In addition to annual rental payments, CRP participant may receive up to 50 percent of the cost of establishing



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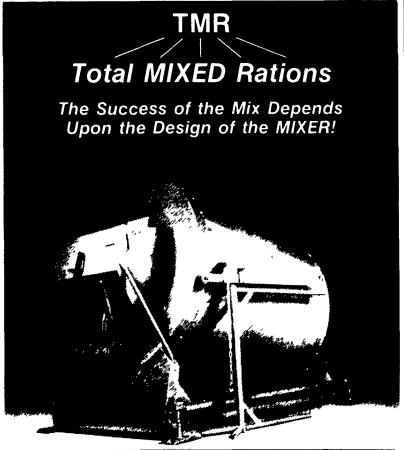
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