## Nutrient Management Cost Share Available Ag Progress Section 1, Lancaster Farming, Saturday, August 15, 1998-Page 3

HARRISBURG (Dauphin  $C_{0.}$ ) — On behalf of Gov. Tom Ridge, Agriculture Secretary Samuel E. Hayes Jr. has announced that the first cost-share funding reimbursements for nutrients-management plans have been distributed to eligible farmers.

"As the Oct. 1 deadline for completed nutrient-management plans draws near, we are pleased that the funds are getting to the farmers who developed the plans," Hayes said. "We encourage all eligible farmers to take advantage of this costshare program." The Plan Development Incentives Program provides funding to eligible operators of livestock or poultry operations for up to 75 percent of the cost of their nutrient-management plans.

The plans must be developed by a certified commercial planner or a certified individual farmer to qualify for reimbursement.

To be considered for the onetime reimbursement, a program application and nutrient-management plan must be completed and approved.

Funding for plans developed by operators of Concentrated Animal Operations (CAOs) is available through Sept. 30. Guidelines for cost-share rates have been developed by the State Conservation Commission. Applications can be obtained from local county conservation district offices.

For additional information, contact the Agriculture Department's nutrient-management office at (717) 787-3568.

