NCFC Strengthens Environmental Expertise Through New Partnership With USDA-NRCS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Council of Farmer Cooperatives (NCFC) president David Graves announced that Patrick Wolf has joined NCFC's Government and Public Affairs Team as a conservation liaison on detail from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS).

"While Pat remains fully employed by USDA, our members will gain more value for their investment in NCFC because of this mutually beneficial agreement between NCFC and USDA-NRCS, particularly as we work to address important environmental issues," said Graves. "We are pleased to have Pat join our team in this very productive and effective way."

Wolf will be working with NCFC and its member cooperatives on a range of conservationrelated issues and initiatives including:

- · Identification of water quality-related concerns and regulations.
- Implications for cooperatives and their farmer members.
- Compliance assistance and business-oriented remedies such as nutrient management programs.
- Advancement of conservation objectives by cooperatives and their farmer members through voluntary programs and initiatives.

"I am very excited about being a part of NCFC's talented team as well as working with the Council's tremendous membership base," said Wolf. "Cooperative environmental stewardship is a vital part of NCFC's overall program of work, and I am looking forward to advancing its agenda in this area."

The partnership between NCFC and NRCS was established through a new Memorandum of

Agreement (MOA), under which the two organizations will seek to maximize efforts to promote voluntary conservation and stewardship of natural resources on private lands through the use of USDA and other conservation programs.

The primary emphasis of the agreement will be on addressing water quality and other conservation concerns of interest to cooperative businesses and their member owners. The MOA is in effect through the end of 2000 and could be extended by mutual agreement.

Wolf has been the state conservationist for NRCS in Ohio from October 1996 to October 1999. He also had served as deputy state conservationist with NRCS in Des Moines, Iowa, and has held various NRCS technical positions in Missouri, Washington, D.C., Mississippi, Colorado, North Carolina, and Illinois during his 30-year federal career. This included three periods, totaling two and a half

years, when he was on special assignment in the United States Senate as an agricultural legislative assistant for Senators Thad Cochran (R-MS), David Karnes (R-NE), and Tom Harkin (D-IA).

Wolf was born and raised on a cash grain farm in Morrisonville, Ill., and is still actively involved in the family farm. He received his bachelor's degree in agriculture from Illinois State University.

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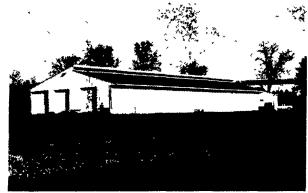
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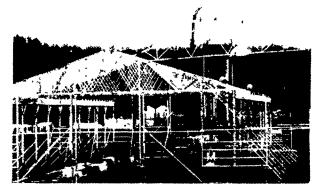
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