

Sec. Veneman Tells Cattlemen President To Propose \$3.9 Billion For Conservation Programs

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —During an address to cattle producers and ranchers at the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) annual convention, USDA Secretary Ann M. Veneman announced that President Bush will propose a record \$3.9 billion, an increase of \$582 million over the FY 2003 level, for conservation programs to strengthen environmental stewardship on the nation's farm-lands.

The Secretary said the FY 2004 funding request is \$1.9 billion higher, or more than double the funding for these activities, when the Bush Administration came into office just two years ago. She also announced the release of proposed rules for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"This Administration has worked hard to ensure strong environmental programs are available to our nation's farmers and ranchers," said Veneman. "Farmers and ranchers are the

best stewards of the land and we will continue to ensure these programs are administered effectively and in the best interest of producers and the environment."

Nearly \$3.5 billion of the President's record-level proposal will be used for financial assistance or other direct payments to farmers. Highlights of the budget include:

- \$2 billion for the Conservation Reserve Program for rental and other costs on new and old acreage, an increase of approximately \$140 million over 2003;

- \$850 million will be provided for the EQIP program, a \$255 million increase above FY 2003;

- \$250 million for the Wetlands Reserve Program to enroll an additional 178,000 acres;

- \$112 million for the Farmland Protection Program, which is \$27 million over the 2003 level;

- \$85 million for the Grassland Reserve Program, a \$13 million increase over 2003;

- \$51 million for Ground and Surface Water Conservation, a \$6 million increase over 2003;

- \$42 million for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program, an increase of \$16 million over 2003;

- \$19 million for the new Conservation Security Program on which an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule (ANPR) is expected shortly; and

- \$8 million for water conservation and water quality enhancements in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and California.

This budget ensures that all of the cost-share and technical assistance conservation work authorized by the 2002 farm bill for FY 2004 will be delivered. USDA will use an additional \$432 million, through a new Farm Bill Technical Assistance account, to ensure farmers and ranchers can access the technical work necessary to fully utilize the conservation programs' financial assistance. This new account, which the Administration initially proposed for FY 2003 at \$333 million, is necessary because of a statutory cap that restricts USDA's ability to pay for techni-

cal assistance from farm program funds.

"In the short time this Administration has been in office, we are more than doubling our investment in environmental and conservation programs that not only benefit farmers and ranchers, but communities throughout the country," said Veneman. "This record-level request illustrates the priority the President places on conserving natural resources by providing landowners the tools they need for private land management.

The Secretary also announced that the proposed rule for EQIP, reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, is being released today for publication in the Federal Register for public comment. This will allow farmers and ranchers the ability to utilize program funding in the coming year.

Highlights of the revised EQIP proposal include a reduction in the amount of planning requirements needed to develop a contract; provides up to 90 percent cost share for limited resource and beginning producers; provides livestock producers with cost share assistance for waste storage facilities regardless of

size, but must develop and implement a comprehensive nutrient management plan; allowance of producers to have more than one contract per tract at any given time; allocates 60 percent of EQIP funds towards livestock related practices; and, eliminates the program's dual administration by delegating EQIP to the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Conservation incentive programs for working lands, in combination with technical assistance, help reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and ranchers faced with air and water quality restrictions," Veneman said. "The team at USDA has worked to ensure these proposed rules are producer-friendly and will achieve the intended results of these programs." Comments on the EQIP proposal will be accepted for 30 days after publication.

During her remarks, Secretary Veneman also discussed other issues of importance to cattle producers, including animal disease protection programs, risk management tools, trade, food safety, country-of-origin labeling, and forest management.

MARTIN'S TIRE & ALIGNMENT

We're Your Firestone Farm Tire Dealer!
Count on us year-round for:

- A complete line of Firestone farm tires
- In the field emergency repair service
- Implement and light truck tires in stock too!

Many Other Tires In Stock - Call For Prices

FARM TIRES

Traction Field & Road	Firestone All Traction 23"	Firestone Radial 23"
13.6 x 28 6 ply \$195.00	18.4R34 1★ \$520.00	18.4R34 1★ \$500.00
18.4 x 30 6 ply \$345.00	20.8R38 1★ \$695.00	18.4R38 1★ \$535.00
18.4 x 38 6 ply \$365.00	20.8R38 2★ \$840.00	20.8R38 1★ \$685.00
20.8 x 38 8 ply \$515.00	20.8R42 2★ \$860.00	18.4R42 2★ \$670.00

Visit or call us today!
MARTIN'S TIRE & ALIGNMENT
 Located in Churchtown
 119 Water St., Narvon, PA 17555
717-445-4993



THE LEADER IN THE FIELD



• AIR TOOLS • AIR COMPRESSORS • AIR MOTORS • SALES •

Beiler's Pneumatics LLC

718 VINTAGE ROAD • CHRISTIANA PA 17509
 ANSWERING SERVICE (610) 593-7064

February 2003 Savings!!

AIR & PROPANE TANKS

Propane Tanks

We now stock 500 & 1,000 Gallon Propane Tanks!

1,000 Gallon (new)	Sale Price	\$1,299
500 Gallon (new)	Sale Price	\$775

Air Tanks

For your air supply, NEW & USED Air Tanks of all sizes are steam-cleaned & painted...ready to ship year round!

NEW Air & Propane Tanks meet or exceed ASME Standards!

FREE DELIVERY on ALL tanks within 15 mile radius!!

1,000 Gallon (new)	Sale Price	\$1,249
500 Gallon (new)	Sale Price	\$725
1,000 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$600
500 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$275
325 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$175
250 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$150
120 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$100
80 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$75
30 Gallon (used)	Sale Price	\$50

All Air Tanks are available in tan & white.

For all tanks, add 6% sales tax (unless tax exempt).
 Payment in Full is required to take advantage of
FREE DELIVERY deal thru 2/28/03.

NEW BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Thursday 6am-5pm • Friday 6am-7pm • Saturday 7am-12 Noon

• AIR TOOLS • AIR COMPRESSORS • AIR MOTORS • SALES •



CASE IH
 McCORMICK
 SPEQUEAW
 DeGelman
 KEENAN
 KNIGHT
 GEHL
 Fager Beaver TRAILERS
 No Matter Where You Are - You're Never Too Far!
 Your Parts Are Just A Phone Call Away!

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION WEEK
FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 2003
 Plan Now to Visit Our Parts Department and Save on Your Case IH Spring Tillage, Planting & Harvest Needs!!!
 See Our Ad in Section C of the Feb 22, 2003 issue of the Lancaster Farming

BINKLEY-HURST BROS. INC.
 133 Rothsville Station Rd. • Lititz, PA 17543
717-626-4705

Machinery Sales
 M-F 7 to 5 Sat. 7 to 11:30
PARTS DEPT. HOURS:
 Monday-Friday 7 AM to 5 PM
 Saturday 7 AM to Noon
 After Hours Emergencies
 Call (717) 626-0885
 (717) 626-5159
 Sun. Closed - Lord's Day

We can communicate with you by phone 1-800-414-4705, fax 717-626-0996 and e-mail info@binkleyhurst.com