



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Carrying Conservation to the Next Century

Less than a year ago, I announced the new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). The Department of Agriculture's (USDA) role in conservation has never been more important. Since that announcement, we have enrolled more than 16 million acres for signup 15, and more than 6 million acres for signup 16, under these new environmental criteria.

Only the most environmentally sensitive acres are enrolled, while the more productive lands of the previous CRP are allowed to return to production. We will continue to supply world markets while enhancing our Nation's soil, water, and wildlife resources through the CRP.

In addition to the signup 16 information in this book, CRP enrolls highly desirable environmental lands under a continuous signup opportunity as a part of USDA's Buffer Initiative. Farmers and ranchers may enroll any of a number of practices such as filter strip and grass waterways anytime at their local USDA Service Center.

A new initiative under CRP has also begun. Combining Federal and State resources, we are prepared to enter into Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program agreements with States to address environmental issues of importance to the State and Nation. We have already signed an agreement with the State of Maryland for lands around the Chesapeake Bay.

The Farm Service Agency has more CRP information available through its Internet site, at: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/crpinfo.htm>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Glickman".

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

January 29, 1998

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER