



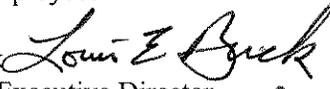
United States
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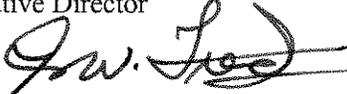
Farm
Service
Agency

Tennessee State FSA
579 Federal Building
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Nashville, TN 37203-3883

June 9, 2006

TO: All Farm Service Agency (FSA) and Natural Resources Conservation Service
(NRCS) Employees

FROM: Louis Buck 
FSA State Executive Director

James W. Ford 
NRCS State Conservationist

SUBJECT: Conservation Reserve Program

FSA and NRCS are celebrating **20 years** of partnership in implementing the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). It is one of our most impressive achievements as USDA's largest cooperative conservation partnership with farmers and ranchers. General Signups have been good for customers, wildlife habitat and the Tennessee landscape.

We believe there still remains "untapped" potential throughout this state for increased enrollment in CRP. There are opportunities year round for Continuous Signup and CP-33 CRP. Some counties have been very successful in getting producers enrolled in these programs. Other counties have tremendous potential.

The question facing us today is how do we "outreach" to those landowners who don't realize the financial and environmental benefits they can have by enrolling their most environmentally sensitive land through ongoing enrollment.

Considering the strong working relationship between FSA and NRCS, we have determined that there are opportunities to work together in promoting **CRP's Continuous Sign Up** and the CP33 Special Initiative. The combined efforts of our agencies will result in more landowners served, increased funds and greater environmental benefits for Tennessee.

Therefore we are asking each Service Center (SC) to discuss this "initiative" with their (FSA/NRCS) counterpart and jointly promote this program to generate more interest locally. NOTE: It is **imperative** that agency specific responsibilities, outlined in FSA handbook 2-CRP, Part 4, are followed when a producer requests to signup in this program. Through the end of September NRCS field staff should have ample time to make eligibility determinations and to work the recent enrollments and reenrollments.

A copy of the CRP Continuous Checklist has been posted on the FSA and the NRCS state websites for SC use.

Our TN allocations to pay staff increasingly come on a pay for performance basis. This is a great way for offices to increase long term workload scores. We will identify and focus on counties with the most potential for increased activity.

We appreciate all your efforts in successfully promoting and implementing this program.