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**Department of Agriculture
The Honorable Mike Espy**

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I. Agency Sponsored Programs – Highlights

* **The Expanded Food and Nutrition Program (EFNEP).** Managed by the Cooperative Extension System, EFNEP operates in all fifty states and Puerto Rico. Program volunteers assist low-income families in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and changed behavior needed to improve their diets and nutritional well-being. In 1991, 54,163 volunteers worked a total of 466,018 hours, providing an estimated \$2.3 million worth of service.

* **Earth Team.** A conservation program run by the Soil Conservation Service, the Earth Team engaged 10,000 volunteers in 50,000 hours of service at 1,800 sites throughout the nation. The volunteers helped staff Soil Conservation offices, planted trees, surveyed land, designed and constructed grass waterways, developed environmental education materials, and created computer databases of local soils.

* **American Indian Youth Practicum.** Each summer, this program brings together 25-50 young people from still warring tribes for a week of service and learning in national forests in Montana and the Dakotas. The program teaches community cooperation, environmental conservation principles, and the importance of staying in school. The program was created by a man named Girard, a ranger in the Custer Forest in Montana. The program is paid for entirely out of regular Custer Forest operating funds and is managed by Girard during his personal time.

* **Youth Forest Camps.** Run by the non-profit National Forest Foundation, the camps program will begin this summer at two sites in Washington State and one in Virginia. Each site will operate an eight week and ten week session or approximately 200 people. The participants will be paid minimum wage and perform conservation work in National Forests.

II. Employee Voluntary Programs -- Highlights

Approximately one-hundred USDA employees volunteer at the Van Ness School in Southeast DC as part of the "Partners in Education" program. The

employees tutor students, organize field trips, raise money to purchase computers, and buy and deliver gifts to students during the Holiday season.

III. Total Amount Spent on Service Initiatives

USDA spent approximately \$13.1 million on volunteer and youth service programs in 1992. The total could be as high as \$153.1 million, however, if 4-H and Jobs Corps funding are added. Over \$65 million in federal formula funds were spent on 4-H in 1992, and the Labor Department has allocated \$75 million to the Forest Service for the Jobs Corps programs in 1993.

IV. Ideas for Program Development

Secretary Espy has asked Joel Berg to chair a USDA working group on ways to incorporate USDA into the National Service program. Here are some initial ideas:

*** Expanding the role of USDA-affiliated Cooperative Extension Offices to incorporate more service initiatives.** Extension Service field offices nationwide are poised to play a leadership role in developing the infrastructure of service opportunities that the National Service program will need to survive in the long-run. Over 30 different Extension Offices submitted Summer of Service proposals. The proposals included a peer educators program in rural Southeast Colorado, a child care project in Hartford, Connecticut, a nutrition program state-wide in Mississippi, and a drug awareness project in Kansas City, Missouri.

*** The Department is developing plans for two separate youth corps to be run by the USDA:**

A Modern-day Civilian Conservation Corps run by the National Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service. The Forest Service already runs the Youth Conservation Corps Program and the Youth Forest Camps. The Soil Conservation Service already runs the Earth Team. This new CCC would focus on the unique environmental problems of the 1990's such as protecting drinking water supplies and developing community recycling programs.

A National anti-hunger and nutrition corps run by the Cooperative Extension System and the two USDA agencies which deal directly with food stamps and nutrition programs. This program would be similar to the EFNEP program described above. Corps members would work in urban and rural areas to help families and individuals apply for food stamps and teach them about basic nutrition.

USDA:KF

**AGRICULTURE - The Honorable Mike Espy
Agency Sponsored Year-Round Programs**

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AGENCY MISSION: USDA works to improve farm income and develop markets for agricultural products abroad; administers rural development and conservation programs; addresses issues of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition nationwide; assists landowners to protect soil, water, forests, and other natural resources; conducts research, inspection, and grading services to safeguard and ensure standards for food quality.

Name of Program and Contact Person	Program Description	Program Time Line	FY 1993 Service Funding Level	Number of Participants	Age of Participants	Stipend Amount	Post Service Benefit Amount	Cooperative Programs with Private or Public External Entities
Research Apprenticeship Program AGENCIES: Agricultural Research Service and Cooperative State Research Service	<p>RAP provides paid volunteer opportunities for high school students to work in labs of the ARS and at universities. Students work with scientists on research projects in the biological and physical science and engineering fields. The program is particularly geared toward female and minority students.</p> <p>The purpose of the program is to increase awareness of opportunities in food and agricultural sciences and ultimately increase the pool of applicants for employment.</p>		ARS provides \$500,000 to support the program of which \$250,000 is transferred to CSRS to fund the program at universities.	400-500 students	High school age			

AGRICULTURE - The Honorable Mike Espy
Agency Sponsored Summer Programs

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Youth Conservation Corps AGENCY: Forest Service	<p>The Youth Conservation Corps provides 8 weeks of summer employment for youths from all strata of society. Youths perform conservation work on the National Forest System.</p> <p>Each National Forest Park Director determines which projects should be completed by YCC works and which should be completed by professional seasonal and/or union workers.</p>	On-going annual project	\$2.5 million	1,185 youths (1992)	15-18 years old	<p>Minimum Wage</p> <p>The enrollees are paid from Forest Service resource activities funds.</p>	N/A	<p>The FS and cooperating private sector entities provide tools, training, and supervision.</p> <p>The government assumes tort and workmen's compensation liability.</p>

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<p>National Forest Foundation Youth Camps</p> <p>AGENCY: Forest Service</p>	<p>The National Forest Foundation is a non-profit corporation established by congressional statute.</p> <p>Some of its purpose is to raise funds from private sources for activities which support the programs administered by the Forest Service.</p> <p>The Foundation has just been established. One of its first projects will be operating three summer camps for at-risk youth in the George Washington, Mt. Hood, and Gifford Pinchot National Forests. Special attempts will be made to supplement the work experience with social and remedial education skills so that participants, once they complete the program, can successfully enter into the job corps or private sector employment into the job corps or private sector employment.</p>	<p>8 to 10 week programs</p>	<p>\$1.3 million</p>	<p>200</p>		<p>Minimum Wage</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Private Sector will provide most of programs' funding</p> <p>National Forest Foundation will run the programs and and assume administrative costs</p>
<p>Office of International Cooperation and Development Summer Employee's Program</p> <p>AGENCY: Office of International Cooperation and Development</p>	<p>OICD's Summer Employees Program provides professional on-the-job training experience to both college and high school students. In return for thier services, students receive academic credit.</p> <p><u>Experience enhancement:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Students are exposed to guest speakers that cover an array of subjects from agriculture to transportation. 2. Field trips included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) visits to Congress to learn about its functions; (b) visits to embassies to learn about their relationship to the Federal Court, the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture, and the USDA 					<p>N/A</p>	<p>Academic Credit</p>	

AGRICULTURE - The Honorable Mike Espy
Voluntary Programs which Enforce Department's Mission

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National Forest Service Volunteer Program AGENCY: Forest Service	Offers individuals and organizations the opportunity to donate their talents and services to help manage the nation's natural resource. Volunteers participate in resource protection and management, cooperative forestry, and research. Typical positions include campground hosts, information specialists, fire lookouts, and recreations, wildlife and fisheries assistants.			108,977 students		N/A	N/A	
Earth Team Volunteer Program AGENCY: Soil Conservation Service	Volunteers helped staff Soil Conservation Service offices, planted trees, surveyed land, designed and constructed grass waterways, developed environmental education materials, and created computer databases of local soils.		\$100,000	10,000 at 1,800 sites nationwide		N/A	N/A	
Nutrition and Education Training Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Volunteers provide basic nutritional information to child care centers, school meal programs, and other interested entities.					N/A	N/A	
National Agricultural Library Volunteer Program AGENCY: National Agricultural Library	NAL provides opportunities for adult and youth volunteers. Depending on the skill of the individual, volunteers provide clerical, technical, or professional assistance to NAL in operating its library and its databases.		N/A	20		N/A	N/A	

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Food Stamp Outreach Program AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Outreach activities include explaining program rules, helping people apply and fill out forms, etc.					N/A	N/A	
The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) AGENCY: Food and Nutrition Service	Volunteers unload trucks, hand out food at donation sites, help with applications, etc. Commodities are all donated.					N/A	N/A	
4-H			Co-op with land grant colleges	3 million	10-20 years old			Land grant colleges
Agricultural Research Service Volunteer Programs AGENCY: Agricultural Research Service	A number of ARS locations nationwide accept volunteer services for a wide variety of administrative and research support functions. The U.S. National Arboretum in D.C. relies on volunteers to perform a number of services, including serving as tour guides, providing assistance in the library, assisting in the maintenance of plant collections and working with researchers in the herbarium. Once they receive training, volunteers are asked to work for at least four hours per week.			Over 100			N/A	

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Extension				3 million				

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Voluntary Employee Activities**

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Youth at Risk Program AGENCY: Extension Service	The Youth at Risk Program provides funding for community-based programs to address the needs of at-risk youth. Programs provide youth with after school programs; reading and science enrichment classes; teen pregnancy, drug abuse and depression counseling. Opportunities are available for youth to be trained to provide these same services to their peers.		\$10 million Supplemented by local and private matching funds.	100,000				Youth at Risk Program 1890 institutions AGENCY: Extension Service for several projects.