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USDA [Department of Agriculture] Agencies: Agricultural Research Service

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

Beltsville Area
United States
National Arboretum

3501 New York Ave., N.E.
Washington, D.C.
20002

June 6, 1994

SUBJECT: Anticipated Accomplishments for Fall 94 Americorps program.

TO: J. Berg, Deputy Director; Office of Public Liaison

THROUGH: T. Elias, Director; U.S. National Arboretum *T. Elias*

FROM: E. Garvey, Unit Leader; U.S. National Arboretum *EG*

With 10 crew members and 1 crew leader, I anticipate completing the following tasks between September 1994 and the end of the program in June 1995;

1. Renovate by removing weedy plants, pruning, replanting, sowing grass seed, mulching etc. existing collection areas throughout the USNA that in total represent about 200,000 square feet.
2. Restore to good condition approximately 1500 linear feet of existing poor condition trails.
3. Assist in the maintenance of approximately 140 acres of collections and gardens through grass cutting, fall leaf clean-up, and bed mulching.

Problem



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

~~ARS FILE~~
ARS
file

March 10, 1994

MEMORANDUM

TO: AGENCY ADMINISTRATORS AND OFFICE HEADS
FROM: JOEL BERG, OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS JB
SUBJECT: NATIONAL SERVICE BUDGET DEADLINE

In the past two months I have had the opportunity to meet with each of you personally to discuss how your organizations might participate in the Secretary's national service program. In many cases, myself and my staff followed-up in lengthy discussions with members of your staff. We are now at the point where we must immediately move these proposals through OBPA and OGC to obtain final approval. Please have your staff review the attached list of projects and identify the specific appropriation(s) that could be used to fund the Department's portion of the project.

As Ron Blackley pointed out in his January 10, 1994 memorandum requesting this information, national service is one of President Clinton's top priorities. Secretary Espy is dedicated to ensuring that USDA runs high-quality anti-hunger, rural development, and environmental programs as part of this initiative.

To meet our deadline for submitting the Department's application to the Corporation for Community and National Service, I must have your responses by COB tomorrow, March 11, 1994.

I will be available to answer any questions your staff may have. I can be reached at 720-4623.

Agricultural Research Service

Potential sustainable agriculture national service projects:

Demonstration project in South Texas in which ARS pilot tests the feasibility of agricultural production systems which are sustainable.

Create a professional corps of college and professional school graduates that teach sustainable agriculture techniques to a sizable number of farmers throughout a state or region.

Run urban farming and gardening projects at the National Arboretum.

Potential sustainable agriculture budget sources:

(Followed by FY94 budget, in millions of dollars, with explanatory notes)

Research on Soil, Water, and Air Sciences

Provides for development of management guidelines, practices, and systems for promoting cost-effective conservation and enhancement of the quality and production capacity of our Nation's soil, water, and air resources. Emphasis is being placed on water quality protection, sustainable agriculture, waste utilization, and a better understanding of the impact of global change on agricultural productivity on soil, and water conservation and protection.

83.524

Potential nutrition education national service projects:

As part of a nutrition, anti-hunger, and empowerment corps, participants would work door-to-door, in WIC clinics, in social services offices, and in schools to teach the basics of nutrition.

Potential nutrition education budget sources:

(Followed by FY94 budget, in millions of dollars, and explanatory notes)

Human Nutrition Research

Provides funds for research done in part to improve the nutritional status of humans and the well-being of families by making techniques available for assessing the nutrient intake and nutritional status of the population.

50.970

CYFERNET

Child Youth and Family Education and Research Network

National Agricultural Library
10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705
(301) 504-6400
jkane@nalusda.gov



9/08/93

Background on Information Management for the Child Youth and Family Education and Research Network

INTRODUCTION

The **Youth Development Information Center** was established in 1988 as a joint project of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and the USDA Extension Service (ES) to support the professionalism of 4-H youth development. As of 1992 the Center redirected efforts and funding to take greater advantage of evolving technology. By fully utilizing computer and communications technology in organizational collaborations and information management a greater variety and amount of information will be made available to a larger proportion of the youth serving community.

CYFERNET (Child Youth and Family Education and Research Network), is a joint project of the Youth Development Information Center (YDIC) of the National Agricultural Library, ES/4-H and Youth Development, ES/Home Economics and Human Nutrition (HEHN), and ES/Communications and Information Technology (CIT). Additional collaborations are evolving to realize fully the potential of an information service based on computer communications technology. The effort is in explicit support of NAL and CIT initiatives in information management, dissemination and public access and services.

TECHNOLOGY

With the technical and programming assistance of ES/CIT, CYFERNET now has a UNIX system in place at USDA Headquarters that is accessible over the Internet and can be managed directly from NAL. The UNIX platform has been programmed with the ALMANAC and Gopher software and is being linked with other information servers through WAIS (Wide Area Information System). Almanac software (developed at Oregon State University with a grant from the Kellogg Foundation) will allow large, full-text, documents to be delivered through e-mail technology. A large amount of data can be acquired with minimal demands placed on the requester and the computer systems at either end. Gopher technology increases the sensitivity or specificity of the CYFERNET for those who can telnet or log directly onto the system over the Internet and want to search through the various sections or types of information. (See diagram)



INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND COLLABORATIONS

CYFERNET has two general categories of information. They are curricula or program materials and program support material. An electronic jury process is being developed for curriculum review. Until that system is developed and can ensure a predictable quality of program materials only curricula with a national application will be listed in the program section of CYFERNET.

Program support materials are being gleaned from a variety of sources. Agreements with the Dept. of Education's Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), the Dept. of Health and Human Service's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention and the General Services Administration's Federal Assistance Programs Retrieval System are evolving and viewed as models for further collaborations with other federal agencies. Information about those services and developed by those organizations is being made available on CYFERNET to help Extension Agents and other child, youth and family development workers make better use of those resources.

Other initiatives include:

- * A proposal with the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE) and the National 4-H Center to explore ways to provide grantsmanship training and funding resource identification on the Internet.

- * CYFERNET is an electronic clearinghouse in Department of Health and Human Service's Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) Regional Alcohol and Drug Awareness (RADAR) network. CSAP released a press announcement in August marking the establishment of the Center as part of CSAP's communication system PREVline. By exploring technical, organizational and program linkages between RADAR and CYFERNET the initiative intends to bring States and county Extension agents closer to the resources that CSAP provides.

- * CYFERNET and the University of Minnesota's Children, Youth and Family Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse have begun to merge gophers and share information management responsibilities in an effort to explore ways in which distributed information management systems might be administered with Internet technology.

There is some material up on CYFERNET now that should be useful - information like: federal program descriptions that deal with child, youth or family issues and Federal Register notes for the year that deal with the same subject, a listing of all the youth at risk sites, the full text of Family Impact Seminars for the last three years, extensive statistics from the Kids Count Data Book project, listings of information centers and clearinghouses dealing with youth and family issues, bibliographies (based on the 4-HPRK taxonomy) from both AGRICOLA and ERIC, from the Food and Nutrition Information Center, and from the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information (and information on how to get the documents referred to).

For those of you who can telnet the procedure to get on to CYFERNET is:

- (1) Log on to your system through your communications software.
- (2) At you system prompt type <gopher (if your system has an Internet gopher)> or <telnet and *the address of a commonly accessible gopher* like;
Minnesota's *consultant.micro.umn.edu*
or
Maryland's *info.umd.edu*>
and press return - the following is based on the U. of Maryland gopher - others may vary slightly.
- (3) When the login prompt comes on the screen type (login as) <gopher> and press return.
- (4) Register your terminal type as (usually) <vt100>.
- (5) Move the cursor to <Other Systems> and press return.
- (6) Move the cursor to <Gopher and Information Servers>, press return.
- (7) Move to <All Gopher Servers in the World> or the <North America> followed by <USA> options, press return.
- (8) Press the space bar until <CYFER-net USDA ES Gopher Server> is on the screen, move cursor to that and press return.

You're then in CYFERNET!

For further information please contact:

John Kane, Ph.D.

Coordinator

Youth Development Information Center
and CYFERNET

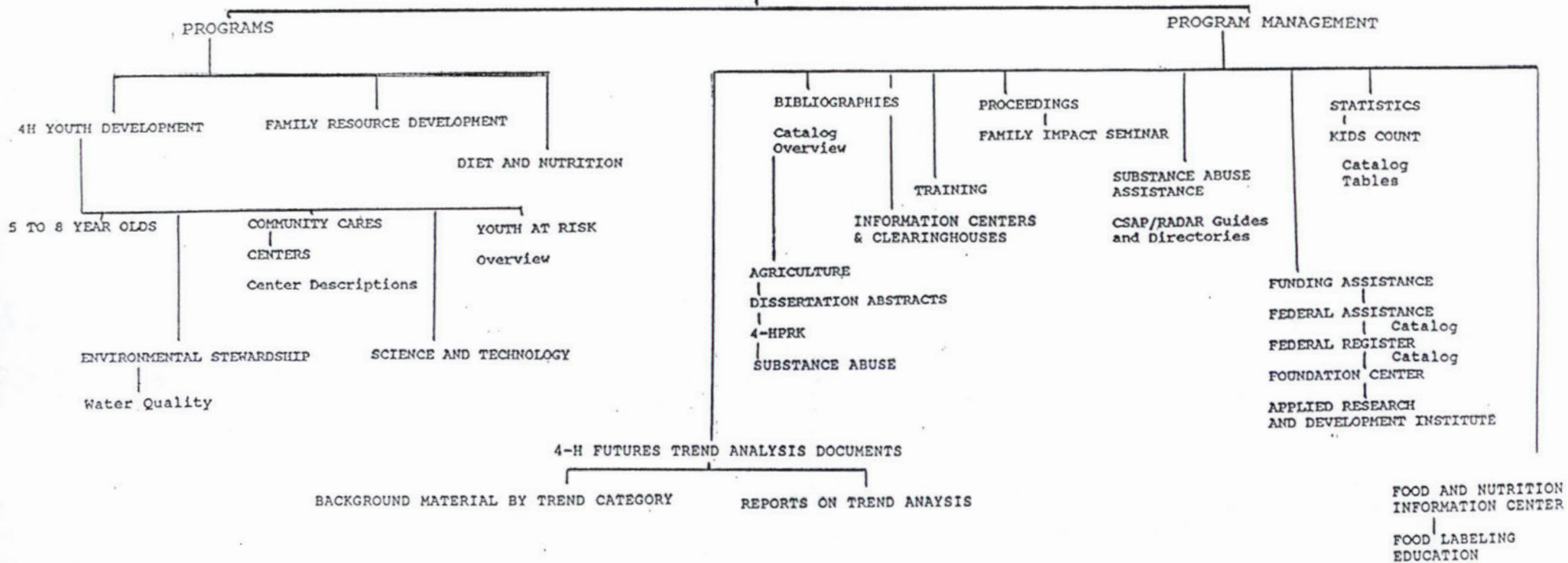
National Agricultural Library, Room 304
10301 Baltimore Blvd.
Beltsville, MD 20705-2351

Phone: (301) 504-6400

e-mail JKANE@NALUSDA.GOV

CYFERNET

Overview
Resource Directory



The National Extension NETWORK for Children, Youth, and Families

The Cooperative Extension System (CES), ES-USDA, and the National 4-H Council are establishing a national Children, Youth, and Family NETWORK consisting of a national distributed information infrastructure and four Networks focussing on Child Care, Collaborations, Science and Technology, and Family Resiliency. The NETWORK consolidates program and technology resources and expertise and, through the electronic infrastructure, expedites nationwide access to information and education. These Networks will assist the Cooperative Extension System nationwide in accomplishing its mission *to marshal resources of the Land Grant and CES to collaborate with other organizations to develop and deliver educational programs that equip limited resource families and youth who are at risk for not meeting basic human needs, to lead positive, productive, contributing lives.*

The NETWORK will not be centered in Washington or in individual states. Network collaborations will include faculty with diverse experiences and skills from 4-H Youth Development, Home Economics, Community Development, Communications Technology, and other University departments from many Land Grant universities. The Networks will allow states to reallocate resources and concentrate development money and staff time in one or two areas in which they have the most expertise and interest. Fewer staff will be developing programs, more staff can devote time to working directly with youth and families. Services of the NETWORK will be concentrated on the 95 ES-USDA funded Youth At Risk (YAR) Project sites and simultaneously be available to all states and counties.

ES-USDA will fund four Children, Youth, and Family Networks in 1994. Each Network will provide a broad spectrum of expertise in one of four areas described below.

Child Care

The National Child Care Network will focus resources to strengthen child care programs in communities so that children are involved in secure, enriching, educational activities during pre-school, school, and after school hours.

Science/Technology Literacy

The National Science/Technology Literacy Network will focus on using the processes of science and technology to improve the lives of children and families.

Collaborations

The National Collaborations Network will contribute a broad variety of expertise to encourage collaborations at national, state, and local levels.

Family Resiliency

The National Family Resiliency Network will bring an alliance of resources together to strengthen families within their communities.

The Internet is the current computer "network of networks" linking over 20 million users worldwide and the largest of its kind in the world. The National Research and Education Network (NREN) provides leadership to link research and education institutions in the United States into a high-speed, high-capacity information "superhighway" of computers. The NREN will link every Land Grant University in the country to the county level through computer-based communications. The NREN provides an electronic pathway over which the majority of the interaction among Networks and between Networks and YAR project sites and state and county offices will occur.

A variety of compatible information management systems (like NAL's CYFERNET, University of Minnesota's **Child, Youth and Families Consortium Electronic Clearinghouse**, North Central Region's QUERRI, and Ohio State's PINNET and other university databases) will be used initially in creating the NETWORK. It is anticipated that eventually other systems will be linked as they are identified.

Ultimately, the Youth at Risk project sites will be linked to each other, to their county offices, to the Networks, and to the information management support base in a seamless information infrastructure. That infrastructure is made up of a collection of information assets but appears as a single easily accessible resource to users. This will result in information flows both to and from program sites that can be reliably evaluated to ensure there is access to critical information at even the most remote sites.

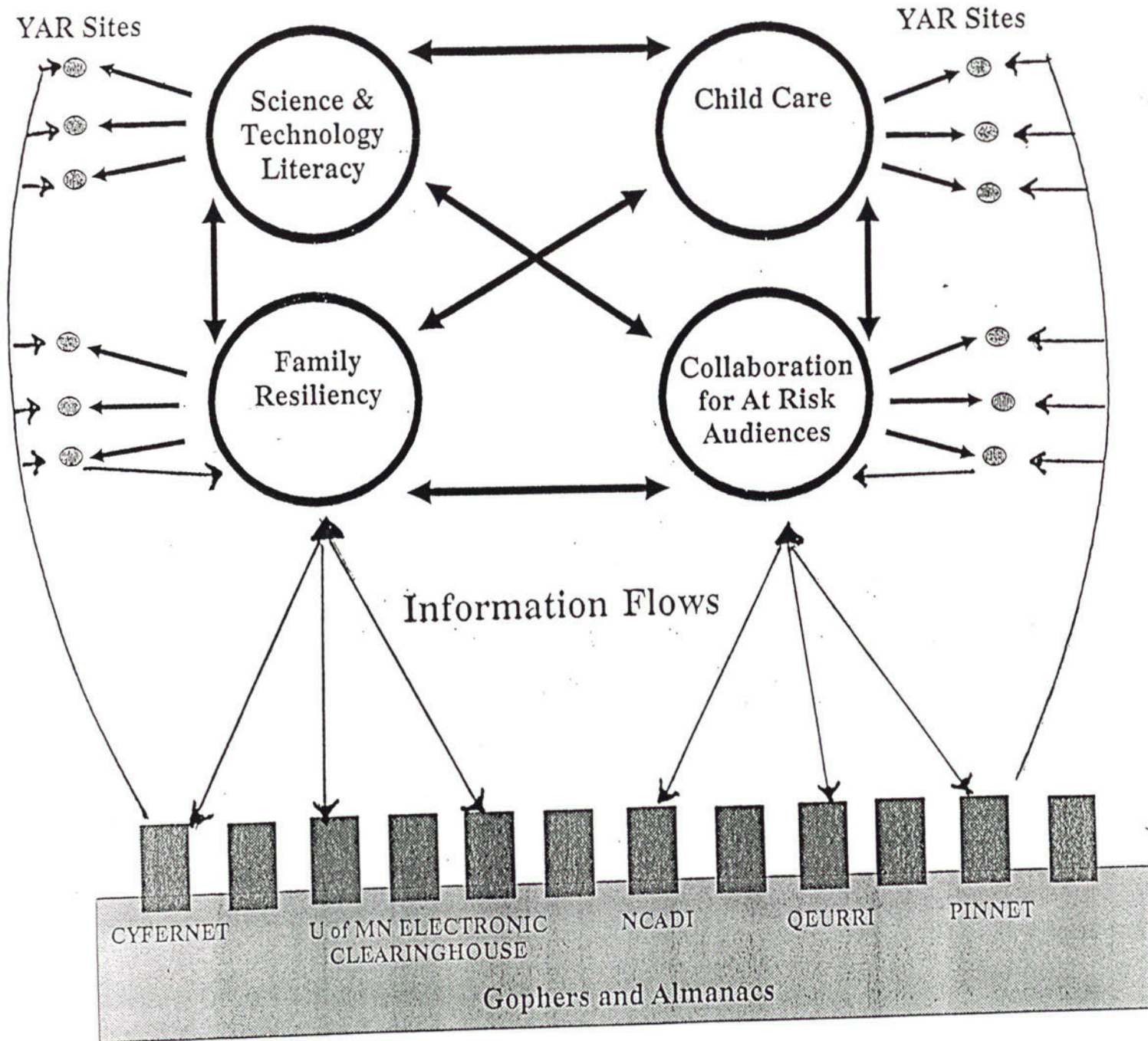
Through a collaborative agreement among 4-H Youth Development, Home Economics and Human Nutrition, and Communications and Technology at ES-USDA, and the University of Minnesota, a National Technology Network Coordinating Team has been hired (starting January 15, 1994) to coordinate the technology components of the National Extension NETWORK for Children, Youth, and Families. The team will work closely with technology and communications staff from collaborating universities, ES-USDA, and NAL. This team will have responsibility to assist Network staff in the following functions:

1. Ensure that relevant and important information is made available through the Internet on gopher and Almanac servers.
2. Explore how information systems should be structured so that gopher and Almanac servers can be linked across the Child, Youth, and Family information network in Extension.
3. Explore ways of institutionalizing interactive feedback mechanisms into the information system to ensure that materials provided through the Internet connectivity are useful and of high quality for service users on an ongoing basis.

Each Network will identify sources of information in their focus area compatible with the needs of communities and facilitate collaborations between those sources and Child, Youth and Family Development faculty in Extension. All four Networks will collaborate with each other, the Technology Coordinating Team, ES-USDA, and NAL to merge program and technology into the NETWORK for Children, Youth, and Families.

It is anticipated that funding for the four Networks will be announced on January 15, 1994, and that NETWORK staff will meet in April to build a united NETWORK agenda. National Children, Youth, and Families At Risk Training for state teams is tentatively planned for September, 1994.

Program Network



Information Support



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

National
Program
Staff

Beltsville, Maryland
20705

September 15, 1993

Informal Note to Katherine Gibney and Joel Berg

SUBJECT: Ideas for National Public Service Program

FROM: James R. Coppedge, USDA, ARS *JRC*

I have revised my original concept paper into the format suggest in the draft action plan of June 29, 1993. I have also incorporated some of the changes reflected in the final Bill (H.R. 2010, currently unsigned).

I feel this concept has merit and some positive features for the National Service Program including; most of the costs are covered by ARS and not the National Public Service Corporation and although the first year participants will be members of the National Public Service Corp., there will be no associated outlays since the participants must work at least a year to be eligible for the first year's educational awards. The net effect of these positive points will be to increase the number of participants in the National Public Service Program and the decrease of the average cost per participant.

Additionally, in the final Bill (H.R. 2018-68, Sec. 206,), the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture are each authorized to provide individual placement of resource assistants with any Federal land managing agency under the jurisdiction of such Secretary to carry out research or resource protection activities on behalf of the agency. It would appear that all we need to initiate this program would be the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture. Once it is an approved program, then the approval of National Public Service Awards would be automatic (H.R. 2010-17, Sec. 130, D-1, A and B).

Please give me a call if you have any questions. My office telephone number is 301/504-5541.

Enclosure

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7-90)

FAX TRANSMITTAL

of pages **9**

To JOEL BERG	From JAMES COPPEDGE
Dept./Agency FOR COMMENT	Phone # 301/504-5541
Fax # 202/720-5043	Fax # 301/504-5467
NSN 7540-01-317-7368	5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Food and Fiber for the Future
A National and Community Service Project

I. Introduction

The proposed project is submitted by Dr. James R. Coppedge, Agricultural Research Service (ARS) for consideration by the Rural Development Corps sub-group of the USDA National Public Service Task Force. The applicant is not seeking financial assistance for potential recruits, but requesting national service educational awards for individuals in a professional corps of agricultural research assistants. This initiative is intended to result in a model program that can be adopted by other sectors of the U.S. Government.

II. Concept

It is the purpose of this document to propose that college graduates who have received student loans for their post secondary education be allowed to repay up to \$9,450 of their loan with national service educational awards, through temporary employment in the ARS and enrollment in the Food and Fiber for the Future - National Public Service Program. During their employment, the corps members will be provided the opportunity to train with a research scientist and take graduate courses in such areas as agricultural-environmental harmony, food safety, human nutrition, water quality, agricultural waste management, bio-intensive pest management and sustainable agriculture. The purpose of this program would be to develop college graduates with advanced training so can help meet the educational, environmental and public safety needs in communities across the United States.

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III. Social Problems to be Solved

Food and fiber production industry will face conflicting demands in the future. The expanding U.S. and world population will place increasing demands on food and fiber production. The general public expects food that is abundant, nutritious and inexpensive and clothing that is comfortable and affordable. At the same time they are increasingly concerned about pesticide residues, clean air and water, endangered species, contaminated food and the health of infants and children. Food and fiber producers are faced with the dilemma of appeasing the social and environmental concerns of the public, maintaining a reasonable standard of living while profit margins are decreasing. The producers' problems are compounded by the fact that there is only limited new technology to integrate into their production systems.

The net result of this dilemma, if unabated, will be the continued demise of family farms and the rural communities supported by these farms. One approach to alleviating the social problem is to develop a corp of young agricultural scientists, who are cognizant of the existing and anticipated problems in agriculture and are trained and educated to help provide solutions. The purpose of the program described herein is to assist in the training and education of such individuals.

IV. How the Corps will Work with Existing Programs

This program focuses on individuals and preparing them to address agricultural issues of the future. To the best of the author's knowledge, no other such program exists today. The program would be complimentary to

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existing programs in the agricultural research community that are responding to the social, environmental and economical issues of the general public and food and fiber producers. It is anticipated that many of the graduates of this program will return to rural communities and become positive forces in confronting the issues of food and fiber production in the future.

V. Outreach Needed for Stakeholders

Part of the training of these corps members will be scheduled contacts with stakeholders or stakeholder groups. The specific stakeholders or stakeholder groups will depend upon the program the individual is enrolled in. As examples, an individual that is undergoing training in meat production-food safety will visit livestock producers, feedlots, meat packing plants and purveyors of the final product (i.e. grocery stores, fast food restaurants, etc.). Individuals enrolled in programs to help develop alternatives to synthetic pesticides will visit crop producers, private consultants, extension entomologists, commodity groups (i.e. National Cotton Council, Florida Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Producers, etc.), concerned environmental groups (i.e. Audoban Society, United Farmworkers, etc.) and representatives of commercial concerns which produce both synthetic and biological pesticides.

Once each year all of the participants will be required to attend a national convocation on contemporary issues. The convocation will be planned and implemented by ARS and will involve nationally known experts to address societal, environmental and economical issues in agriculture.

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VI. Residential and Nonresidential

We suggest that the program be non-residential and that we provide a stipend that would cover the cost of lodging. The stipend would be set at each location based on the cost of living in the area. The stipend will likely range from \$350-700 per month.

VII. Size and Sites of Program

Initially we would like to see the program start with 50 candidates who will be distributed as widely as possible across the entire United States. The ARS has 120 locations many of which are on college campuses or within a short commuting range (i.e. University of Georgia, University of Maryland, Texas A&M University, Iowa State University, University of California at Riverside and Davis, Arizona State University, Oklahoma State University, University of Arkansas, Mississippi State University, University of Hawaii, etc.).

The limiting factor for placing candidates within an ARS management unit would be resources and space. The initial step in the recruitment of an individual would be the preparation and submission of a job description and budget for the candidate by a representative of the management unit. The budget would require approval by the Area Director and the job description would require approval by the National Program Staff.

VIII. Growth Scenario

The program could easily grow to 200-300 candidates. As previously mentioned, the limiting factor would be resources and space. The recruits would be individually placed within ARS management units. Additionally,

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groups of 10-20 candidates could be placed where ARS has specially funded projects (which are relevant to this program) and which are labor intensive.

IX. Management Structure Needed

The program probably could be managed with the current staff at ARS.

The management of this program would be managed by the student assistance coordinator in the ARS Administrative Management (AM) Unit.

Initially, the program would probably not require any new hires, however, as it grows we may have to additional staff in the AM group.

X. Staff Needed

The candidates will be assigned to a research scientist under most circumstances. This will be a one-to-one relationship, however, on special projects there may be up to 10 candidates assigned to a scientist. The candidate will be responsible to the same Administrative Management and Program Management chains of command as the scientist. The overall program coordination will be handled through the Student Assistance Unit of the Headquarters Administrative Management Unit.

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XI. Cost

	Cost/Year Contributed by National Public <u>Service Corp.</u>	<u>ARS</u>
Rural Development Core - 50 candidates	0	500,000 ^{a/}
Supervisors 5 (50 x .1 time)	0	(1,000,000) ^{b/}
Educational award	236,250	-
Housing ^{c/}		0 300,000 ^{c/}
Child care ^{d/}	0	26,400
Health Insurance	0	105,000
Travel	0	50,000
Miscellaneous	<u>0</u>	<u>150,000</u>
Cost per candidate	\$236,250	\$2,131,400
Total cost/candidate/year	\$27,353	

^{a/} Based on 1700 hours per year.^{b/} Not included in cost per candidate.^{c/} The housing is based on the anticipated cost of a one bedroom furnished apartment. For this report an average of \$500/month was used.^{d/} It is estimated that 1 in 5 candidates will need child care. the estimate is based on \$55/wk./child.**XII. Funding Sources**

USDA-ARS - \$2,131,400. Most of these resources will be from ARS base funds, however, some will be from special grants or cooperative research and development agreements, etc. We estimate that approximately 20 percent (\$43,000) will be contributed by other Federal agencies, commercial concerns and commodity groups. Educational Award Grant for National Public Service Corp is \$236,250.

XIII. Partnership

The partnership will vary according to the location and program of the candidate. We have many ongoing programs that are cooperative with

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universities, other Federal agencies, commodity groups, commercial concerns, environmental groups, producers, etc. Consequently, there will be ample opportunities for meaningful partnerships.

XIV. Creating and Maintaining Diversity

The selection of candidates for this program will be done on a competitive basis. The hiring official will be requested to give special consideration to hiring of minorities and females. Additionally, we plan to use these positions wherever possible to assist college graduates who plan to eventually work in rural communities.

If this program is implemented we also plan to send ARS representatives to colleges and universities which historically have a large number of minorities (1890's, Hispanic, Native-American, Native Hawaiian, etc.). to explain the program and solicit applicants. This part of the program can be easily implemented since we already have ARS personnel appointed as liaison to most of these colleges and universities.

XV. Special Training and Supervision Issues

There will not be a need for special training. The scientific assistants will undergo on-the-job training. Under the supervision of a scientist, as mentioned previously, we will strongly encourage the candidates to interact with different individuals and groups with different perspectives on their assigned research problems. The candidates will be required to attend an annual convocation on contemporary agricultural issues.

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XVI. Timeline

- (1) Prepare and get administrative and programmatic approval of job descriptions - Mail to colleges and universities - February 1, 1994.
- (2) Hold briefing with ARS personnel who act as liaison to colleges and universities which have historically had a large number of minority students - February 15, 1994.
- (3) Conduct seminars at these universities - March 1 - April 15, 1994.
- (4) Receive completed applications - May 1 to June 1.
- (5) Make final selection of candidates - Notify candidates by July 1, 1994.
- (6) Candidates begin program - September 1, 1994.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

National
Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington, D.C.
20250-2000

*Memo
to
Joel*

January 26, 1994

To: Joel Berg
Director of Public Liaison and National Service
Office of Public Affairs

From: Donald M. Bay *Donald M. Bay*
Acting Administrator

Subject: Sponsorship of National Service Initiatives

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) has identified the following initiatives that may lend themselves to Americorps participation:

- Enhanced Statistics for Rural America
- Development of Environmental Statistics
- Development of Sustainable Agriculture Statistics

Considering the uncertainty of next year's budget, NASS would only be able to commit \$10,000 for spending on national service initiatives in FY 1995. Nothing is budgeted for FY 1994.

If you have any questions regarding this memo, please contact Larry Beard at 720-5141.

