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Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
Katherine Gibney (202) 720-4369

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE KICKOFFS AMERICORPS RECRUITMENT

WASHINGTON, Sept. XX--Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman announced today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture is beginning recruitment nationwide for AmeriCorps members for its 1996-97 national service program -- the third year of USDA's participation in the Administration's domestic Peace Corps.

"This innovative, new program of community service now has a history at USDA -- a history of accomplishment in boosting rural development and improving the environment," said Glickman.

In partnership with hundreds of community-based organizations, USDA will sponsor _____ AmeriCorps members in _____ states during 1996-97 on Public Lands and Environment and Rural Development Teams.

In 1995-96, AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engaged 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

During its second year, USDA ran three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

The rural development projects will operate in 11 pilot regions throughout the country. Participants in these projects are generally college and professional school graduates who will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, and aid the Clinton administration's empowerment zone and enterprise community initiative. Special disaster-relief projects will also be run in the eight Midwest states most damaged by record flooding during the summer of 1993.

#

DRAFT --- PENDING LEGAL REVIEW

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Laura Trivers 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

GLICKMAN HAILS FOX NETWORK FOR AIRING PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT ON FOOD RECOVERY

Washington --- Jan. ___ 1997 ---- Secretary of Agriculture Glickman today praised the Fox Television Network for agreeing to produce and air a public service announcement on the topic of food recovery during an upcoming national broadcast of the "Party of Five" television show.

The public service announcement, featuring the actor Matthew Fox, will run on the January 15, 1997 broadcast of the show, coinciding with a story line in the show in which his character, Charlie Salinger, receives a reward for donating extra food from his restaurant to a local food bank. The public service announcement will air at the end of the broadcast, which will air at 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time, 8:00 p.m. Central Time, ___? Mountain Time, and 9:00 p.m. Pacific Time on Fox Television stations.

"The Fox Television Network and the producers of the show 'Party of Five' are to be greatly commended for their civic spirit in creating and broadcasting --- at no cost to the government --- a public service announcement about food recovery," said Glickman.

Glickman continued, "Unfortunately, in America today, up to one fifth of all food produced in the country ends up in dumpsters instead of the mouths of hungry people. However, there is a growing national movement to recover such wasted food and distribute it to citizens in need. Corporate initiatives in this area --- such as the one undertaken by the Fox Network --- provide this volunteer movement with a tremendous boost."

The public service announcement will provide the telephone number for USDA's toll-free food recovery hotline, "1-800-GLEAN-IT," to which viewers can call to receive "A Citizens Guide to Food Recovery," a free publication produced by USDA to explain to any interested American or organization how they can get involved in recovering and gleaning excess food. The network will be donating the cost of preparing and airing the announcement.

The Clinton Administration has made it a national priority to encourage efforts in the public, private, and non-profit sectors that aid the recovery of excess food. On November 23, 1996, in his weekly radio address, President Clinton announced the establishment of a Federal interagency task force, chaired by Secretary Glickman, to expand the involvement of all Federal agencies in food recovery. The President also announced the publication of "A Citizens Guide to Food Recovery."

Secretary Glickman has taken a wide variety of additional actions to encourage food recovery, including sponsoring AmeriCorps national service projects focused on food recovery, hosting a national round table on food recovery, and sponsoring farmer's markets in Washington, D.C. that donate extra food to a local food distribution agency.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

"Getting Things Done"

USDA / FSA

Illinois River Valley Rural Development Project
Mason County FSA Office
915 E. Laurel Avenue
P.O. Box 107
Havana, IL 62644
Phone: (309) 543-2582
Fax: (309) 543-3154

Fax To:

JOEL BERG

Fax #

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Message #

3

Date

1/14/97

Page 1 of

2

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- Rod Atterberry, Project Manager
- Suzanne Abouchahine, Member
- Jennifer Clark, Member
- Roger Fahnestock, Member
- Mary Katherine Peters, Member
- Jean Stufflebean, Member

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
MASON COUNTY FSA OFFICE
930 E Laurel Avenue
P.O. Box 107
Havana, IL 62644
Phone: 309-543-2582

January 14, 1997

PRESS RELEASE

AMERICORPS PROGRAM AN OUTSTANDING SUCCESS

Rod Atterbery, project director for the Illinois River Valley AmeriCorps Program stated " this project exceeded all goals for the 3 programs offered." Harvesting Hope, the vegetable gleaning project, collected and distributed almost 11 tons of fresh vegetables. The members helped 175 farm homesteads complete the Clean Water Survey, Farm-A-Syst, and provided irrigation information to 25 irrigated farmers.

Harvesting Hope was established to provide fresh vegetables to the low and fixed income families in this area. 43 families consisting of 119 people received fresh vegetables gleaned by Harvesting Hope volunteers. These people received potatoes, sweetcorn, peas, and greenbeans grown in Mason County. Rod stated " The project was so successful that we were able to ship excess vegetables to Pekin, Canton, Springfield, and East St. Louis." Atterbery further states that "all told, 3400 people received the benefits of the 11 tons of vegetables provided by this program.

Rod says "Thank you to the 68 volunteers that provided 139 hours of service. Without your help this program would not have been possible.

Farm-A-Syst is a confidential farmstead cleanwater survey provided by the Mason County SWCD. AmeriCorps members helped families complete the survey which was designed to point out drinking water problems. These ranged from contamination by septic systems, chemicals, and petroleum products, to animal waste.

The Illinois River Valley AmeriCorps Program was a one year program provided by the United States Department of Agriculture. The Illinois Farm Service Agency sponsored and managed the program. This project is another way that the USDA is providing services in rural America.

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623

Laura Trivers 202-720-4623

AMERICORPS HELPS NORTH CAROLINA AND VIRGINIA HURRICANE RELIEF

WASHINGTON, Sept. xx, 1996--Special teams of AmeriCorps national service program members have been working to help communities in North Carolina and Virginia recover from Hurricane Fran, Agriculture Secretary Glickman announced today.

USDA AmeriCorps members in North Carolina have already helped clean up debris in Umstead State Park in the Raleigh area and are helping to clean up debris in New Hanover and Pender counties. In Virginia, AmeriCorps members are focusing on stream restoration in the Culpeper, Richmond, and Verona areas.

"AmeriCorps is one tool that the federal government is using to provide rapid, compassionate, and non-bureaucratic help to disaster areas," Glickman said. "USDA AmeriCorps members have previously been used effectively in response to everything from tornados to earthquakes to previous floods, so we know they will be effective in aiding the residents of North Carolina and Virginia to dig out from the devastating effects of Hurricane Fran."

The disaster relief AmeriCorps projects are being organized by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service, in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corporation for National Service.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages over 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environment team, and a rural development team.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

* Joel,

Our 1-800 line may be disconnected. Call me on this. Thanks

To: Joel Berg Guest

Joel Berg

TO: JOEL BERG, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
~~HOTEL BURBANK RAMADA INNS AIRPORT~~
~~2900 N. SAN FERNANDO BLVD:~~
~~BURBANK~~

Vagabond Hotel
Salinas, Ca.

FROM: KATHERINE GIBNEY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
(202) 720-4369

kb
ONE
~~TWO~~ kb

TOTAL PAGES: ONE

PSA FOR AMERICORPS/USDA SUMMER OF GLEANING PROGRAM

Citizens in your community can help fight hunger this summer in exchange for a living allowance and an educational award as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Program.

Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman urges interested people to apply immediately for this program beginning in June. Participants will harvest crops left in the field and collect food from commercial establishments for distribution to the hungry. For information and an application packet, call 1-800-880-4183.

engager

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program which Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an educational award.

Joel
Note
error

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U.S. Department of Agriculture

DRAFT NEWS RELEASE
for Clearance

Title: CONGRESS CANCELS FOREST SERVICE
AMERICORPS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 19 STATES

Proposed Release Date: _____

Press Release

Media Advisory

The attached draft news release is submitted for your approval before issuance by the Office of Communications. **Please Expedite Clearance.** When approved, call:

Martha Cashion 720-3310
(Backup: Ron Hall 720-5747)

APPROVED FOR RELEASE BY:

AmeriCorps

Jul Berg

7/25/96

Under Secretary Lyons

Brian Toomey

7-26-96

(fal)

Communications Coordinator

JPT

7/29/96

Press Secretary

Secretary's Office

Comments: National Release plus model State release.

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DRAFT

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623

Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 19 STATES

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this fiscal year that would have engaged 683 participants in USDA Forest Service projects in 19 states, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U.S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects nationally beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps projects would have engaged AmeriCorps members in building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, fighting forest fires, making recreation areas accessible for disabled persons, protecting habitats for endangered and threatened species, improving timber stands, boosting rural development, providing environmental education services to local schools, and preserving historic sites. AmeriCorps members who successfully completed a full term of service would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of the United States will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed on national forests. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the USDA Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this fall."

USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects were planned this fiscal year for Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work--most of which were allowed by Congress to continue this year. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members nationally constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat enhancement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students.

Also in the first year of the program, in rural development projects implemented nationally by the USDA Forest Service, AmeriCorps members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

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DRAFT

DRAFT MODEL STATE PRESS RELEASE

DRAFT

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS VERMONT AMERICORPS PROJECT ON GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this year on the Green Mountain National Forest, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U. S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Vermont program would have engaged 20 citizens as AmeriCorps members performing critical work clearing and restoring trails, rehabilitating and cleaning campground sites, protecting wildlife, improving timber stands, providing environmental education services to local schools, improving fisheries, and preserving historic sites. All the AmeriCorps members who successfully completed the program would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Vermont will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed in the Green Mountain National Forest. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this fall."

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

USDA currently sponsors both anti-hunger and rural development AmeriCorps projects in Vermont, which were allowed to continue by Congress.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students..

Also in the first year of the program, in rural development projects implemented nationally by the USDA Forest Service, AmeriCorps members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

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DRAFT

ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER
COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
HAZARDOUS MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
FISHERIES, WILDLIFE AND OCEANS SUBCOMMITTEE
NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS AND LANDS
SUBCOMMITTEE
REPLY TO:
WASHINGTON OFFICE
120 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3006
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-4671

FRANK FALLONE, JR.
6TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3006

February 1, 1996

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NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08901
(908) 262-8892
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(ROOM 33) HIGHWAY 30
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(908) 264-9104

**HELP PRESERVE USDA'S PORTION
OF THE AMERICORPS PROGRAM**

Dear Colleague:

Please join me in supporting the AmeriCorps program sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture.

As you know, AmeriCorps is a national network of community based programs that allow Americans of all ages to earn education awards to pay for college, graduate school, student loans and/or vocational training in exchange for a period of community service.

While the vast majority of AmeriCorps programs are funded through state commissions appointed and managed by non-profit organizations, federal agencies run a relatively small component of the program, lead by a highly successful USDA program now operating in 45 states.

USDA AmeriCorps members are reducing bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly delivers vital services to citizens. They are performing a wide range of work far more cost-effectively than would be possible through normal government methods. USDA AmeriCorps members are:

Inspecting flood-damaged dams;

Designing and implementing recycling programs for entire counties;

Bringing running water to poor rural families;

Helping farmers to diversify crops;

Teaching children how to improve their nutrition;

Building trails and fighting fires in National Forests;

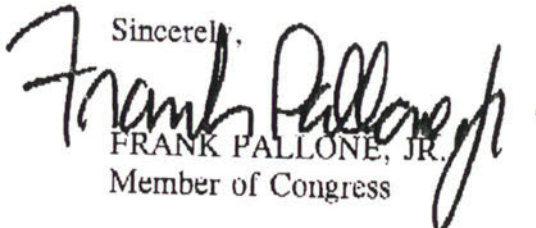
Improving city parks and Aiding rural fire departments.

Each of these projects is locally-proposed and locally-administered, and the work is performed in partnership with community-based organizations.

This program has been attacked by critics who have inaccurately characterized the USDA sponsored AmeriCorps Members as wasteful "bureaucrats" padding the Federal workforce. This characterization is false and damaging. USDA AmeriCorps Members do not perform functions generally performed by Federal employees. Rather, they are hard working private citizens who are earning educational benefits as they learn important lessons about the value of community service.

As the role of Federal Agencies in AmeriCorps is debated during the appropriations and re-authorization process, please support the USDA component of the program.

Sincerely,


FRANK FALLONE, JR.
Member of Congress



To: Bert

From: Joel

2 PAGES, including this cover

Ironically, just hours after we talked the other night about how we could do more on the issue of domestic violence, I received the attached information about a great AmeriCorps project we have in Louisiana that created a domestic violence shelter.

Although Sabine Parish is a bit far from major media market, do you think there is any potential for a joint Reno/Glickman event on this or at least a joint Justice/USDA press release? The news hook would be the completion of the fence, swing set, and picnic table in a few weeks.

Call me at 720-5746 about this when you get a breather.

USDA AMERICORPS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PROJECT SABINE PARISH, LOUISIANA

As part of a major community volunteer effort coordinated in Sabine Parish, Louisiana by the USDA AmeriCorps program, community members have renovated, furnished and put into operation a shelter for victims of domestic violence. In addition to creating a haven for troubled families, this project has brought the entire community together with an awareness of a problem and an incentive to work together to provide a solution. Families at the shelter receive housing, food, clothing and other essential assistance as well as counseling, job training and guidance. The shelter is mainly staffed by volunteers from all areas of the community, including many professionals such as nurses, counselors, nutritionists and attorneys. The USDA AmeriCorps Members have worked with all these volunteers to help establish the shelter. USDA is about to announce a small "min-grant" of \$1,275 to pay for a very necessary privacy fence surrounding the back yard of the shelter. The women and children clients of the shelter must remain indoors due to security reasons and are often afraid to go out at all. With this grant, combined with matching community funds, the AmeriCorps Members are going to coordinate building a fence as well as a small swing set and picnic table for the use of domestic violence victims living at the shelter. Local clubs and non-profit organizations such as the Lions Club, the Pilot's Club, the Rotary Club, the Boy Scouts of America and several churches have agreed to raise in matching funds the remaining \$1,371 required.

This project will directly benefit all the clients staying at the shelter. An estimated 30 families (an average of 5 people per family) will be helped by the shelter facilities during the next year and community awareness of the problems created by domestic violence throughout the parish will be greatly enhanced by news media coverage of this project.

U.S. Newswire, February 15, 1995

national service. Now, one thing that was strange was that when the Speaker spoke of replacing the Pell Grants, he spoke about wanting to tie college aid to people working. That's exactly what national service does -- gives people a grant for college or higher education if they serve their community. We believe, again, that we do not have to be just at a hypothetical phase, this program is in place.

I'm sure that if somebody digs far enough they're going to find some imperfections, but I think the overwhelming weight of the evidence is that this is a tremendous program, that it is a great bang for its buck because it is doing several things at once. It is, at a very low cost, helping people -- helping police officers fight gang crime in the community; helping disaster victims; helping all sorts of community service; at the same time, building a civic sense of responsibility and giving people aid to college in a way where they've earned it and worked for it.

Again, we hope there will be bipartisan support for this. Specter, Stevens, Leach, Chafee, Gunderson supported national service. We're hoping that others will support it. We should point out that the way that the state commissions are appointed by governors, they're bipartisan -- there are many Republican governors who have appointed commissions that are successfully running this proposal. And again, I think that this is a clear line that we are drawing and that we will fight for and fight them at every turn to protect the national service.

The fourth issue, again on college access, is the President's proposal to give families up to \$10,000 deduction for college tuition or higher education. Now, we are hopeful Republicans will come to the table and help us pass this. This has been the proposal that has been the most innovative and the most popular, and we think that there will be bipartisan support.

But right now, while we are hoping to find -- while we have laid out savings to pay for this, the House Contract proceeds looking for savings for \$170 billion over 10 years for a capital gains tax cut that is retroactive and where 70 percent of the benefits go to people making over \$100,000, and a neutral cost recovery boondoggle that is so expensive and is such a giveaway that I think it is making the Republicans blush. And I will definitely be willing to predict -- and at least hope -- that the sensible Republicans will convince the House leadership to give up this proposal. And certainly, if they were to give up this proposal and the \$100 billion they need over 10 years to fund this, they could come to the table and do something for the six to 12 million people who would benefit from the college tuition tax credit.

Fifth, I think is another stark division -- I think is the role of the federal government in playing a leadership role in elementary and secondary education. What we have been promoting in Goals 2000 is, I believe, exactly what the American public supports. It is federal leadership, while allowing reform to take place at the grass roots -- bottom-up reform. The Goals 2000 that is being attacked is a straw man. The Goals 2000 that Secretary Riley and the Republicans helped support is one where the federal government plays a leadership role, but in encouraging and empowering communities to come up with their own plans, with community-oriented, citizen-involved plans.

We do believe there is a national role in education. We do believe that we have a national interest that goes beyond any school, any community, any state. And I think that has served this country well. Now there is more of an economic reason for being concerned about having a

MR. SPERLING: Again, I'm going to stay within my policy area.

Q your policy area, Gene, there's some confusion. This tax deductibility for education, this would be a so-called "above the line" deduction, available even to people who did not itemize their tax returns, right?

MR. SPERLING: That is correct.

Q So this is not just a sop to upper middle class people with college kids that some people have tried to say that it is?

MR. SPERLING: No, it is an above-the-line deduction that would be available for people who did not itemize, and that will be one of the things that will make it very popular, we believe.

Q In some of these areas he's asked for really big increases, like AmeriCorps, which might be hard to justify down the road. Is this kind of a symbolic gesture on his part, or does he actually think he can get Congress to develop a full funding of AmeriCorps, which is already bigger than the Peace Corps?

MR. SPERLING: We're proud of the fact that it's bigger than the Peace Corps. We think that having 33,000, and hopefully 47,000 young people who are out in the community, making low wages to serve their community, to help solve social problems as a way of learning how to work in their communities and being community leaders and going to college is a tremendous thing, and we're proud of the fact that it could get to be larger, and I think we want to do everything we can to move towards the President's goal of having 100,000 young people engaged in national service through AmeriCorps. I think that the proof will be in the pudding, and I think that right now the stories you are hearing are very positive stories about very enthusiastic young people, working in communities where organizations have bid for them, where state panels have worked to set things up. This is another example of national leadership where the implementation and the design happens at the local level, it happens with the private sector. You have IBM, GE, many large companies working together to make this happen.

As to whether we'll get the increases we want, we're going to fight like hell to get them. We'll do the best we can, and we'll make the best case we can. Certainly, on some of these programs, it will take a big fight just to hold the line. We understand that. That doesn't mean we're not going to fight for the full amounts that we believe in. We've been able -- we are very proud that we've been able to bring the deficit down now -- it's projected to be \$616 billion over five years, and still be able to find additional spending cuts so that we can increase exciting new programs like national service. And, ultimately, if we'd put ideology aside, if people look at the direct lending program and ask whether it's working, if they look at national service and ask whether it's working, the proof will be in the pudding. And if it turns out that you need to go slower at some point based on the facts, that's fine.

But people should also be willing to say that these programs are working and that they're successful. We should be willing to admit that, put ideology aside and give more people a chance to have these opportunities.

THE PRESS: Thank you.

END11:55 A.M. EST

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

USDA-NRCS

OR-INF-1 REV. 12/89

NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Date: March 13, 1996 Natural Resources
Conservation
Service

Contact: Milton D. Howell
(410)757-0861, Ext. 340

For Immediate Release

NRCS to Hold Bioengineering Demonstration in Barton, Maryland

Cumberland -- A Blizzard and Meltdown Emergency Watershed Protection Demonstration will be held on Friday, March 22, 1996, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a hands-on Community Volunteer Day on Saturday, March 23, 1996, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Georges Creek near the Barton Bible Baptist Church, in Barton, south of Frostburg.

The demonstration is funded through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Under the program, NRCS inventories potential sites for projects, designs the needed conservation measures, and administers contracts for the work. NRCS funds 75 percent of the measures while the local sponsor is responsible for the remaining 25 percent. Following severe flooding in January 1996, NRCS granted communities in Allegany and Garrett counties \$721,000 to help them repair damages and reduce the hazards to life and property.

NRCS is taking this opportunity to demonstrate a new approach to streambank stabilization by using bioengineering

(continue)

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202)-720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

techniques. Soil bioengineering utilizes live plant parts to provide soil reinforcement and prevent surface erosion. Streambank stabilization generally has involved engineering works, such as surface armoring with rock rip-rap or gabions and retaining walls. Depending on site characteristics, bioengineering techniques can be as effective as traditional engineering methods, either used alone or with structural engineering practices. The advantage of bioengineering approaches includes performing ecological functions such as water filtering by the living plant material, wildlife habitat creation, and aesthetic values. These systems are also self-repairing, reducing long-term maintenance and repair needs after future storm events.

At the Barton site, willows will be planted on the banks of Georges Creek. As the vegetation becomes established, roots invade and permeate the slope, binding it together into a unified, coherent mass.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has worked in cooperation with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources' Forest Service, Maryland Department of the Environment, Maryland Department of Agriculture, Allegany Soil Conservation District, Allegany County Commissioners, Garrett Soil Conservation District, Garrett County Commissioners, the Maryland Conservation Corps, along with the NRCS AmeriCorps team to organize this event.

To volunteer or for more information, please contact Ruth Koch (410-757-0861, Extension 348) by noon on Wednesday, March 20.

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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

* Hung erosion control netting on 300 feet of steep Forest Service road cutbacks and helped clear 15 miles of road that provide critical access to water monitoring sites after an early winter snowstorm.

Members on the five USDA Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team, managed by USDA's Food and Consumer Service through local partnerships with anti-hunger groups and youth service corps in five locations (Calif., D.C., Miss., Vt., Wis.), have:

* Sorted over 93,000 pounds of food at local food banks;

* Provided nutrition outreach and education for senior citizens and elementary school students;

* Contacted and encouraged about 150 families to immunize their children; and

* Assisted 200 earthquake victims with emergency food information through an informational referral service.

Members on the Environmental Team, sponsored by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service on private lands in urban and rural areas and sponsored by USDA's Agricultural Research Service at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C., have:

* Repaired and restored five reservoir flood-damaged recreation areas in Kansas;

* In and around Atlanta, Ga., conducted water quality monitoring at 30 locations throughout the Big Creek Watershed; cleaned up, reseeded, mulched, and removed trash from an urban trail benefitting 400 residents; and built a greenhouse to raise plants for stream bank restoration at the North Metro Technical Institute in Acworth, Ga.;

* Restored 15 windbreaks originally created by the Civilian Conservation Corps on 7.5 miles of land in five counties in western Oklahoma; and

* In Chicago, maintained and beautified stream banks and created a safe-haven lot at Lathrop Homes; cleaned up a lagoon in Washington Park; landscaped a public high school; remodeled and prepared a play lot at Kennicott Park; helped organize a "Neighbors Against Gang Violence--Day of Dead Memorial;" remodeled the Donnelly Youth Center; and planted bulbs at the Fellowship Youth Center.

Members on the USDA/Rural Development Team, who are placed individually like VISTA volunteers, have:

* In Marion, Ark., helped provide a rural waterline that is furnishing seven households--with 22 residents--with running water for the first time;

* Helped 25 families without bathroom and kitchen plumbing obtain sanitary and safe plumbing facilities in four rural areas in southern Texas;

* In Pittsfield, Ill., completed a Small Businesses Research and Revitalization Project and updated the town's overall economic development plan.

(PR: sinischo: sih-NIHS-koh) <
Crop gleaning project in trouble <

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EAST LANSING, Mich., Aug. 7 (UPI) _ The cold spring and floods that ravaged Michigan's vegetable farms this year were dampening hopes Wednesday for a Peace Corps-like gleaning project aimed at feeding the state's hungry.

Student volunteers with President Clinton's AmeriCorps program were having a tough time finding fields with enough vegetables for the first "Summer of Gleaning and Food Rescue" project.

The plan was to line up scores of farms where student volunteers would follow farmers and collect leftover potatoes, cucumbers and other foodstuffs from harvested fields.

The farmers were willing, but the crops weren't there.

"We're really frustrated," said Alex Sinischo, a project "team leader." She's a Michigan State University student from Pleasant Ridge.

"Producers were willing, but this year has been so bad," Sinischo said. "If it hasn't been the poor weather and rain, it's been infestation" that hurt the crops.

Flooding in May and June wiped out thousands of acres of vegetable crops across the southern half of the Lower Peninsula. Cool, damp weather also delayed planting and encouraged mold.

Michigan grain farmers have been hurt by the worst infestation of wheat scab, a type of mold, in state history.

Gleaners were able to collect some asparagus and radishes last month. About 10 farmers in Eaton, Clinton and Ingham counties opened their fields to the volunteers, who took the vegetables to food banks in Lansing and Detroit.

But gleanable fields have been hard to find in Monroe, Livingston and Washtenaw counties, where at least 20 farmers who wanted to help were forced to pull out for lack of crops.

Delayed planting threw a wrench into the gleaning project's timetable by pushing back harvests in fields that weren't ruined by floods. Most volunteers are students, and they'll be back in classrooms and unable to help when much of the harvesting begins.

Project officials have issued a call for help from anyone who can help glean fields, Sinischo said. Hundreds of volunteers are needed, and they must be able to spend a day gleaning on short notice.

"We need a lot of volunteers and even more farmers to make this successful," Sinischo said.

Michigan is one of 17 states where the gleaning project is under way this summer. It's sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. <

(Editors: For more information, call Sinischo at 517-337-6660, ext. 1214.) <

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70-year
USDA
FAX 202-690-1131
FROM: COLLEEN DEVINE
BAGNET
PHONE: 410-243-5060

See [Signature]

[Signature]

MEDIA ALERT

FAX 410-43504
504

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 12, 1996**

**CONTACT: BRIAN RICHARDS
410-243-5060**

**FRESH PRODUCE RESCUED FROM MARYLAND FARMS TO BE
DONATED TO MARYLAND HOMELESS VETERANS**

The Baltimore Area Gleaning Network (BAGNET) has distributed over 30,000 pounds of free, fresh produce in the Baltimore area since June 29TH. On August 17, 1996 at 11:00 a.m., BAGNET will deliver a significant amount of produce to Maryland Homeless Veterans (MHV), 301 North High Street in Baltimore. The food will be picked at local farms by residents of MHV and other volunteers in the community. After the food is unloaded, there will be a short program highlighting BAGNET activities. Among expected guests are Congressman Ben Cardin, The Honorable Shirley Nathan-Pulliam, and other elected officials.

ASSEMBLY ROOM

BAGNET recruits volunteers such as church groups, youth groups, homeless shelter staff and clients and residents of public housing communities to glean excess food from farmer's fields. The food is free of charge to organizations which feed the hungry and to individuals who can benefit from free, fresh produce. Over 15 organizations in Baltimore have received fresh produce from BAGNET, including Helping Up Mission, House of Ruth and Bethel Outreach Center.

The Baltimore Area Gleaning Network is a United States Department of Agriculture/AmeriCorps program sponsored by Civic Works, Baltimore's Youth Service Corps, and the Washington Area Gleaning Network. Partners of the program are Action for the Homeless, the Maryland Food Bank and the Maryland Food Committee.

The press and members of the public are welcome to attend the program at Maryland Homeless Veterans; please contact BAGNET at 410-243-5060 for more information.

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**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

Clinton-AmeriCorps, 250

White House Threatens to Veto Spending Bill if Jobs Program Scrapped

WASHINGTON (AP) Republican efforts to scrap financing for President Clinton's AmeriCorps volunteer service program would trigger a sure Clinton veto of a far larger spending bill, the White House said on Thursday.

"Under the Republican bill passed yesterday, every National Service participant would be sent home, and hundreds of thousands would be denied this opportunity to serve their country while earning money for college," said White House press secretary Mike McCurry in a statement issued at the White House.

The Republican-controlled House voted Wednesday evening to transfer \$40 million in AmeriCorps money to programs providing medical care to veterans and use the remaining \$327 million to reduce the deficit.

McCurry said that action, the second time Republicans have tried to eliminate all money for AmeriCorps, places the overall \$84 billion spending bill at risk.

"President Clinton remains firm," the McCurry statement said. "He will veto any bill that does not provide adequate funds for AmeriCorps. And he will continue to fight against efforts to provide \$57 billion less for education and training than his balanced budget request."

Referring to the first time Clinton vetoed a money bill because AmeriCorps financing had been stripped, McCurry said: "Eliminating national service was a poison pill then, it is a poison pill now and it will remain a poison pill as long as Republicans insist on eliminating the program."

AP-NY-06-27-96 1800EDT

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(UPI Spotlight)<
Clinton vows veto of House bill<

WASHINGTON, June 27 (UPI) _ The White House vowed (Thursday) that President Clinton will veto a massive 1997 appropriations bill for a number of federal agencies if the House does not reverse its decision to kill his much-prized AmeriCorps volunteer service program. White House press secretary Mike McCurry said in a statement, "President Clinton remains firm: He will veto any bill that does not provide adequate funds for AmeriCorps."

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Veto Threat Follows Vote to Kill Program

WASHINGTON, June 27 (AP) — Republican efforts to scrap Federal financing for President Clinton's AmeriCorps volunteer service program would lead to a certain veto of the \$84 billion spending bill that contains it, the White House said today.

"Under the Republican bill passed yesterday, every National Service participant would be sent home, and hundreds of thousands would be denied this opportunity to serve their country while earning money for college," Michael D. McCurry, the White House press secretary, said in a statement.

The House voted on Wednesday to transfer \$40 million in AmeriCorps money to programs for medical care

for veterans and to use the remaining \$327 million to cut the deficit. Mr. McCurry said that action, the second in which Republicans have tried to eliminate all money for AmeriCorps, endangered the overall \$84 billion spending bill.

"President Clinton remains firm," his statement said. "He will veto any bill that does not provide adequate funds for AmeriCorps."

Referring to the first time Mr. Clinton vetoed a bill because AmeriCorps financing had been cut, Mr. McCurry said: "Eliminating national service was a poison pill then, it is a poison pill now and it will remain a poison pill as long as Republicans insist on eliminating the program."

N.Y. Times 6/28/96 A20

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Ag News FAX

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AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VISITS AMERICORPS SITES IN MISSOURI

DEFIANCE, MO., June 9, 1995--Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman today visited USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Team members working in flood relief in Missouri.

"I listened and learned about the valuable service these members have been performing to help local flood victims," said Glickman. "These victims might not have received this type of assistance if it were not for the existence of the AmeriCorps program.

"Their efforts demonstrate the value of USDA's participation in the Clinton Administration's national service program."

Glickman met with the AmeriCorps members at the Katy Trail here in Defiance, Mo.

The USDA/AmeriCorps members began their service to the local communities last September on projects related to damage from the Great Flood of 1993. However, in the wake of the massive flooding last month, members of the USDA/AmeriCorps Rural Development Team doubled their efforts in flood relief work.

One member is working with officials and residents of St. Charles County, Mo., to provide information to landowners about the buyout of property in the flood plain. Other members are performing tasks such as measuring the extent and depth of sand deposits to determine the economic feasibility of removing sand, sandbagging, and staffing emergency response centers.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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AG NEWS FAX

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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MEDIA ADVISORY

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746

USDA BEGINS "NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY" WITH MARYLAND HOMELESS VETERANS

BALTIMORE, Md., Aug. 16, 1996--As part of Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman's first-ever "National Week of Food Recovery," Rural Development Under Secretary Jill Long Thompson will be at the Maryland Homeless Veterans, 301 North High Street, in Baltimore on Saturday, August 17, 1996, at 11:00 a.m.

Surrounded by produce gleaned from Maryland farms, Under Secretary Thompson will make remarks and help USDA AmeriCorps members and volunteers load produce onto trucks for distribution to hungry people.

U. S. Representative Benjamin Cardin, The Civic Works Youth Service Corps, Baltimore Area Gleaning Network (BAGNET), and Washington Area Gleaning Network (WAGN) will also participate in the food rescue efforts.

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Media Advisory

AMERICORPS "SUMMER OF GLEANING" MEMBERS TO BE SWORN IN

LANSING, June 21, 1996-- On Monday, June 24, new AmeriCorps members will be sworn in by U.S. Senator Carl Levin, Gene Moos, USDA Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agriculture Services, and Joel Berg, USDA's Director of National Service, as part of a special USDA program to recover excess food. The swearing-in event will be at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, 1760 Mt. Elliot Ave., Detroit, Michigan at 9:30 a.m.

London's Farm Dairy is donating produce to the Soup Kitchen to kick off the event. New AmeriCorp members, with help from participants, will unload the truck to start the event.

AmeriCorps is a national service program to give youth 17 years and older the chance to earn money for college in return for community-based service. This gleaning and food rescue event is supported by USDA's Farm Service Agency to assist in the cause of helping the hungry.

For further information contact Chris White, FSA Michigan State Executive Director, (517) 337-6659.

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Grey -
720-8768

Charles Harbin,
FSA/Publi
254-8299

720-0942

Steve

AMERICA'S CHALLENGE IN AN AGE OF POSSIBILITY:
PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL
February 10 - 11, 1996

President Clinton challenges America. Tomorrow and Sunday President Clinton will travel to Iowa, where he will highlight the challenges from his State of the Union address. He will focus on his challenge to schools, communities, states and lawmakers to help throw open the doors of college as never before, and ensure that all deserving students can afford to go to college. We live in an age of possibility, but also a time of challenge and change. We must face those challenges together. The era of big government is over, but we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left on their own to deal with our common problems. In his State of the Union address, the President challenged all Americans to work together -- to strengthen families, increase educational opportunities, achieve economic security, reduce crime, safeguard our environment, maintain our leadership in the world and renew our democracy -- seizing the promise of our age of possibility.

"Our second challenge is to provide Americans with the educational opportunities we will all need for this new century. . . Higher education is more important today than ever before."

- President Clinton, State of the Union Address, January 23, 1996

Meeting our challenge to expand college opportunity. Before speaking to students at Drake University, President Clinton will meet with a group of parents, students and employers in a roundtable discussion of work study and other ways he has proposed to expand access to higher education.

- * Expansion of work study. In the State of the Union, the President called for a dramatic expansion of the College Work Study program, from 700,000 students to over one million over the next five years.
- * Merit scholarships. The President called for the creation of the largest-ever merit-based scholarship program, rewarding the top five percent of high school graduates in every school -- over 125,000 students annually -- with \$1,000 grants toward the cost of college.
- * Tuition tax deduction. The President will renew his call for a tax deduction of up to \$10,000 for the cost of tuition and training. Over 17 million students stand to benefit from this proposal for tax relief to working families.
- * Expanding Pell Grants. President Clinton has called for increasing the number and maximum award of Pell Grant Scholarships, which would help 375,000 more students benefit from the grants in the year 2000.
- * Direct lending. President Clinton has created a new student loan program that makes it easier to borrow and repay student loans, saving taxpayers almost \$7 million, by allowing students to repay loans as a percentage of their income, cutting out the middle-man and eliminating red tape.
- * 25,000 AmeriCorps volunteers. President Clinton's national service program lets volunteers earn college money by serving their local communities.

A growing economy in Iowa. The President's trip will also highlight the importance of the rural economy to America, and the success that Iowa has enjoyed over the past three years.

- * Lower unemployment. The unemployment rate in Iowa has dropped from 4.2% to 3.3%.
- * More new jobs. Iowa has 107,500 new jobs, including 17,400 in manufacturing alone, in the past 35 months, more than during the entire previous administration.
- * Better student loans. 357,900 students and former students in Iowa will be able to benefit from student loan reforms.

February 13, 1996

To: Martha, Billy

From: Joel 

FYI, press release on flood relief work by one of our AmeriCorps projects in Oregon.
You may want to submit this for the President's trip briefing.

NEWS RELEASE

Service Academy Volunteer Help with Flooding February 7, 1996

Five teams of volunteers in the Northwest Service Academy (NWSA) were up to their knees in water this morning (Feb. 7) providing assistance in flooding communities from Trout Lake, WA, to the Portland, OR, metropolitan area. The Service Academy is a two-state federal AmeriCorps program managed by Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver.

Two NWSA teams reported to the American Red Cross this morning for training in flood assessment activities. The volunteers, from 18 to 60+ years, will be traveling throughout the Washington/Oregon/Columbia Gorge region checking streams and rivers. They will count and survey flood affected homes to assess damage for use in determining Red Cross disaster assistance.

In the City of Portland, two teams early this morning began sandbagging around Johnson Creek in the area of Foster and 108 to 158th Streets. Flooding in Trout Lake in Klickitat County prevented NWSA volunteers from traveling to Portland to join other teams, but the volunteers joined Klickitat County employees and citizen volunteers in sandbagging around the Trout Lake Creek threatening town and property in that region. In addition, the Trout Lake volunteers will assist cities of Mosier and The Dalles in flood control where creeks and streams are causing evacuation of homes.

Each team consists of 10 members who volunteer on public service projects throughout the year and assist with land reclamation and environmental activities.

The Northwest Service Academy is one of 18 model AmeriCorps programs and has been a lighthouse in blending federal programming, education, private sector contributions, and community ingenuity and giving. ##

For Photo Contacts or Filming:

Joe Parvankin, NWSA Metro, 503--695-3744

John Duff, NWSA Mt. Adams (Klickitat County), 509-395-3467 (or 509-395-2234)

Dennis Campbell, director of maintenance, City of Portland, 503-823-6904 (pager 503-323-6904)

Beth Heinrich, American Red Cross, 503-280-1450 (pager 503-940-2019)

NEWS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Release No. 0441.96

Tom Amontree (202) 720-4623

Joel Berg (202) 720-5746

GLICKMAN ANNOUNCES "NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY" AND EFFORTS AT NATIONAL POLITICAL CONVENTIONS DURING SACRAMENTO VISIT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14, 1996--During a visit to a food recovery program based in Sacramento, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced today that USDA AmeriCorps members will be recovering food at the Republican and Democratic national political conventions. In addition, USDA AmeriCorps will be organizing a "National Week of Food Recovery" with events next week in over ten states.

Secretary Glickman joined with USDA-sponsored AmeriCorps members who traveled to the California Emergency Foodlink today from other AmeriCorps sites in California in order to help sort and package food. The Secretary also toured the facility to learn about how the organization collects and distributes recovered food statewide.

"Recovering excess food that would normally be discarded is one of my top personal priorities," Glickman said. "The California Emergency Foodlink is an impressive public/private partnership that clearly demonstrates the great potential to expand food recovery efforts throughout the nation."

Glickman announced that, at the Republican National Convention in San Diego, USDA AmeriCorps members sponsored by the Southern California Interfaith Hunger Coalition are currently working with Love's Gift, a San Diego food recovery agency, the American Culinary Federation, and San Diego homeless shelters to collect excess food from restaurants, events, cafeterias, and other convention-related sources and to distribute that food to area residents in need.

At the Democratic National Convention in Chicago, Glickman announced, USDA AmeriCorps members sponsored by the Milwaukee Community Service Corps will be working with the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the American Culinary Institute to recover convention-related food.

"It is heartening that USDA AmeriCorps members will be collecting food from both national political conventions for distribution to hungry people in the San Diego and Chicago areas. Hunger does not divide itself by political party, and neither do ways to alleviate hunger. Both AmeriCorps and the USDA food recovery initiative demonstrate that Americans of all backgrounds -- regardless of political belief -- can band together to help tackle some of the nation's most pressing problems through innovative means," said Glickman.

"It is my hope that the 'National Week of Food Recovery' -- August 19 through 25 -- will focus attention not only on what has already been accomplished by the food recovery movement, but on just how much still needs to be done by the nation as a whole. Virtually every American can volunteer time or take some other action to help recover food," said Glickman.

-more-

Both the food recovery effort at the national conventions and the "National Week of Food Recovery" events are being coordinated by AmeriCorps members in the USDA "Summer of Gleaning" program, which is currently underway in 20 states. The program has utilized members in the AmeriCorps national service program to work with numerous locally based anti-hunger groups, youth service corps, food banks, and food recovery organizations throughout the nation.

The "Summer of Gleaning" program played a lead role in recovering over 174 tons of food from venues associated with the Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Nationally, the USDA AmeriCorps members have recovered over 1,100 tons of food this summer, which will provide about three-quarters of a million meals.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages over 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,000 members: an anti-hunger team, a public lands and environment team, and a rural development team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to "get things done," while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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NOTE: USDA news releases and media advisories are available on the Internet. Access the USDA Home Page on the World Wide Web at <http://www.usda.gov>

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS FOREST SERVICE AMERICORPS PROJECTS PLANNED FOR 19 STATES

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this fiscal year that would have engaged 683 participants in USDA Forest Service projects in 19 states, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U.S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects nationally beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Forest Service AmeriCorps projects would have engaged AmeriCorps members in building and restoring trails, rehabilitating campground sites, fighting forest fires, making recreation areas accessible for disabled persons, protecting habitats for endangered and threatened species, improving timber stands, boosting rural development, providing environmental education services to local schools, and preserving historic sites. AmeriCorps members who successfully completed a full term of service would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of the United States will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed on national forests. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the USDA Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this fall."

USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps projects were planned this fiscal year for Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming.

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work--most of which were allowed by Congress to continue this year. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members nationally constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat enhancement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students.

Also in the first year of the program, in rural development projects implemented nationally by the USDA Forest Service, AmeriCorps members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

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DRAFT MODEL STATE PRESS RELEASE

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS VERMONT AMERICORPS PROJECT ON GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned for this year on the Green Mountain National Forest, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U. S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Vermont program would have engaged 20 citizens as AmeriCorps members performing critical work clearing and restoring trails, rehabilitating and cleaning campground sites, protecting wildlife, improving timber stands, providing environmental education services to local schools, improving fisheries, and preserving historic sites. All the AmeriCorps members who successfully completed the program would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Vermont will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed in the Green Mountain National Forest. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue AmeriCorps projects on national forests starting this fall."

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

USDA currently sponsors both anti-hunger and rural development AmeriCorps projects in Vermont, which were allowed to continue by Congress.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students..

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DRAFT MODEL STATE PRESS RELEASE

Tom Amontree 202-720-4623
Joel Berg 202-720-5746

CONGRESS CANCELS ARKANSAS AMERICORPS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS PLANNED BY USDA FOREST SERVICE

WASHINGTON, July xx, 1996--Congress has canceled the portion of the AmeriCorps national service program planned by the USDA Forest Service that would have implemented community development projects in Arkansas, Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said today.

The program was canceled because Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress denied the U. S. Department of Agriculture's request to reprogram Fiscal Year 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps. However, Glickman expressed his desire to work with Congress to obtain bipartisan support to begin a new, year-long USDA Forest Service AmeriCorps project in Vermont beginning this October using FY97 funds.

The Arkansas program would have engaged three AmeriCorps members in performing critical work in Holly Grove, North Little Rock, and Batesville, Arkansas that would have promoted economic development, protected the environment, and relocated families living in flood plains. All the AmeriCorps members who successfully completed the program would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

"It is unfortunate that the people of Arkansas will not receive the beneficial services that AmeriCorps members would have performed. It is also unfortunate that potential participants in the program will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations," said Glickman, who oversees the Forest Service. "Given that Congress has recently taken bipartisan steps to work with the President to preserve the entire AmeriCorps program, I hope we can reach bipartisan agreement to continue Forest Service-sponsored AmeriCorps projects starting this fall."

AmeriCorps is the President's domestic national service program, authorized by the National and Community Service Act of 1993, which allows Americans of all backgrounds to perform community service in exchange for educational benefits. While most AmeriCorps projects are not run by federal agencies, USDA manages a small portion of AmeriCorps focused nationally on rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger work. All USDA AmeriCorps projects are designed to "get things done" while strengthening communities, expanding educational opportunity, and promoting personal responsibility.

USDA currently sponsors other community development AmeriCorps projects in Arkansas, which were allowed to continue by Congress.

Nationally, in the Forest Service's first operational program year (1994-1995), AmeriCorps members constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trails, achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement, improved 668 acres of timber stands, built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites, reforested 638 acres of land, prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities, improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat, and provided conservation education to 8,373 public school students..

Also in the first year of the program, in community development projects implemented nationally by the USDA Forest Service, AmeriCorps members promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies, improved emergency response and prevention, helped home owners relocate from a flood plain, and developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.

#

REVISED DRAFT EXAMPLE LETTER TO SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN

The Honorable James Jeffords
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Jeffords:

I regret to inform you that, because the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees in Congress have denied the Department's request to reprogram Fiscal year (FY) 1996 Forest Service funds for AmeriCorps, USDA has been forced to cancel the AmeriCorps program that was planned in Vermont on the Green Mountain National Forest for this year.

However, I want to assure you that the Department will take every possible step to obtain bi-partisan support to begin a new, year-long, Forest Service AmeriCorps program beginning this October with funds from FY 1997.

This program in Vermont would have would have engaged 20 citizens --- most of whom would have been from the state --- as AmeriCorps members performing critical work on the Forest clearing and restoring trails, rehabilitating and cleaning campground sites, protecting wildlife, improving timber stands, providing environmental education services to local school, improving fisheries, and preserving historic sites. All the AmeriCorps Members who successfully completed the program --- most of whom would have been from middle class families --- would have received educational awards worth \$4,725 to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

It is unfortunate that the people of Vermont will not be able to benefit from such service and that possible participants will not be able to aid their own post-secondary educations.

Nationally, Forest Service AmeriCorps projects in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year) achieved impressive results. In Public Lands teams serving directly in National Forests, USDA AmeriCorps Members:

- * Constructed, maintained, and improved 682 miles of trail.
- * Achieved 2,569 acres of wildlife habitat improvement; built 133 structures to shelter or protect wildlife; built 296 nesting boxes; and constructed a threatened and endangered plant greenhouse.
- * Improved 668 acres of timber stand.
- * Built or completely rehabilitated 446 campground sites.

- * Reforested 638 acres of land.
- * Prepared 42 campsites for accessibility to people with disabilities.
- * Improved 760 acres of fisheries habitat.
- * Constructed 86 miles of new fence.
- * Maintained 18 miles of vehicle trails to keep them free of obstructive growth and slides.
- * Improved watersheds damaged by fire by cutting and planting 92,500 willows in riparian areas.
- * Improved Forest Service road and safety conditions ---- by "day lighting" 50 curves.
- * Released 775,000 salmon fry in a fish stocking operation.
- * Constructed a major visitor information center.
- * Provided conservation education to 8 8,3 7 3 students K- 1 2.

Also in the first year of the program (1994-1995 program year), AmeriCorps Members serving in Rural Development teams in local communities:

- * Promoted alternative energy sources and wood technologies.
- * Improved emergency response and prevention.
- * Helped home owners relocate from a flood plain.
- * Provided environmental and conservation education to school children.
- * Helped design and construct timber bridges.
- * Developed and implemented municipal recycling initiatives.
- * Created plans for improving local recreational areas.
- * Helped implement historic, scenic, and tourism trails.

In order to start the second program year of Forest Service AmeriCorps projects, we took every possible effort to obtain bi-partisan Congressional support. In both February and May, I wrote letters to Senator Slade Gorton and Congressman Regula, the Senate and House chair people, respectively, of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Interior. Unfortunately, both requests were denied.

However, I am encouraged that recent votes in both the House and the Senate have demonstrated growing bi-partisan support for the overall AmeriCorps program. I believe that the portion of AmeriCorps managed by the Forest Service was responsible for some of the highest quality projects in the entire AmeriCorps program.

Therefore, we expect to soon submit an AmeriCorps reprogramming letter for FY 1997, for which we are extremely hopeful that we will receive bi-partisan support from the Interior appropriations sub-committees in both Houses.

I hope I can have your support in requesting the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to support our upcoming reprogramming request. If you have any questions on this matter, please contact me or Joel Berg, Director of National Service for USDA, at (202) 720-5746. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Dan Glickman
Secretary

From mmp Fri Apr 26 08:38 CDT 1996
>From mmp Fri Apr 26 08:38:17 1996
Date: Fri, 26 Apr 96 08:38:17 CDT
From: Michael M. Price <mmp>

To: @mn600g.UUCP:dwn, @mn600g.UUCP:grw, @mn600g.UUCP:jcb, @mn600g.UUCP:mmp,
@mn600g.UUCP:mn.corps, @mn600g.UUCP:mn1ao!bjo, @mn600g.UUCP:mn1ao!gak,
@mn600g.UUCP:mn2ao!jra, @mn600g.UUCP:mn2ao!tdh, @mn600g.UUCP:mn3ao!bkd,
@mn600g.UUCP:mn3ao!ckh, @mn600g.UUCP:mn4ao!tch, @mn600g.UUCP:mn5ao!jrh,
@mn600g.UUCP:mn5ao!mda, @mn600g.UUCP:mn6ao!pjj, @mn600g.UUCP:mn6ao!rgh,
@mn600g.UUCP:mn7ao!jkl, @mn600g.UUCP:mn7ao!jtn, @mn600g.UUCP:mnsol!jwm,
@mn600g.UUCP:ram, @mn600g.UUCP:tak, @mn600g.UUCP:ter, @rcdmo.UUCP:lmn,
@rcdre.UUCP:lcv

Subject: New MN NRCS AmeriCorps Projects/AmeriCorps Members

Cc: @mn600g.UUCP:bjs, @mn600g.UUCP:bmh, @mn600g.UUCP:has, @mn600g.UUCP:mag,
@mn600g.UUCP:wh

On behalf of State Conservationist Bill Hunt, I'm pleased to announce that an NRCS AmeriCorps Project with the Red Lake Indian Reservation and selection of one Environmental AmeriCorps Member has been approved by NRCS and the Department.

Today, we selected Naomi Blue from Redby, MN to fill the Environmental AmeriCorps position in Red Lake. Larry Voltz, DC, NRCS, Bemidj, AmeriCorps Project Manager and Naomi's supervisor, expects to bring Naomi on board next week.

A lot of people were very instrumental in our being successful in getting the Red Lake Project approved and an AmeriCorps member, especially NRCSers Glen Kajewski, Larry Voltz and John Nicholson. Too, we certainly wouldn't have been successful without the support of the Red Lake Indian Reservation leadership. Thanks very much to all of you.

Next Tuesday, April 30th, Harvey Sundmacker, Ike Wellborn (with the Ramsey Action Program, Inc. in St. Paul), and I, will be interviewing three applicants for two Rural Development AmeriCorps positions in the recently approved MN NRCS Community/Urban Garden Project in the Summit University Frogtown Area of St. Paul. Selections will be made soon thereafter. KMOJ Radio in Minneapolis, particularly John Suttles, has also been extremely helpful with our recruitment efforts for this project. (I'm faxing a copy of this email message to Mr. Suttles this a.m. - thanks John!).

We now have seven AmeriCorps Projects in Minnesota: Warren, Mahnomen, Bemidji, Duluth, St. Paul, Waite Park and Waseca.

Michael M. Price	TELE: (612) 290-3677
Public Affairs Specialist	FAX: (612) 290-3375
Natural Resources Conservation Service	MWNET: mwnet!mn600g!mmp
600 FCS Bldg., 375 Jackson St.	FTS2000 Mail: attmail!mn600g!mmp
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854	INTERNET: mmp@mn.nrcs.usda.gov



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**USDA / AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning and Food Rescue Project
Baltimore, MD**

Four AmeriCorps Members will be working during the summer months to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to needy families and individuals among the elderly, homeless, and other poor in the Greater Baltimore metropolitan area during the summer of 1996. The project will be administered through the Maryland State Office of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), in close partnership with Civic Works (Baltimore's Youth Service Corps) and Washington Area Gleaning Network. Secondary partners will include the Maryland Food Committee, Action for the Homeless, and Maryland Food Bank. Funds to support this project are provided through a grant from the Corporation for National Service as well as from USDA.

The team will develop a network for distribution of gleaned and salvaged produce in conjunction with public and public-assisted housing communities, senior citizens' groups, churches, homeless shelters, food service providers, and other civic and government organizations in the Baltimore area. The Members and partner organizations will further develop and expand the existing network of farms, orchards, and other sources of produce in Maryland that currently support gleaning activities. Volunteer groups will be recruited among homeless shelters, low-income communities, senior citizens' groups, churches, schools, Boy/Girl Scouts, and other civic groups to work with the AmeriCorps Members to harvest and distribute fruits and vegetables to those in need. It is expected that the Summer of Gleaning project will establish a solid basis for continued food salvage and rescue efforts in the Baltimore area in a more permanent, structured arrangement.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program -- passed with bipartisan support from Congress -- that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or to pay back qualified existing student loans. Any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 17 or older can apply for this program. Interested applicants can call the USDA recruitment line at 1-800-880-4183 to receive more information and an AmeriCorps application. Anyone specifically interested in the Maryland Summer of Gleaning and Food Rescue Program can also call Civic Works in Baltimore, at (410) 366-8533.

**HELP FIGHT HUNGER THIS
SUMMER WHILE EARNING
MONEY FOR COLLEGE**



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) "Summer of Gleaning AmeriCorps Program" will sponsor an AmeriCorps program for 12 weeks during the summer of 1996 to glean and rescue excess food to be provided to hungry citizens.

Project Location: SAN JUAN COUNTY

No. of Members to be Selected: 4

Local Contact: LLOYD WILHELM **Telephone:** 334-3090

Brief Project Description: Coordinate and implement a sustainable volunteer food rescue and gleaning program that will provide food for hungry citizens.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program --- passed with bi-partisan support from Congress ---- that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or to pay back qualified existing students loans.

The summer gleaning AmeriCorps projects will provide each member with a living allowance of \$2,242 for the summer, as well as a \$1,000 educational award.

Any citizen or permanent resident of the United States age 17 or older can apply for this program. Anyone interested can call 1-800-880-4183 for more information and for an application.



AmeriCorps National Service

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

FAX COVER SHEET

TO: Joel Berg

LOCATION: _____


FROM: Bill Barrett, Office of Public Affairs, 202/606-5000, ext 267

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER: 5

COMMENTS: Joel — our paper on
the new education/service
stuff.
Bill

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20025
Telephone 202-606-8000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learns and Serves America
National Senior Service Corps

NEWS ADVISORY.**CONTACT: Bill Barrett
202-606-5000, ext. 267****SECRETARY RILEY AND NATIONAL SERVICE CHIEF WOFFORD
ANNOUNCE RESULTS OF NEW RAND/UCLA STUDY
ON SERVICE AND CITIZENSHIP**CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
 SERVICE**Press Briefing to Provide Background for President Clinton's
Series of Commencement Addresses**

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley, Harris Wofford, chief executive officer of the Corporation for National Service, and senior research scientists will hold a May 15 press briefing to present results of a new RAND/UCLA study of service by college students and to provide background for President Clinton's series of commencement addresses on citizenship.

The Rand/UCLA study reports that college students engaged in service improve academically, set higher goals for themselves and grow more committed to changing their communities.

It also finds that local organizations value college volunteers and seek their return, and that colleges and universities participating in the program are increasing their support for service-learning. The new study evaluates the first year of the Learn and Serve America, Higher Education program.

Alexander Astin of UCLA will discuss the new study's findings in light of UCLA's latest survey of college freshmen, which reported their interest in civics to be the lowest in 30 years; RAND's Stephen Klein will discuss the impact of student service on schools and communities.

WHO: Secretary Riley; Harris Wofford; Alexander W. Astin, professor and director, Higher Education Research Institute, UCLA; and Stephen P. Klein, senior research scientist, RAND.

WHAT: Press briefing to discuss RAND/UCLA study of Learn and Serve America Higher Education program, and President Clinton's commencement speeches on citizenship.

WHEN: 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, May 15, 1996

WHERE: Barnard Auditorium, U.S. Department of Education, 600 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

The President's Challenge to Students and Schools

National Service Leader Schools

The Strategy: To encourage high schools to make a substantial commitment to involving students in service and to designate exemplary schools as "National Service Leader Schools."

The High School's Challenge: To make service a common expectation and experience of all students, for example, by integrating service into the curriculum or making service a graduation requirement.

The Government's Challenge: To recognize and reward the high schools that have most effectively integrated service into the learning process and involved the student body in service.

The Student's Challenge: To spend at least five hours a week doing volunteer work.

Illustrative Example: More than 1,000 high school students are trained as mentors and classroom aides for elementary and middle school students every year as part of Learn and Serve America*Summerbridge.

The Goal: To highlight the connection between service and educational excellence and spur high schools around the country to increase the role of service in productive learning.

National Service Scholars

The Strategy: To encourage communities to honor the students who do extraordinary volunteer work through a government matching grant system.

The Community's Challenge: To prompt community groups, states or schools to set up a scholarship fund for high school students who do significant volunteer work.

The Government's Challenge: To match each dollar raised, up to \$500.

The College's Challenge: To consider the scholarship as an indication of leadership potential in the admission process.

The Student's Challenge: To perform significant service through community groups, schools churches or synagogues.

Illustrative Example: The Junior League of Washington now gives college scholarships to the high school student in the District of Columbia who volunteers the most hours. The National Service Scholars program would increase the number of such awards.

Goal: By next year, high schools throughout America would announce National Service Scholars.

Serving Your Way Through College

The Strategy: To more effectively focus College Work Study positions on community service activities.

The Government's Challenge: To support President Clinton's proposal to increase funding for the College Work Study program by 10% per year for the next five years, allowing colleges to redirect the focus of the College Work Study program more toward serving community needs.

The College's Challenge: To direct the focus of their College Work Study funds more toward serving community needs. Applying one-half of President Clinton's proposed increase in work study funds each year to community service opportunities would increase the number of such opportunities from the current 36,000 to more than 200,000 by the turn of the century.

The Student's Challenge: To help not only themselves but their communities as they work their way through college.

Illustrative Example: Ohio Wesleyan University has work-study students tutor and mentor disadvantaged middle school students as part of a Columbus, Ohio, initiative, a program based on the acclaimed "I Have a Dream" model.

Goal: To align student opportunity with responsibility -- to make college more affordable, connect schools and their students with the surrounding communities, and serve community needs through student work study service.

MAJOR FINDINGS OF RAND/UCLA STUDY ON LEARN AND SERVE AMERICA: HIGHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

An independent evaluation of the Learn and Serve America: Higher Education program conducted by RAND and UCLA found significant progress in achieving all three of the program's major goals. College students who participate in service showed higher levels of academic achievement, civic responsibility, and life skills; community organizations highly valued the service of college volunteers; and participating colleges and universities significantly expanded opportunities for student service.

The study evaluated the first year impacts of the Learn and Serve Higher Education program, one of three service initiatives of the Corporation for National Service. In the 1994-95 school year, \$9.5 million was distributed to over 500 higher education institutions, about one in every seven colleges and universities nationwide. Data were collected by RAND and UCLA through surveys to grantee institutions, community organizations and students at participating institutions.

IMPACTS ON STUDENTS: UCLA's Higher Education Research Institute, widely known for its annual college freshman study, surveyed more than 3,400 college students attending 41 Learn and Serve institutions and found that student participation in service produced significant, positive effects on all 35 dimensions measured, even after controlling for a wide variety of environmental factors. Compared to nonparticipants, students who participated in service exhibited higher levels of:

- academic achievement, including grades, degree aspirations, retention, contact with faculty, even hours spent studying and doing homework;
- civic responsibility, including commitment to helping others, promoting racial understanding, and willingness to volunteer in the future;
- life skills, including leadership abilities, awareness of national and community problems, self-confidence, interpersonal skills, critical thinking and conflict resolution skills.

Further, while service participants showed increases in their commitment to influence social values and politics, and in their belief that individuals can make a difference, students who didn't participate reported declines in all three areas.

IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES: In 1995, 443 community agencies and schools answered RAND surveys which assessed the contributions of student volunteers. Major findings include:

- College volunteers were highly effective in promoting the goals of the community organizations they served. Due to the volunteer's efforts, organizations were able to improve service quality, variety and quantity.
- Community groups rated student volunteers as substantially more effective than other volunteers and equal in effectiveness to paid staff. Almost all (97%) of community organization would like to work with Learn and Serve student volunteers again.
- The majority of students in Learn and Serve programs (75%) worked to promote school success among K-12 youth, and slightly over half (53%) involved students helping the homeless, impoverished or elderly people. Other grantees worked to improve neighborhood environments (38%), foster school readiness and literacy (37%), improve health (37%) and prevent crime (31%). As these numbers indicate, most programs worked in multiple areas.

IMPACTS ON INSTITUTIONS: In addition to promoting direct service, Learn and Serve grants help build the higher education sector's capacity for service. In the first year, grantees developed over 1,000 new courses incorporating service, 33% of the institutions integrated services into courses for the first time, 30% convened a faculty committee on service, and 23% opened an on-campus center for service-learning.

Background on the President's Call for Personal Responsibility and Civic Responsibility

In a series of commencement addresses today and in the weeks to come, the President will discuss how America can meet its challenges in the remaining years of this century: by expanding opportunity here at home, keeping America strong in the world, and inspiring a new sense of personal and civic responsibility to repair our social fabric.

In today's address at Penn State University, the President sets forth a series of challenges to Americans in all walks of life to take responsibility for themselves, their families, their communities and their country. The social challenges we face -- family breakdown, welfare dependency, teen pregnancy, crime, the loss of values and community -- will not be solved by government alone, but by a new commitment from all Americans to do more.

As the President said in his State of the Union Address, "The era of big government is over. But we cannot go back to the time when our citizens were left to fend for themselves. Instead, we must go forward as one America, one nation working together, to meet the challenges we face together."

WELFARE REFORM AND FAMILY BREAKDOWN

Families are the foundation of American life -- yet for too many Americans, that foundation has eroded badly. Nearly a third of the babies born in America today are born outside marriage -- a fourfold increase in the past 30 years. Millions of children whose parents divorced or never married rarely see their absent parent and don't receive the child support that absent parent owes them. Last year, one million Americans, mostly women, were the victims of domestic abuse. The President is issuing a series of challenges to reverse those trends:

- **Reform welfare by imposing time limits and requiring work and responsibility.** In the past three years, the Administration has set in motion what *The New York Times* called a "quiet revolution" on welfare reform. The Administration has approved 60 waivers to give 37 states the freedom to reform welfare. Seventy-five percent of all welfare recipients live in households that are subject to these new rules. The nation's welfare rolls have declined 1.1 million since January 1993.

On May 4th of this year, the Administration took action to require teen mothers to stay in school, sign personal responsibility contracts, and turn their lives around, or lose their benefits. In the past week, he has met with members of Congress in both parties in a continued effort to pass sweeping, bipartisan national legislation to impose strict time limits, work requirements, and the toughest child support enforcement measures in history.

- **Reduce teen pregnancy.** In response to the President's call in the State of the Union, a group of prominent Americans has formed an organization to lead a national campaign against teen pregnancy. Today, the President is calling on church groups, parents, and other citizens to send a clear message: young people shouldn't get pregnant or father a child until they are married adults who are ready to take responsibility to raise that child.
- **Make parents pay child support.** As part of the welfare reform debate, Congress has endorsed the Administration's sweeping plan to toughen child support enforcement. The legislation says to parents: if you owe child support, we will take away your driver's license, garnish your wages, track you down, and make you pay. In 1995, the President signed an executive order requiring federal employees to pay child support. In the past three years, child support collections have risen 40%, to a record \$11 billion.
- **Stop the scourge of domestic violence.** Last year, more than one million Americans were the victims of domestic abuse. The 1994 Crime Bill included the Violence Against Women Act, which provides more prosecutors, more police, and more resources to combat domestic violence. This year, the Administration launched a national domestic abuse hotline, which helped nearly 10,000 women in its first week alone. Today, the President challenges Congress to send him the Kassebaum-Kennedy health reform bill, which will stop insurance companies from refusing to cover medical costs for women who have been abused on the grounds that domestic abuse is a "pre-existing condition."

CRIME AND DRUGS

Over the past three years, the Administration has put in place a comprehensive strategy to fight crime and prevent it before it happens. Since the President signed it into law in 1993, the Brady Bill has stopped 60,000 fugitives and felons from buying handguns. The 1994 Crime Bill took 19 deadly assault weapons off the street, and is providing the resources to help communities put 100,000 new police officers on the street. The Administration has also funded drug courts to force non-violent offenders to get off drugs or go to jail. Under the Drug Czar, General Barry McCaffrey, the Administration is working aggressively to prosecute drug crimes, reduce demand for drugs, and stop drugs from entering America's borders.

Nationwide, the crime rate has dropped, and the murder rate is the lowest in 30 years. Today, the President called on Americans to do more, especially in the one area of crime that has been rising for a decade -- youth violence.

- **One million new citizen volunteers to stand with the 100,000 new police.** The 1994 Crime Bill, with its 100,000 new police officers, has helped spark a revolution of community policing across America. Community policing is putting police back on the beat, working with neighbors to prevent crime and catch criminals. Today, the

President is calling for a citizen force of one million new community volunteers to join the 100,000 new police. There are some 20,000 neighborhood watch groups in America. If just 50 more citizens joined each of those groups, the nation's police officers would have one million new partners in the war on crime and drugs.

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

As we work to balance the budget over the next six years, we must rely even more heavily on the sense of duty of the American people. We must shrink the government, but we cannot shrink from our challenges.

In 1993, the President signed into law the national service program, Americorps, which has already given more than 40,000 young people the chance to earn money for college by serving their community and their country. The recent budget agreement preserved Americorps with bipartisan support. Today, the President is calling for three further steps to give young Americans a chance to give something back:

- **Expand college work-study, and put college students to work performing public service in their communities.** In the State of the Union, the President asked Congress to increase funding for work study by 10% a year for the next five years, so that one million students can be earning their way through school under the program in the year 2000. Today, the President is challenging colleges to use this money to turn the focus of college work study toward community service. If colleges apply half the proposed increase in this way, it would mean 200,000 students in community service by the year 2000.
- **Challenge every middle school and high school to make service a part of its basic ethic, and challenge every student to serve.** Schools should make service a common expectation and experience of all students -- for example, by making service part of the curriculum, or by making service a graduation requirement, as the state of Maryland has done. To encourage schools to make a substantial commitment to involving service and to highlight the connection between educational excellence and service, Americorps will designate exemplary schools as "National Service Leader Schools."
- **Challenge communities to join in providing National Service Scholarships to high school students who perform extraordinary service.** Today, the President is challenging communities, schools, businesses, and civic groups to raise money to reward students who do significant work for their community. The federal government would match each dollar raised, up to \$500. The Administration has asked Congress for a \$150 million increase in Americorps funding for the coming year. If communities name a National Service Scholar at each of the 20,000 high schools in America, the federal cost would be \$10 million. Americorps will launch this initiative for the 1996-97 school year.



CITY OF ALBANY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
88 NORTH LAKE AVENUE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12206-2578

GERALD D. JENNINGS
MAYOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHARLES H. SHOUDY
COMMISSIONER

For more information, please
contact Paul Winkeller @ 434-2677

June 13, 1996

Albany Receives AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Grant

At a press conference scheduled for Monday, June 17th at 2 P.M., at the *Harvest For The Hungry Garden* in Albany (see attached map for directions), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will announce that the Albany Service Corps, working through the USDA's Farm Service Agency, has been awarded one of only twenty grants in a nationwide AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning program. AmeriCorps is the two year old national service program and the Albany Service Corps is a full-time year-round program founded in 1990 that involves a diverse array of young adults in local community service projects.

The intent of this program is to move significant amounts of surplus fresh produce from area farms, as well as surplus fresh food prepared in area restaurants and institutions, into the local emergency food system to help feed twenty thousand low-income individuals a month within a six county area. Four local residents will take part in this twelve week program. Participants will receive a modest weekly stipend and a \$1000 Education Award upon completion of 480 hours of service. Summer of Gleaning members will work in six counties - Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene and Columbia - and it is anticipated that at least ten tons of fresh food will move into soup kitchens and food pantries primarily in three of those counties: Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer.

The AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Project represents a six agency collaboration, who will work closely together to maximize the benefits of this grant: The Capital Gleaning Network, the Hunger Action Network of New York State, Food Pantries of the Capital District, the Regional Food Bank, Schenectady Inner City Ministries and the Albany Service Corps.

"The City of Albany is delighted to be a host site for a Summer of Gleaning," notes Mayor Gerald D. Jennings. "Our city and county government have a strong record of support for AmeriCorps, and are pleased to have the opportunity to put the energy of local residents to work to help feed the thousands of individuals and families who are served each month by local soup kitchens and food pantries."

Tom:

As you recall, while in Chicago, the Secretary posed for separate photographs to go along with press releases to the home-town papers of the AmeriCorps Members. Attached is a draft release --- to be issued by FSA in Illinois --- that would go with the photos to the local papers. Can you get the quote from the Secretary approved?

Tool -ful
Jobs
Pre
78

Draft

Contact: Rod Atterberry
Project Director
Mason County FSA
(309) 543-2582

AmeriCorps Members Kick-off
a Summer of Gleaning

For immediate release
June 11, 1976

Chicago, IL-- On June 7, the Illinois River Valley AmeriCorps team traveled to Chicago to kick-off a summer of gleaning with Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman. Stephen Scates, executive director of the Illinois Farm Service Agency, accompanied the five AmeriCorps members along with county and project director, Rod Atterberry.

The AmeriCorps members developed the gleaning program Harvesting Hope for the residents of Mason and southern Tazewell counties to rescue vegetables that might otherwise go to waste and distribute them to families in need of fresh produce. The vegetables may go unharvested due to a variety of reasons including: market cosmetics, weather problems, cost-effectiveness of additional harvests, and surplus.

While in Chicago, Secretary Glickman and the Harvesting Hope program donated 20 pounds of fresh gleaned peas to the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

"These peas demonstrate how AmeriCorps volunteers have put their energy and enthusiasm into these efforts to help community members who are hungry," stated Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman.

Atterberry presented the peas by stating, 'Secretary Glickman's support of AmeriCorps and commitment to ~~gleaning~~ has made programs like our Harvesting Hope fresh vegetable gleaning program possible.'

AmeriCorps members also toured the newly constructed Mother's Cupboard Food Pantry located in the Robert Taylor homes.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service program, passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that allows Americans of all backgrounds to serve their communities in exchange for educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or existing student loans. USDA sponsors rural development, environmental protection, and anti-hunger projects that engage up to 1,350 of the 25,000 members in the overall AmeriCorps program.

NEED
Approval

←

A FSD
Review

News Release

Contact:

Bettye W. Oliver (601-965-5460)

George E. Irvin, Sr. (601-965-4316)

AMERICORPS MEMBERS RENOVATE HOME OF ELDERLY WOMAN

U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) AmeriCorps Members are playing a key role in renovating the home of a disabled Hinds County Senior Citizen, announced George E. Irvin, Sr., RECD State Director. " Ms. Dorothy Coffee, a 64 year old disabled woman, received a grant totaling \$6500 from RECD for repairs to remove health and safety hazards from her home", said Irvin. The renovations are the results of the efforts begun almost ten months ago of AmeriCorps members Charlet Meredith and LaDonna James.

The members first met Ms. Coffee in April of 1995. The AmeriCorps team was interested in performing minor repairs to a home in rural Mississippi as part of 1995 National Day of Volunteering.

Ms. Coffee had applied for a loan through RECD in 1992 but was ineligible because of lack of income and the location of her home. Meredith knew that Ms. Coffee's home would require more than time and funds than were available to the team for the National Day of Volunteering, but was determined to see the necessary repairs completed.

Meredith researched the file on Ms. Coffee and found that County lines had been redrawn since the time Ms. Coffee had made her application and her home was no longer out of the RECD service area. "Once we knew that Ms. Coffee was in an area where we could help her, the problem was how to go about doing it. If Ms. Coffee applied for another loan, she would again be turned down on the basis of her income", Meredith said. I went back to the RECD procedures for grants, and found out that the homeowner had to be 62 years of age with very little income.

Harris Building and Roofing Company in Hazlehurst, MS secured the bid for renovations. George Harris, owner of the construction company, surveyed the home and estimated that the necessary repairs would exceed \$13,000. In order to work within the grant, Mr. Harris could only eliminate extreme health hazards. Harris agreed to work with the AmeriCorps members to maximize repairs to the Coffee home. AmeriCorps members were able to maximize Ms. Coffee's grant by recruiting volunteers for extra labor and acquiring materials that were not included in the contract.

504 Soars
and grant

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The AmeriCorps member Hinds County RECD's County Supervisor, Cecil Williams, Jr. said, "the grant does not provide for cosmetic improvements such as painting and cabinetry work. The AmeriCorps members have not only made Ms. Coffee's home safer but more valuable."

When asked how she felt about the renovations, Ms. Coffee said, "People used to tell me not to complain about the way my house looked because some people didn't have anywhere to stay. By the time I met the AmeriCorps members I had given up hope on having my house repaired."

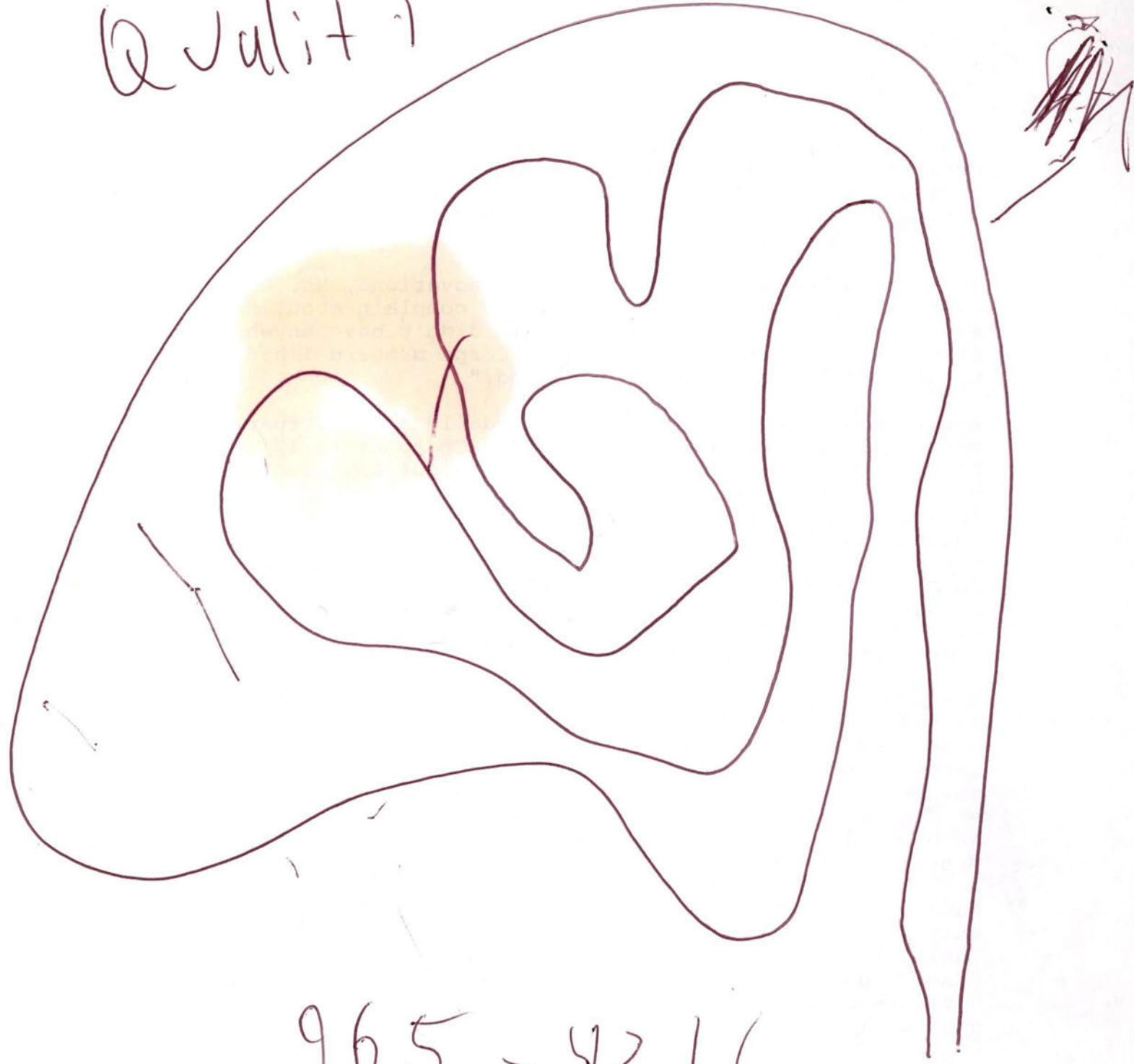
AmeriCorps members will be on site daily from February 20th until all repairs are completed. " RECD sponsors 12 AmeriCorps Members in 11 rural Mississippi Counties. Members serve a minimum of 1700 hours of community service in exchange for a small living allowance and future educational benefits", said Irvin.

In addition to AmeriCorps members from RECD, volunteers from Jackson State University and nearby neighbors helped with this project. The volunteers have logged more than 400 hours toward the completion of this project.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program, passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnership with states, local governments and non-profit organizations.

USDA is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of 1,350 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the organizations and all projects are designed to get things done while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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USDA AMERICORPS SUMMER OF GLEANING

* In partnership with literally dozens of locally based anti-hunger groups, youth service corps, food pantries, and food recovery organizations, USDA is sponsoring special "Summer of Gleaning" AmeriCorps projects in 20 states. This special summer initiative is a small, but important, part of both the USDA AmeriCorps program and the overall AmeriCorps program.

* The "Summer of Gleaning" projects promote the general idea of food recovery, a top personal priority of Secretary Glickman. These projects are designed to work with farmers, agribusinesses, food distribution organizations, institutions, and restaurants to recover and glean food that would be otherwise thrown away and to distribute that food to hungry people.

* The "Summer of Gleaning" projects are based on the so-called "volunteer generator" model in which a handful of AmeriCorps Members recruit numerous non-compensated volunteers to help implement the project.

* The "Summer of Gleaning Projects last twelve weeks, during which the AmeriCorps Members receive small living stipends. All AmeriCorps Members who successfully complete this special summer program will receive a \$1,000 educational award that can be used to pay for college, job training, graduate school, or to pay back existing student loans.

* The "Summer of Gleaning" is **NOT** based on the traditional liberal premise that a heavy-handed, bureaucratically driven, large government program based in Washington has all answers to the nations' problems. Conversely, the "Summer of Gleaning" is **NOT** based on the traditional conservative premise that the free-market, volunteers, and non-profit organizations alone --- without any government help at all --- can solve all the nation's social problems. Rather, the **"Summer of Gleaning" is based on the reinventing government philosophy of President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, and Secretary Glickman which believes that government must provide energy, vision, and some limited Federal funds as a catalyst to empower local communities to help solve their own problems.**

TALKING POINTS ON THE USDA AMERICORPS PROGRAM

*** USDA is sponsoring approximately 1,300 AmeriCorps Members who are serving in over 45 different states in projects fighting hunger, improving the environment, and re-building rural communities.** The USDA portion of AmeriCorps is a relatively small, yet important, portion of the larger overall program; the overall program now enrolls approximately 25,000 AmeriCorps members serving in every state of the nation. The USDA portion of the program is highly unusual because the vast majority of AmeriCorps projects are not funded or managed by Federal agencies --- most are funded through state commissions appointed by each state's governor and are managed by non-profit organizations and local government organizations. USDA AmeriCorps projects do **NOT** duplicate the functions of AmeriCorps projects funded by state commissions; rather, USDA AmeriCorps fill unique needs that can not generally be filled by state commission-funded projects.

*** USDA AmeriCorps Members are reducing government bureaucracy by performing community service that rapidly and directly aids citizens.** USDA AmeriCorps Members are not Federal employees and are not performing functions generally performed by Federal employees. However, they are performing work far more cost-effectively than would be provided through normal government methods.

*** USDA AmeriCorps projects are "getting things done" providing vital and mainstream service to rural, suburban, and urban communities throughout America.** For instance, USDA projects are building trails and fighting fire on National Forests, improving city parks, aiding rural fire departments, creating urban gardens, bringing running water to low-income rural families, and teaching children how to improve their nutrition.

*** USDA AmeriCorps projects provide taxpayers with double the "bang for the buck."** USDA is simply utilizing funds already appropriated to the Department. For instance, USDA Forest Service projects use some funding from existing trail repair budgets. Not only do the AmeriCorps Members repair more trails than would be repaired by other means, they also bring communities together, promote personal responsibility, and help the earn their own way through college --- all for the same tax dollars that normally would fund just the trail repair.

*** USDA AmeriCorps projects are strengthening communities.** Usually working in partnership with community-based organizations, USDA AmeriCorps Members are meeting the most pressing needs in each of hundreds of locales in which they are operating. **The service projects are not designed or implemented as a "cookie cutter" approach dictated from Washington --- all the projects are locally-proposed and locally-administered.** Consequently, virtually all of the USDA AmeriCorps projects have received broad-based bi-partisan support from local community leaders.

*** Most USDA AmeriCorps projects are in rural and suburban areas that often receive less aid from the Federal government.** These areas also often lack significant non-profit sector support networks. USDA has a field structure that is uniquely suited to run programs in traditionally under-served areas. USDA AmeriCorps projects are particularly important in North and South Dakota, which currently do not have state national service commissions.

*** The USDA program enables AmeriCorps Members to perform tasks requiring technical expertise far beyond the capabilities of the vast majority of non-profit organizations.** For instance, under direct and sustained supervision from experts in the field, USDA AmeriCorps Members are inspecting flood-damaged dams, implementing strategic plans to create local jobs, designing and implementing entire recycling programs for counties, helping farmers diversify their crops, bolstering Empowerment Zones and Enterprise communities, designing and building timber bridges, and decreasing ground water pollution. If AmeriCorps Members are to "get things done" that require more than simple physical labor and that result in long-lasting improvements in communities, then Members need the kind of advanced technical training and supervision that can be provided by entities such as USDA.

*** The USDA AmeriCorps program forges common bonds of unity among all Americans.** By bringing together Americans of all races, classes, genders, religions, and physical abilities to work side-by-side, AmeriCorps strengthens the cords that bind us together as a people. The "sweat equity" created by AmeriCorps is playing a role in healing the nation's wounds and bridging our divisions. AmeriCorps is changing the country because it creates a new civic compact in which any citizen can be tied to the nation by the simple virtue of making a difference in the lives of others.

*** The USDA AmeriCorps program expands educational and economic opportunity.** Participants in the program receive a small living stipend and an educational award worth \$4,725 that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, job training, or to pay back existing student loans. There is NO economic needs test to participate in this program -- the only requirement to participate is a desire to serve the country. Thus, this program greatly boosts students from the middle class, who were previously told that their families "make too much money" to qualify for most existing Federal aid programs. Yet the program also helps low income families for whom aid programs are clearly insufficient.

*** The USDA AmeriCorps program promotes personal responsibility.** All AmeriCorps projects require extremely hard work in exchange for educational benefits, while helping AmeriCorps Members build a life-long commitment to community service. AmeriCorps gives all Americans a new way of giving something back to the country. It reminds us that, along with rights we enjoy as citizens, we all have certain obligations to protect those rights and to aid our own communities. Furthermore, AmeriCorps gives young people a tangible way to take charge of their own lives.



AMERICORPS

TEAM USDA

OCTOBER 25, 1993

TO: _____

FAX: _____

FROM: KATHERINE GIBNEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
202 720-5043 (fax)
202 720-4623 (telephone)

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 2

MESSAGE: AGENDA FOR VISIT TO D.C. SERVICE CORPS

8:15 A.M. - MEET AT FREEDOM PLAZA (PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE BETWEEN 13TH AND 14TH STREETS - IN FRONT OF NATIONAL THEATRE) CORPS MEMBERS GET DAY'S INSTRUCTIONS AND DO SOME EXERCISE.

8:30 - 8:40 A.M. - USDA TASK FORCE MEMBERS WILL BE DIVIDED INTO TEAMS OF THREE OR FOUR TO DEPART BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO THREE DIFFERENT SITES. WE WILL BE VISITING THE CAPITAL AREA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK, AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AN AGING PROJECT. I WILL HAVE DESCRIPTIONS OF THE WORK AT EACH PROJECT WEDNESDAY MORNING. IF YOU FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT ONE PROJECT OR THE OTHER, I WILL TRY TO WORK IT OUT SO YOU ARE ASSIGNED TO THAT PROJECT.

APPROXIMATELY 9:30 A.M. - ARRIVE AT SITES WHERE AN ESCORT (TEAM COORDINATOR OR ASSISTANT WILL WALK USDA TASK FORCE MEMBERS THROUGH SITE, EXPLAINING PROJECT.)

APPROXIMATELY NOON - LEAVE SITES BY PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION TO RETURN TO D.C. SERVICE CORPS OFFICE AT 1511 K STREET N.W.

GIVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE SERVICE CORPS (COMMUNICATIONS, EDUCATION, CAREER DEVELOPMENT, ETC.) AND WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS.

2 P.M. - RETURN TO USDA

10/19/93 16:43

202 720 5043

USDA OPA

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AMERICORPS

TEAM USDA

OCTOBER 19, 1993

FD

OPTIONAL FORM 99 (7 90)
FAX TRANSMITTAL # of pages

From Elizabeth Juchman

DEPT/Agency Phone #

Fax # 670-2469 Fax #

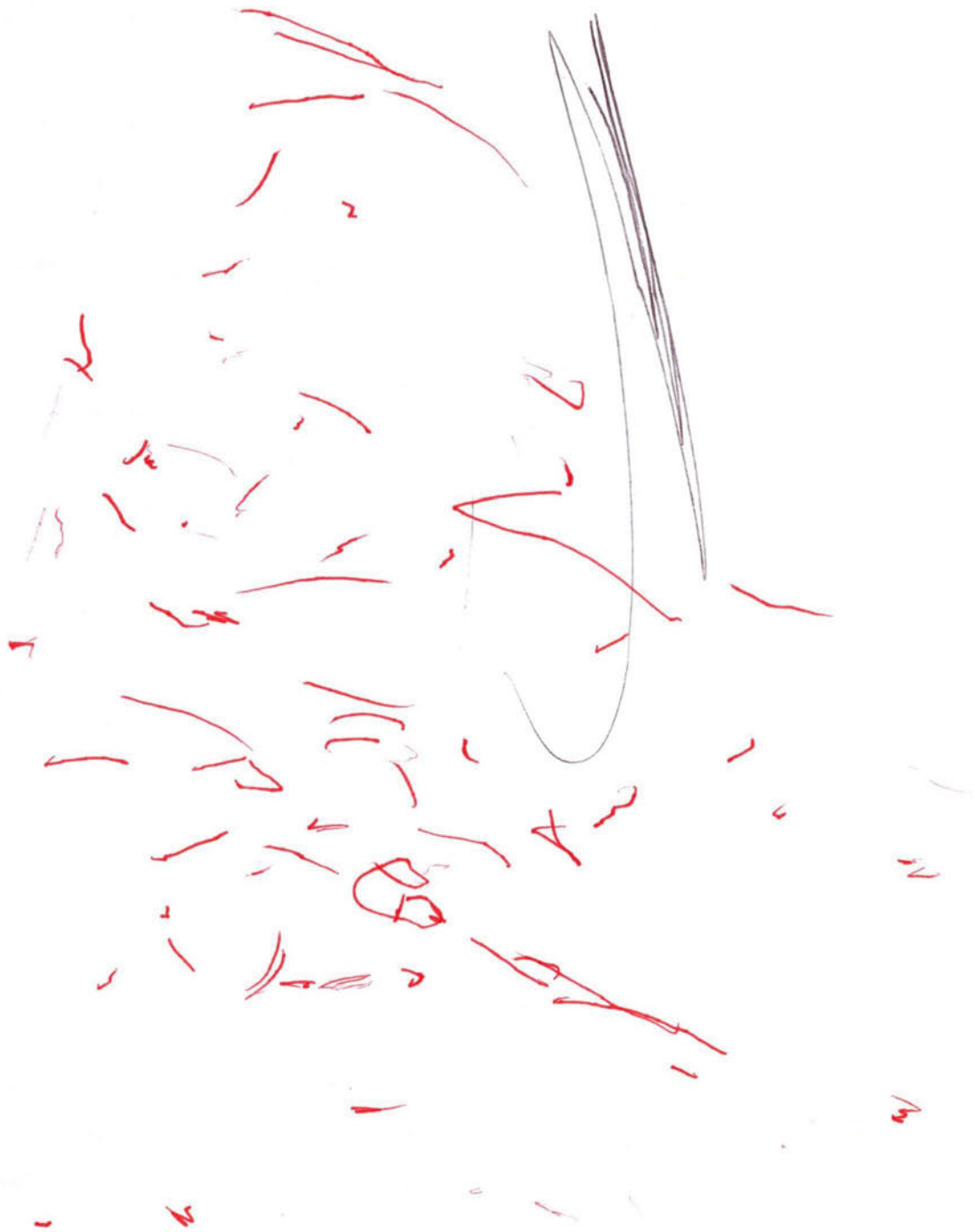
NSN 7540-01-317-7368 5099-101 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

FROM: KATHERINE GIBNEY
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
 202 720-5049 (fax)
 202 720-4623 (telephone)

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET 1

MESSAGE: I HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR TASK FORCE MEMBERS TO VISIT THE D.C. SERVICE PROJECT ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27. WE WILL LEAVE IN THE MORNING, VISIT SEVERAL SITES, AND HAVE A ROUNDTABLE LUNCH WITH CORPS MEMBERS. PLEASE LET ME KNOW BY FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, IF YOU CAN GO AS I NEED TO ARRANGE FOR TRANSPORTATION. I HAVE NOT SHORED UP THE EXACT TIME OF DEPARTURE AND RETURN, BUT WE WILL PROBABLY LEAVE ABOUT 9 A.M. AND RETURN BY 2 P.M. BY FRIDAY, I WILL FAX YOU AN EXACT TIMETABLE AND A SCHEDULE OF EVENTS DURING THE DAY. WE WILL DEFINITELY BE VISITING SEVERAL SITES OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS.

IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO MEET ONE-ON-ONE WITH EACH TASK FORCE MEMBER TO DISCUSS YOUR IDEAS ABOUT WHERE YOU THINK WE SHOULD GO FROM HERE. I WILL CALL LATER IN THE WEEK TO BEGIN SCHEDULING A TIME CONVENIENT TO EACH OF YOU TO MEET.





UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

AmeriCorps Program Director Reviews Area AmeriCorps Cluster's Service Project

Corporation for National Service Visits Riverwalk in Marion

For Immediate Release

Thursday, May 25, 1995

Contact: Audrey Biggs, AmeriCorps Outreach Coordinator
110 Spiller St. Ste. C, Wytheville, VA 24382-1929
(703) 228-2879

Marion—Mr. Joel Berg, Program Manager for the AmeriCorps Program from the Corporation for National Service, will be visiting Marion, Virginia on May 25, 1995. Mr. Berg is touring AmeriCorps member sites to interview the AmeriCorps members and gauge their effectiveness in their assigned communities. He is expected to meet with area committee chairs and local officials to look at the Riverwalk Tree Identification Lab. The Lab, one of the Community Service Projects completed by the New River-Highlands AmeriCorps Cluster, is a walking trail envisioned by the Grassroots Conservancy and co-sponsored by the Town of Marion, and local agencies. The Tree Identification Lab is an educational tool sponsored by the Grassroots Conservancy, Inc., through a RC&D Area acquired grant.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Forest
Service

San Bernardino
National Forest

1824 So. Commercenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408-3430
909 383-5588 TDD 909 383-5616

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Lorraine Lawrence
PHONE: (909) 383-5588
PAGER: (909) 405-0709

LOCAL AMERICORPS MEMBERS TO MEET NATIONAL AMERICORPS DIRECTOR

SAN BERNARDINO, CA, June 16, 1995 -- On Monday, June 19, ninety local AmeriCorps Members from the San Bernardino National Forest and Natural Resource Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service) will work shoulder to shoulder with Joel Berg, director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Service Program (AmeriCorps).

Berg and local Members from San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties will plant trees and refurbish a campground on the Forest.

AmeriCorps, also known as the "domestic Peace Corps", is a national service program created by President Clinton to inspire Americans to be more civic minded and to serve their country and their communities. AmeriCorps has its roots in the National and Community Service Act of 1990, an act that Berg helped to craft.

Berg will help AmeriCorps plant approximately 200 willow trees in Big Meadow in the Forest's Heart Bar area. The trees will preserve the meadow by preventing stream banks from eroding during periods of high water runoffs. "This project will help to preserve one of the Forest's few remaining large meadows, which in turn will preserve wildlife diversity," said Berg. "Without AmeriCorps Members' help, this project would have to wait a long time to get underway. But now, we are on our way to protecting an important aquatic resource for local communities."

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AmeriCorps Members have also met with Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Richard Rominger and President Clinton, but Berg will be the first to actually work on projects with Members.

The Forest's AmeriCorps program is the largest of its kind in the nation with projects devoted to protecting and conserving public lands and enriching the environment. So far, AmeriCorps has completed approximately 22 environmental projects that include the construction of a native plant park, miles of trail maintenance and construction, campground refurbishment, riparian restoration, and major environmental rehabilitation work on scorched areas of the 12,000 acre Devil Fire of 1994.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 38 states, composed of approximately 1,200 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

For more information, please page Lorraine Lawrence (909) 405-0709.

###

LIST OF AMERICORPS MEMBERS BY RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY

SAN BERNARDINO

Bryant, Larry
 Corbitt, Rebecca
 Pendley, Eulah
 Resendez, Yvonne
 Whitchurch, Loren
 Quinalty, Jesse
 Vanbuskirk, Matt

HIGHLAND

Solis, Adrian

RIALTO

Zamora, Arturo
 Giles, Karen
 Trujillo, Dion
 Jackson, Lazer
 LaBelle, Audra

BLOOMINGTON

Hicks, Barbara

COLTON

Gonzalez, Tino

ALTA LOMA

Basenburg, Paul

FONTANA

Harrison, Don
 Falley, Laura
 Hill, Desiree

GRAND TERRACE

Doyle, Noah

REDLANDS

Lyons, Kym
 Gonzalez, Yvette
 Slowinski, Matt
 Reykdal, Erik
 Salem, Ramsey
 McCallum, Shannon

MENTONE

Gonzalez, Janet
 Peterson, David

YUCAIPA

Faulisi, Scott
 Contreras, Tim
 Brown, Nick
 Contreras, Reuben
 Chavez, Candace

CRESTLINE

Hamby, Geoff
 Kelly, Heather

HESPERIA

Leach, Donovan
 Runnels, Kevin

VICTORVILLE

Armijo, Nick

APPLE VALLEY

Miller, Jason

LUCERNE

Curnutt, William

BLUE JAY

Fister, Robert

ARROWHEAD

Abeshouse, Deborah
 Staresinic, Chuck

CALIMESA

Amundsen, Kenneth

CHERRY VALLEY

Valdez, Jason

BEAUMONT

Paye, Timothy

PALM SPRINGS

Olvera, Patrina
 Rodriguez, Veronyka
 Savio, Angela
 Janus, Chris

PALM DESERT

Kanikaynar, Metin

INDIO

Komenchuck, Eve
 Soto, John

HEMET

Rubio, Chris

MURRIETTA

Bowen, Wordell

TEMECULA

Patton, Monique

CORONA

Deserly, Matthew
 Krueger, Erik

PERRIS

Clemet, Chris
 Gibbs, Shana

MORENO VALLEY

Perry, Karen
 Escobar, Brandon
 Munds, Faron
 Northrop, Jamin
 Boyd, James
 Davenport, Makini
 Barnum, Kelly

RIVERSIDE

Redmond, Erik
 Farver, Donald
 Boyd, Sarah
 Brown, Jennifer
 Costa, Jennifer

*Press
Release
USDA*

AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBER TO TESTIFY AT ILLINOIS RURAL CONFERENCE

LaDonna Gulley, an AmeriCorps Rural Development Team Member sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, testified Monday, April 24, at the Rural Conference in Illinois about the role of her national service work in her education.

Mrs. Gulley is creating a microenterprise program in Yazoo City, Mississippi, for low-income families, AFDC and public housing clients to help move them towards self-sufficiency. "The program helps give people a chance who never thought they could go into business," she said. "It helps them with writing a business plan, marketing strategies, recordkeeping skills, and tax issues."

Ms. Gulley, who is serving under the auspices of the USDA Rural Economic and Community Development agency, is working in partnership with three local banks and three state organizations.

The six forums, scheduled across the country this week, will culminate in President Clinton's National Rural Conference at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa on April 25.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, created by President Clinton and passed with bi-partisan support from Congress, that engages 20,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs. In return for this service, AmeriCorps Members receive awards to help pay for higher

(more)

(2)

education, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. The USDA program has projects in 38 states, many of which are sponsored by community-based organizations. All AmeriCorps projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

#

**Contacts: Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
Katherine Gibney (202) 720-4369**

AMERICORPS/USDA MEMBERS PERFORM EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES NATIONWIDE

U.S. Department of Agriculture AmeriCorps Members planted a garden across from the White House to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Earth Day, while AmeriCorps/USDA Members nationwide commemorated the April 22 event with projects in their own backyards.

Seventeen AmeriCorps Members from Maryland and the District of Columbia, working with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, planted a Native American Heritage Garden with indigenous plants from throughout the country on a plot on the Ellipse, south of the White House. The garden is part of the American Indian Earth Day Program.

Visitors to the garden received a packet of heirloom seeds and information on the indigenous plants, the American Indian heritage of conservation, and current conservation efforts. Callers may dial 1-800-THE SOIL to order a free action packet on current conservation practices.

A sampling of AmeriCorps/USDA Earth Day events around the country follows:

* In Marion, Virginia, AmeriCorps/USDA Members presented a guidebook they compiled for a new Tree Identification Lab, an interpretive trail on the banks of the Middle Fork Holston River, to the Marion community;

* In Cloquet, Minnesota, AmeriCorps/USDA Members planted

(more)

(2)

approximately 5,000 trees at three sites with the assistance of about 200 community volunteers; and

* In Kingsport, Tennessee, two displays created by AmeriCorps/USDA Members were set up to inform the public about an upcoming Regional Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program in Kingsport.

AmeriCorps is a national service program, created by President Clinton and passed with bipartisan support from Congress, that engages diverse groups of Americans in performing critical service to meet community needs. In return for this service, AmeriCorps Members receive educational awards that can be used to pay for college, graduate school, or job training. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in community-based partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams, composed of approximately 1,200 Members, in 38 states across the country: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. All the AmeriCorps projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

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*Press
Release*

Contacts: Joel Berg, 720-6350
Katherine Gibney, 720-4369

* * * * * FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE * * * * *

LEAHY MEETS WITH VERMONT AMERICORPS STAFF AT USDA TRAINING

CHEVY CHASE, MARYLAND, August 8 -- Senator Patrick Leahy met this week with Vermont residents who are attending an AmeriCorps National Service Staff Training run by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety, and educational needs.

USDA will run AmeriCorps programs in Vermont to fight hunger, preserve the Green Mountain National Forest, and help rural communities improve their fire protection efforts.

"Beginning in September 1994, USDA will send out three national AmeriCorps teams: an Anti-Hunger Team, an Environmental Team, and a Rural Development Team," Leahy said. "I am proud that my home state of Vermont will have members of all three teams."

PHOTO CAPTION

Sen. Patrick Leahy and his wife, Marcelle, visited with Vermont residents attending AmeriCorps/USDA training at the 4-H Center in Washington, D.C. on August 8. From left, Joan McCloud, forest technician with the Green Mountain National Forest; Bruce Kellman, field program manager for the Youth Conservation Service, and his wife, Laura, a volunteer with the program; the Leahys; Norman Smith, a civil engineer with the Soil Conservation Service; and Bari Gladstone, director of the Vermont Anti-Hunger Corps.

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UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

**Contacts: Katherine Gibney, AmeriCorps/USDA
Coordinator of Communications (202) 720-4369
Irene Lieberman,
Natural Resources Conservation Service,
(908) 246-1171, ext. 162**

Joel Berg, Director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's AmeriCorps Program, will work alongside AmeriCorps members restoring dunes for erosion prevention in Monmouth Beach, New Jersey on Wednesday, November 1.

Berg will join the AmeriCorps crew at 11:30 a.m. in planting beachgrass along the shoreline near the Monmouth Beach Club.

AmeriCorps, President Clinton's national service program passed with bipartisan support by Congress, engages 25,000 Americans of diverse backgrounds in performing service that meets critical community needs in return for an award which may be used for college, job training, or to pay back student loans. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is running three types of AmeriCorps teams in 45 states, composed of approximately 1,350 Members: an Anti-Hunger Team, a Public Lands and Environment Team, and a Rural Development Team. Many of the AmeriCorps projects are sponsored by community-based organizations and all projects are designed to get things done, while boosting community, opportunity, and responsibility.

MR. BERG WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS AT THE SITE OR LATER IN AN OFFICE OR STUDIO ON REQUEST.

Directions to the AmeriCorps site: Take state route 18 to state route 36 towards the ocean. Continue north on 36 to the Mammoth Beach Club, a large white building. Go through the northern gate to where cars are parked and members will be planting seedgrass.

ATTACHMENT: MR. BERG'S BIOGRAPHY

100

TO: BARBARA A. CAMPBELL

FROM: KATHERINE GIBNEY
COORDINATOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
AMERICORPS/USDA

RE: FY 1997 EXPLANATORY NOTES

DATE: OCTOBER 31, 1995

NATIONAL SERVICE -- AMERICORPS

During its second year of operation, USDA is sponsoring approximately 1,350 AmeriCorps members in 45 states serving on Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment, and Rural Development teams. As the national service program's inaugural year closed in June 1995, 1,200 members - the largest component of the AmeriCorps program sponsored by a Federal agency - had amassed almost two million hours of service in fighting hunger, protecting the environment, and boosting rural economies. Members also recruited tens of thousands unpaid volunteers to assist in the AmeriCorps/USDA projects nationwide.

The program allows Americans of all ages and backgrounds to earn educational benefits in exchange for a year of full-time community service. The majority of AmeriCorps Members are working in partnerships with states, local governments, and non-profit organizations.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Forest Service, Food and Consumer Services, the Rural Economic and Community Development, the Farm Service Agency, and the Agriculture Research Service continue to provide support for the Department's AmeriCorps program.

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TO: _____

FAX _____

CONFIRMING TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

FROM: KATHERINE GIBNEY
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF NATIONAL SERVICE
202 720-8098 (fax)
202 720-7033 (telephone)

NUMBER OF PAGES INCLUDING COVER SHEET _____

MESSAGE: This is to confirm the first meeting of the rural development task force of the USDA national service working group for Tuesday, July 13, at 10 a.m. in Room 108-Administration. Joel Berg will facilitate the meeting and wants to begin discussing the development of a cost analysis as the deadline for budget estimates is approaching.

24TH STORY of Level 1 printed in FULL format.

Copyright 1995 Little Rock Newspapers, Inc.
Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

June 18, 1995, Sunday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1A

LENGTH: 1816 words

HEADLINE: IN ARKANSAS, AMERICORPS FITS CLINTON'S VISION

BYLINE: GRANT TENNILLE, Democrat-Gazette Staff Writer

BODY:

AmeriCorps member Renee Spurlock is moving Holly Grove residents out of danger.

Approximately 60 homes in the east Arkansas town of 700 are inside the flood plain of the White River. During periods of heavy rain, water seeps into the ground floor of some homes. If a 100-year flood were to sweep down the White River, it would take most of those homes with it to the Mississippi.

So Spurlock, 35, a Holly Grove resident, is coordinating a program under the Federal Emergency Management Authority to buy the flood-threatened property and find the 135 residents of the area new lots on which to build.

She has spent the past 10 months educating landowners about the buyout program, surveying the area, researching ownership of every piece of property and finally going door-to-door answering questions, providing encouragement and soothing fears.

"AmeriCorps has really helped this town," Spurlock said.

Spurlock is one of approximately 250 AmeriCorps volunteers in Arkansas working for dozens of private, nonprofit and government agencies across the state. Their accomplishments may be the best defense of President Clinton's modern-day Peace Corps.

Their jobs include feeding the hungry, teaching Little Rock Hispanics job skills, educating migrant farm workers on the dangers of pesticides and helping rural fire departments find money for training.

On Sept. 21, 1993, Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act creating AmeriCorps. The creation of a national service corps had been a high priority for Clinton during the 1992 campaign.

Clinton envisioned a domestic version of the Peace Corps, created by President John F. Kennedy in the early '60s, a group that would perform volunteer work in communities across the United States in exchange for government grants to pay for college education.

On Sept. 12, 1994, Clinton administered the oath, via satellite, to 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers across the country.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, June 18, 1995

Targeted by GOP

Republicans in Congress, led by Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., attempted to kill the program earlier this month by slashing the 1996 budget for AmeriCorps from the proposed \$ 575 million to \$ 159 million. They say the Corps is nothing more than another federal jobs program that costs a lot but accomplishes little.

AmeriCorps volunteer Jennifer King of Alexander said Gingrich is wrong.

In Little Rock, King is helping feed hungry families.

Through her work with the Rice Depot and Potluck, two Pulaski County relief organizations, King, 23, developed the Red Barrel program. Red barrels have been placed in grocery stores across Pulaski County with signs that encourage people to donate food. Since November, more than 15,000 pounds of food has been collected and distributed to 17 agencies across the state.

"Because of Jennifer it was a success," said coordinator Laura Rhea. "Because it was a success it is going statewide."

King wants the House Speaker and his fellow congressional Republicans who say AmeriCorps is just another wasteful bureaucracy to know that her work has fed thousands of hungry people.

"We are getting things done," King said.

AmeriCorps supporters said the program has become a political target of the Republican Congress, eager to attack one of President Clinton's pet projects. Republicans are unapologetic.

"I think that this is something that the president wanted his name on as an achievement of his administration, but I think the people really have turned their thumbs down on these '60s-style programs," said Rep. Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark.

Clinton has saved AmeriCorps, at least for now, by vetoing the congressional rescissions package June 7. He instructed Congress to find other spending cuts. King, and her fellow 20,000 AmeriCorps volunteers across the country, are relieved.

Gingrich says AmeriCorps is getting in the way of a balanced budget.

"If you are going to get to a balanced budget and your choice is having a nice little government bureaucracy that runs people around the country doing nice things or taking care of people with severe disabilities, where is each one on the priority list?" Gingrich said in an interview earlier this year.

One of the central tenets of AmeriCorps is that the volunteers will be placed within existing agencies so that no extra bureaucracy will be needed to create and supervise projects.

Diversity reigns

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, June 18, 1995

The AmeriCorps projects are diverse, and so are the volunteers. Most are college-age, but some are in their 60s. All are working on projects that fall within four "national priorities" outlined by the Corporation for National Service, the 200-employee Washington agency that oversees AmeriCorps. Those priorities are education, public safety, human needs and the environment.

A short list of the agencies where Arkansas' AmeriCorps volunteers are working includes:

+y The state's Spinal Cord Commission, where AmeriCorps volunteer John Gould of Little Rock, who is paralyzed from the chest down, counsels recently paralyzed people learning to cope with a disability.

+y Central Hispano, a private, nonprofit Little Rock organization where AmeriCorps volunteer Patrick Presley helps members of Little Rock's Hispanic community learn the skills they need to get off welfare and hold jobs. He and his fellow AmeriCorps workers often serve as translators for local hospitals and police during emergency situations.

+y The Resource Conservation and Development Office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, where Deborah Carman of Little Rock helps rural fire departments across Arkansas find the money for training and new equipment.

In Holly Grove, Spurlock also has formed citizen committees who are fighting neighborhood crime and picking up litter.

Holly Grove Mayor Lula Tyler said AmeriCorps is making her town better.

"It's miraculous for a small town," Tyler said. "We cannot afford to go out and hire a person to do what they are doing. We would have been a little dump if it hadn't been for them."

Project Coordinator Gail Wainscott of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said the Holly Grove flood plain project is one that has needed to be done for years, but manpower had never been available. The Agriculture Department is overseeing the project.

"These projects might have happened 10 or 15 years from now, but they wouldn't happen as quickly as they have without these people," Wainscott said. "They give more of their free time than they ever get compensated for."

Volunteers must commit to 1,700 hours of work a year for a maximum of two years. They are given a "living allowance" of roughly \$ 180 a week and are eligible for a post-service award of \$ 4,725 a year to help pay for higher education or vocational training. Individual programs are required to raise 25 percent of the operating costs and 15 percent of the living allowances from private sources. Some full-time volunteers are eligible for health insurance and child care.

Republicans say that paying "volunteers" defeats the purpose of service work.

"We've got great volunteerism in America, and we don't need to pay people and provide health care and child care benefits and call that volunteerism," said Hutchinson, who has voted against AmeriCorps from the beginning.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, June 18, 1995

Making sacrifices

Program supporters disagreed. They said the living allowance is designed to give the volunteers just enough support to allow them to devote their concentration to their service work.

"It is enough to rent an apartment and buy enough food not to starve to death," said Robin Hayes of Conway, program coordinator of the Community Alliance for a Safer Tomorrow. "It is not a program that anyone could survive on for a long time."

Hayes coordinates 23 AmeriCorps volunteers, who work at 19 different agencies across Conway and Perry counties. Most of the volunteers are college graduates who will use their grants to pay off loans or to finance post-graduate work. They are working with children who are involved with gangs or are in danger of becoming involved.

"There is no satisfaction in this, other than the knowledge that you've served a community to the best of your ability and made a difference," Hayes said.

AmeriCorps coordinators said volunteers are making personal and economic sacrifices to join the corps, and all are making a contribution to the community instead of just expecting a handout.

"I could get a grant to go to college and never have to pay it back," said Jennifer King, who plans to attend nursing school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock in the fall. "I'm working for this grant and giving something back."

Barbara Niess, an AmeriCorps volunteer with Central Hispano in Little Rock, was working for a community mediation and violence reduction center in Detroit before leaving to join AmeriCorps. At the center, she tried to settle neighborhood disputes before they reached the courts. She has a degree in public administration and will use her AmeriCorps education grant to continue her studies at UALR, which is becoming well-known for its urban studies programs.

Niess took a 75 percent cut in pay to serve in AmeriCorps. She said the program provides clear economic benefits for the American taxpayer.

"It's cheaper for the country to have programs like this," Niess said. "My father is a Republican, and he agrees with me."

Niess' father isn't the only Republican who feels that way.

Rep. Christopher Shays, R-Conn., was the lone Republican to vote against the budget cuts for AmeriCorps. A former Peace Corps volunteer, Shays said AmeriCorps is one of the best government programs he's ever seen.

"It's everything Republicans argue for," Shays said. "Republicans, for years, have said that people should earn their credits and not expect a handout. That's what they're doing here."

Shays said Clinton can save the program if he refuses to back down, and he has promised to support the president, even if it means standing alone in his

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, June 18, 1995

party:

"Regretfully, some Republicans refuse to give President Clinton any credit, even when he is doing something right."

If nothing else, AmeriCorps volunteers in Arkansas feel good about themselves and what they are doing. From the beginning, AmeriCorps was designed to take advantage of the 1960s-style idealism recalled so fondly by its creator, President Clinton. It is embodied in the "AmeriCorps Pledge" that new volunteers repeat at the beginning of their hitch.

I will get things done for America

to make our people safer,

smarter and healthier.

I will bring Americans together to

strengthen our communities.

Faced with apathy, I will take action.

Faced with conflict, I will

seek common ground.

Faced with adversity, I will persevere.

I will carry this commitment

with me this year and beyond.

I am an AmeriCorps Member

and I am going to get things done.

LOAD-DATE: July 7, 1995

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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2761

April 19, 1996

USDA OPENS TRADE OFFICE IN SHANGHAI -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman has announced the opening of an Agricultural Trade Office in Shanghai, China. Glickman said, "We are acutely aware of the tremendous surge in U.S.-Chinese agricultural trade and its growing importance to both of our nations. Shanghai is the gateway to China's vast eastern and central market. This region of roughly 400 million people is larger than the population of many major countries with whom we have trading relationships." The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) is opening the office to help U.S. exporters tap into this growing market. U.S. food, fish and forestry exports to China in fiscal year 1995 were \$2.5 billion, making it the ninth largest market. The Shanghai opening brings to 13 the number of agricultural trade offices operated by FAS. These offices are centers for U.S. export sales promotions and contact points for importers seeking to buy agricultural products from the United States. The agricultural trade officer is Scott Reynolds. **Contact: Glen Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

USDA ANNOUNCES ONE-TIME SIGNUP PERIOD -- Producers wishing to enroll their farms in a Production Flexibility Contract must do so during a one-time signup period from May 20 through July 12. Authorized by the 1996 Farm Bill, the contracts are for seven years, beginning in 1996. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said, "I wish to stress that this is the only opportunity producers will have to enroll and those who fail to do so now will not be eligible at a later date. There will be no further additional signups except for land coming out of the Conservation Reserve Program. This is required by the 1996 Act, and I have no discretion to extend this date." Glickman reminded producers that compliance with conservation and wetlands provisions continues to be a condition of participation. The total amount of payment a person may receive in any fiscal year may not exceed \$40,000. A producer may enroll all or part of the farm's contract base acreage in the program and, after signup, may request a permanent reduction in the acreage without penalty. Payment and loan rates will be announced soon. **Contact: Dann Stuart (202) 690-0474.**

FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION CONTINUES TO DECREASE -- Continuing steady declines in food stamp participation resulted in savings of more than \$1 billion between August 1994 and January 1996. January participation totaled 25.90 million people, down by more than one million from January 1995. December participation included 25.88 million people, down by more than one million from December 1994. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman said, "The continuing decline in food stamp participation means significant savings to the taxpayer." January was the 18th consecutive month in which food stamp participation was lower than it was in the same month in the previous year. **Contact: Alicia Bambara (703) 305-2039**

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FARM & FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICES

GLICKMAN'S VISIT TO BRUSSELS SEEN DELAYED (201 Reuter 12/4) -- Sec. Glickman postponed, probably until January, a visit for talks with his European Union counterpart Franz Fischler on the use of beef hormones, EU and U.S. sources said.

DROUGHT RELIEF FOR NEW YORK (202 AP 12/2) -- Sec. Glickman said farmers in 25 New York counties are eligible for low-interest federal loans because of drought damages to crops or livestock this year.

CATTLE FARMERS ENDURING TOUGH TIMES (203 AP 12/4) -- The article reports on how cattle farmers in Missouri regard this year as one of the toughest on record. Some farmers say they could be driven out of the business.

RUSSIAN FARMS NEED REFORM (204 Reuter 12/1) -- Russia's agriculture minister told regional agricultural bosses that it was necessary to introduce reforms to help rescue big, inefficient former collective farms. He said around 40% of Russia's agricultural enterprises are incapable of working efficiently.

CHINA'S XINJIANG COTTON SPARKS HOPE FOR FARMING (205 Reuter 12/4) -- Cotton output in China's far west region of Xinjiang has reached 920,000 tons so far this year, sparking hopes that the northwest will revive flagging agriculture, the People's Daily Overseas Edition said. Xinjiang's cotton output, the largest in China, had doubled in five years and now accounted for one fifth of total national output, it said.

SUGAR STRIKE IN MEXICO (206 Reuter 12/1) -- Mexican sugar cane growers called a no-sales strike in their battle with mill owners over prices. The strike threatens what had appeared to be a potential record harvest.

VOLCANO DAMAGES CROPS (207 UPI 12/2) -- A volcano erupting in western Nicaragua has damaged some 3,500 acres of food crops so far. The country's president has promised help from the government and international community.

MARKETING & REGULATORY PROGRAMS

SOME WISCONSIN DAIRY FARMERS HOPE UNION CAN RAISE PRICES (208 AP 12/3) -- A group of dairy farmers are trying to unionize to get more for their milk. Once they find a union to back them, the first step will be for the union's lawyers to study the anti-trust laws to see how farmers could organize so a bargaining agent could represent them in negotiating prices dairies pay them for their milk.

LIVING WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF MILK DEREGULATION (209 AP 12/4) -- The lengthy article reports on fear and anger among dairy farmers as they contemplate proposed changes in the federal programs which have served them since the Great Depression.

CONCERN ABOUT STORAGE OF POTATOES (210 AP 12/2) -- Potatoes infected with late blight are causing storage concerns as they begin to break down. Extra effort must be made to keep the spuds dry and cool. Experts say preventing the disease in the field is the surest way to keep it from becoming a storage problem.

CATTLEMEN TAKE STAND AGAINST CHEMICAL CHEATING (211 AP 12/1) -- At their convention this last week, the Nebraska Cattlemen's Association decried the use of chemical cheating that has caused scandals at livestock shows. They said the suppliers and users of clenbuterol, an illegal muscle-building agent, should be aggressively prosecuted.

FRUIT FLIES FOUND (212 AP 12/1) -- Officials began an eradication program in California's San Diego County after several Mexican fruit flies were found in one city during November.

EXPERTS SAY BOLL WEEVILS WILL RETURN THIS YEAR TO VIRGINIA (213 AP 12/3) -- Cotton growers in Virginia likely will have to contend with more boll weevils next year. Up until this year, Virginia hadn't seen the pest since 1985.

NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENT

DEBATE OVER MINING RULES (214 AP 12/2) -- Sec. Babbitt said he was forced by the 1872 Mining Law to give a mining company title to 340 acres in Arizona for \$1,745. The land is estimated to contain \$2.9 billion worth of copper and silver. An official of the company pointed out they would have to spend a considerable amount to develop and operate the mine.

DEBATE OVER OKLAHOMA TIMBERLAND TAX (215 AP 12/2) -- Oklahoma officials are examining ways to tax the state's timberlands; some want the forested acreage to be considered a row crop and taxed accordingly. A state auditor noted that timberlands are being taxed at the same rate as land covered with boulders.

RESIDENTS SKEPTICAL ABOUT WYOMING HOG FARM (216 AP 12/3) -- The outcome of a proposed \$17-million hog farm in Platte County, Wyo., is not clear and response to the project has been mixed with economic development cheers and neighborhood skepticism. An official with the sponsoring firm said that "if the majority of the people don't want us, we won't come."

(217 AP 12/2) -- A spokesman for the Center for Rural Affairs urged Platte County residents to record the environmental quality to provide a benchmark to provide a foundation for future litigation against the firm planning to build a hog facility there.

COLORADO RULING HINDERS SWINE FARM CHANCES (218 Knight-Ridder 12/3, AP 12/2) -- A proposed swine farm that would be the largest of its kind in Colorado suffered a major setback when it lost temporary approval to convert 10 existing water wells to commercial use. The company complained that it was being unfairly singled out by state regulators and is asking that the water-quality rules be revised.

MURPHY FAMILY FARMS REMOVES PIGS FROM CONTRACTOR (219 AP 12/2) -- Murphy Family Farms removed 5,000 pigs from one of its contractors when the operator came under charges involving hog waste runoff. An official with the state said the action was a sign that North Carolina's top pork producers would not work with contractors who damage the environment.

NORTH CAROLINA OFFICIALS CONSIDER HOG PLANT (220 AP 12/4) -- Officials from Edgecombe County, N. Ca., will hold public hearings to determine whether or not to rezone to allow a huge slaughterhouse which will generate thousands of new jobs but may be a burden on local services and the environment.

PROTECTING FARMERS FROM SMELLY SUITS (221 AP 12/2) -- A couple of Indiana townships are examining a plan to prevent newcomers who move into the area, and then don't like the smells, from suing farmers who practice normal, reasonable and necessary farming and livestock operations.

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & ECONOMICS

WORLD SUGAR DEMAND ASSESSED (222 Reuter 12/1) -- The German statistician F.O. Licht said the growing importance of the high fructose syrup industry in the U.S. and Japan is largely to blame for sluggish world sugar demand. The production of HFS has grown at an annual rate of 9.4% since 1980.

SORGHUM DEMAND ASSESSED (223 Reuter 12/1) -- A recent spike in U.S. sorghum prices was caused by EU demand, but a supply shortage should keep prices propped up. The article reviews conditions affecting U.S. and world sorghum supplies.

JOB'S PLENTIFUL FOR AG STUDENTS (224 UPI 12/4) -- A study by USDA and Purdue University indicates that there will be a 4.5% surplus of jobs for graduates in agriculture, environmental studies, veterinary medicine and non-medical areas of life science research. And that surplus will continue into the next century, the study found.

EVOLUTION OF THE FFA (225 AP 12/2) -- The article examines ways in which the Future Farmers of America is changing. It notes that vocational agriculture is not the male-dominated, production-oriented domain of the past.

BIOTECH CHRISTMAS TREES (226 AP 12/2) -- A Wisconsin biotechnology company has developed faster-growing spruce trees and balsam fir trees that resist frost damage. Both may result in less expensive Christmas trees. The company worked with the Forestry Sciences Lab in Rhinelander to breed enough genetic diversity into the trees to guard against disease and drought. One tree farmer urged caution against believing all the claims.

USDA -- MULTI-MISSION

AMERICORPS EFFORT COVERED (227 Tulsa World 12/1) -- The article reviews the work accomplished by AmeriCorps workers in Oklahoma. It focuses on work at a conservation center and notes how the program helps the entrants with their education. USDA's director of National Service pointed out benefits of the program and said a log of governors want it to stay in their states because of what it is accomplishing.

GROWING CONCERN ABOUT MAD COW DISEASE (228 UPI 12/2) -- British scientist are showing growing concern about the safety of eating meat products from cows with bovine spongiform encephalopathy. One said incidence of Cruetzfeldt- Jacob Disease, the human equivalent of BSE, in dairy farmers and teenagers is cause for concern; he called on Britain's farm minister to ban certain cattle organs from the human food chain. The government called for scientific proof to back up the scientists' concerns.

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FAX TRANSMITTAL

Constituency & Media Relations
Office of Public Affairs
USDA Soil Conservation Service

To: Joel Berg

Phone: 720-4623 Fax: 720-5043

Date: March 11, 1994 Pages + cover: 2

From: Bill Boyer, SCS

Phone: 202-720-2472 Fax: 202-690-1221

Message: This is a first draft and
has not gone through an official
approval process.

Let's talk Monday or Tuesday.

Thanks,

Bill

6115



NEWS RELEASE

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Atlanta, GA 30301-1996 USA
Telephone 404 224-1996
Facsimile 404 224 1997

Contact: Dyan Matthews
Telephone: 404 224-1353
Facsimile: 404 224-1993

RICHARD STOGNER JOINS ACOG AS DEPUTY CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

(Atlanta, GA. March 11, 1994) Richard A. Stogner has joined the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) as deputy chief financial officer with responsibility for functions in financial and management services, audit, process engineering and management systems. His responsibilities also include ensuring the efficient operation of service delivery activities. Stogner will report to Patrick C. Clisson, ACOG's chief financial officer.

Prior to joining ACOG Stogner served as a consultant specializing in financial control systems, strategic planning and airport systems integration.

Stogner began his career with the City of Atlanta as a junior accountant, rising through the ranks of city government to become chief administrative officer. During his sixteen years with the City of Atlanta, Stogner served in a variety of positions and was responsible for the City's long range financial planning, including water/sewer and airport construction.

In 1985 Stogner joined Fulton County Government as the director of economic development. Later, he became the director of planning and economic development.

A 1965 Industrial Management graduate of Georgia Tech, Stogner received an MBA in 1971 and a Masters Degree in Administration and Public Policy in 1974 from Georgia State University.

He serves as vice chairman of the USO of Georgia. Stogner and his wife Donna reside in Fulton County.

#####



Contact: Bob Brennan
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Original Page Count: 1
(excluding cover page(s))

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Addressed To:

fax!+12027205043 (/DEPT AG OTF - JIM WALLER)

Education
Pay Your ~~College~~ Expenses with Community Service

Students! You can learn valuable skills in natural resource conservation and earn credits to help pay for your college tuition. AmeriCorps is establishing a domestic Peace Corps in the United States. The program will provide upward mobility in return for community service.

In 1993, President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act and established the Corporation for National and Community Service. Although under the umbrella of the National Service Corps, AmeriCorps is at the center of this new initiative--to engage Americans of all ages and backgrounds to meet Americas challenges through community service.

Participants selected for the program will receive an educational award at the end of one year's service and a stipend for living expenses. The educational award of \$4,725 will provide a payment towards student loans, college tuition, or vocational training. The money will be held in trust and released at the end of the year to the educational institution. The award is for repayment of student loans, college tuition--including graduate and undergraduate studies--or vocational training. AmeriCorps will include opportunities for students pursuing their high school equivalency degree.

Many federal agencies such as the Soil Conservation Service will participate. Paul Johnson, SCS Chief said, "The Soil Conservation Service will identify opportunities and develop projects for a diverse cross section of Americans. Through grass-roots community service they'll gain first hand experience in natural resource conservation, add important work skills to their resume, and help pay for their education."

The program will begin this September, and candidate recruitment will start this spring.

For more information contact you local state commission for national service. (Or SCS office?)

HAACU

AmeriCorps National Network of Programs

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service vision of directly and demonstrably addressing the nation's education, health and human, public safety, and environmental needs. During the launch in September, over 20,000 AmeriCorps members will fan out across America to serve in their communities while also earning education awards for college or student loans.

Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: Appalachia (Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 80

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will work on a wide variety of economic development and environmental protection projects. Some examples include: determining the actual potential to create collaborative regional tourism based economic and community development in Claiborne, Grainger, Hancock, Hawkins and Union Counties, Tennessee; contacting all 800-plus landowners in the Bent Creek Watershed of Tennessee to explain how to participate in the variety of programs aimed at helping conserve natural resources; converting abandoned railroad line in Southern Virginia to a recreational trail for use by thousands of local citizens; and providing in-field technical assistance to help West Virginia farmers protect water quality.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

Kenneth Roberts
207.624-6023

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AmeriCorps National Network of Programs

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service vision of directly and demonstrably addressing the nation's education, health and human, public safety, and environmental needs. During the launch in September, over 20,000 AmeriCorps members will fan out across America to serve in their communities while also earning education awards for college or student loans.

Name of Project: Rural Development Team

Location: New England (Maine, Vermont, Northwestern New York)

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 30

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Rural Development Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Public Lands and Environment Team. The Rural Development Team will place a socio-economic mix of college graduates and professional school graduates in 11 pilot regions in rural areas throughout America. Participants will help communities protect watersheds, improve housing, promote economic development, boost sustainable agriculture, respond to disasters, and aid the Clinton Administration's Empowerment Zone initiative.

Description of Project Work:

In Maine, participants will work with cranberry growers to develop more environmentally-sensitive farming operations, and will improve the quality of water on local lakes, assist four communities with the development of a railroad bed for community hiking, biking and snowmobiling trails, and engage in a wide variety of other projects. In Vermont, participants will work to protect the Winooski River Watershed and to provide skills and technical information to help 40 rural fire departments in Vermont develop comprehensive fire protection plans. In New York, participants will work to increase soil and water conservation measures throughout Erie County.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

Valerie Kellog

12

AmeriCorps National Network of Programs

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service vision of directly and demonstrably addressing the nation's education, health and human, public safety, and environmental needs. During the launch in September, over 20,000 AmeriCorps members will fan out across America to serve in their communities while also earning education awards for college or student loans.

Name of Project: USDA Public Lands and Environment Team

Location: New Jersey, state-wide

Number of AmeriCorps Members: 20

Description of AmeriCorps program:

The Public Lands and Environment Team is one of the three AmeriCorps programs that the United States Department of Agriculture will start at pilot sites across the country in September of 1994; the other two programs are an Anti-Hunger Team and a Rural Development Team. The Public Lands and Environment Team will run pilot projects at 32 rural and urban sites in 21 states. The Team will engage a socio-economic mix of participants in helping solve local environmental problems, repairing and upgrading community facilities, promoting sustainable farming, conducting environmental education seminars, and preserving and restoring national forests.

Description of Project Work:

Participants will improve the stream side habitat of four stream sections in each of three project watersheds through the installation of soil bioengineering practices, fishery habitat structures and tree buffer establishment. They will also increase local community support for water quality protection by spearheading a program to have two communities in each of the three project watersheds complete an inventory and prioritize their water quality problems by the end of the first project year.

National Contact: Joel Berg, USDA Director of National Service
Phone number: (202) 720-6350 (Call to obtain local contact numbers)

Funding level: This program will be funded, in part, by a \$2.6 million grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service to USDA for running all three Departmental programs nationwide. Other funds will be provided by USDA and local sources.

FNS, in partnership with youth service corps and local anti-hunger groups, will launch five anti-hunger projects beginning this September, as part of the Department's newest initiative, AmeriCorps/USDA.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of Americans to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing community service. Participants in the program will work for a year, earning a stipend of about \$7,600. In addition, AmeriCorps/USDA members will earn an educational voucher of \$4,725 for college or vocational training from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

The anti-hunger projects will be located at two rural and three urban sites with high levels of hunger and poverty: Sunflower and Humphreys Counties near Jackson, Mississippi, and Waterbury, Vermont, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Los Angeles, California, and the District of Columbia.

The USDA program, funded in part by a grant from the CNCS, is the largest single federal agency component in terms of number of participants in what is being called the President's domestic Peace Corps. The Department will have 1,200 participants in its three types of corps. Besides the Anti-Hunger Team, USDA will run a Public Lands and Environment Team and a Rural Development Team.

Three of the Anti-Hunger Teams will have 40 participants each, while the District of Columbia and Mississippi projects will have 15 AmeriCorps/USDA members each. The projects will enroll eligible persons in food assistance programs, provide nutrition and food

(2)

safety education to food program participants, and provide services such as client transportation and child care in waiting areas.

"Youth groups can provide many services needed to improve nutrition in their communities," said Assistant Secretary Ellen Haas. "In particular, we welcome their efforts to ensure that needy children have access to our School Breakfast and Summer Food Service Programs."

"I really want to stress to USDA employees that the AmeriCorps/USDA members are not taking positions away from or replacing any career employees," said Joel Berg, director of the Department's national service effort. "The participants are not federal employees and therefore do not count as FTEs. In addition, the national service legislation mandates that AmeriCorps members not replace workers."

"Current employees may have sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, associates, or others who might be interested in applying to the Corporation to participate," said Berg.

Although the work of the AmeriCorps participants must advance the missions of the agencies involved, the members will be engaged in tasks not normally performed by USDA employees.

"Our program is a model for the Team USDA concept," Berg said. "An interagency task force has been working together for more than a year developing plans for the three types of programs and many members of the task force will now implement the projects. In fact,

(3)

the interagency cooperation necessary to implement the AmeriCorps/USDA effort should lay a vital groundwork for overall reorganization."

The philosophy of the new initiative is to avoid creating another unwieldy bureaucracy, according to Berg. "The legislation caps administrative costs at five percent. The projects are being run by career employees who are on detail. We have no new hires."

Donna Hines is directing FNS participation with the Anti-Hunger Team. Managers of the 42 project sites will be in Washington for training the week of August 8.

Berg said that he hoped Department employees would help spread the word on the USDA/AmeriCorps program to possible recruits. "Call our AmeriCorps office here at USDA at (202) 720-6350 for more information."

U. S. Soil
Conservation
Service

Mass. Community
Assistance
Partnership

15 Cranberry Highway
West Wareham, MA 02576
Tel: (508) 295-1481
FAX: (508) 291-2368

July 5, 1994

Contact:
Joel Berg (202) 720-6350
USDA Director of National Service
Marc A. MacQueen (508) 295-1481
Co-Leader, Mass. Community Assistance Partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOSTON AMERICORPS NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM BEGINS RECRUITMENT

Boston, Mass. - The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has begun recruitment for the AmeriCorps national service project that the Department will run in Roxbury and Dorchester, in cooperation with the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), starting this September.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's national service initiative that allows diverse groups of young people to earn college or vocational school scholarships while performing critical service to meet human, environmental, public safety and educational needs. Participants in the program will work for a year, earning a stipend of at least \$7,500, and then receive an educational award worth \$4,725.

The 20 participants in the Boston program will clean up abandoned lots in residential neighborhoods, beautify and improve public lands, and develop ways to fund long-term maintenance, educate citizens on environmental issues, translate environmental information into foreign languages for those who don't read English, and test soil and water to identify and improve environmental problems.

Any citizens age 17 or older from the Boston Metropolitan Area are eligible to apply for the program. There is no maximum or minimum family income required to apply. Applications will be accepted until August 5th.

To apply for the program or obtain more information, call Marc MacQueen at (508) 295-1481 or the toll-free national USDA AmeriCorps hotline at 1-800-880-4183.

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy urged all interested Americans to apply. Said Espy, "AmeriCorps is grounded in the mainstream values of community, responsibility and opportunity. It is good for the participants, who benefit from their increased ability to attend college or vocational school--good for communities, which benefit from their service--and good for the country, which benefits from a renewed civic spirit."

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All programs and services of the USDA Soil Conservation Service are offered to everyone regardless of age, sex, race, color, national origin, marital status, handicap or religion.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

From: NEWSTAB Delivered: Tue 21-Jun-94 2:18 EDT Svs 147
Subject: AGRICULTURE Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced yesterday
BUSINESS &
Mail ID: IPM-197-940521-021280362

Farming Today - Tuesday, June 21, 1994
By United Press International
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(117)

USDA announces rule in AmeriCorps program

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced yesterday (Monday) his department will run 42 AmeriCorps projects as part of President Clinton's volunteerism initiative.

Espy says the programs will range from hunger fighting and improvements in nutrition to preservation of national forests and increased rural water deliveries. He said the Agriculture Department's will be the largest component of the overall AmeriCorps program.

"President Clinton has made it clear to members of his Cabinet that national service is one of his top priorities and I am especially pleased that USDA will be playing a key role in the AmeriCorps program," the secretary said.

The program offers Americans a chance to earn college or vocational school scholarships by performing public service. Participants who work in the program for a year will earn at least \$7,500 and receive an educational voucher worth \$4,725.

Federal agencies will compete with one another to win grant funds from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which is the administrative agency created by Congress to oversee the program.

(For more information or location of camp sites: Joel Berg, 202-720-6350)

-upi-



11 AP 06-20-94 06:52 PET

30 LINES

AM-NJ--National Service-NJ,230

National Service Program Goes After Three NJ Waterways

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP) Three New Jersey waterways will be getting face lifts as part of the first projects to be funded under the Clinton administration's national service program, a congressman said Monday.

Twenty people will plant trees, restore wetlands, clean up debris and perform other restoration work along the Raritan and Musconetcong rivers and the Arthur Kill, said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J.

The projects fall under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's portion of Americorps, the national service program which will place 7,000 participants in projects nationwide.

Participants, mostly college students, recent graduates or high school graduates, will earn a \$7,500 stipend and a \$4,725 educational voucher. The projects are due to start in the fall and run through the academic year, said Joel Berg, director of national service for the USDA.

Pallone, who is running for re-election, announced the projects in Johnson Park, which runs along banks of the Raritan. The event coincided with the White House's announcement of the program's first initiatives.

"We should be encouraging young people to take an active interest in their communities as encourage them to further their studies," Pallone said. "By fostering the values of community and responsibility that produce good citizens, while giving young people the opportunities to get an education, everyone benefits."

PHOTOCOPY
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From: NEWSTAB Delivered: Tue 21-June-94 2:18 EDT Sys 197 (60)
 Subject: AGRICULTURE :agriculture secretary mike espy announced yesterday mond
 BUSINESS W
 Mail Id: IPM-197-940621-021280362

* UPI

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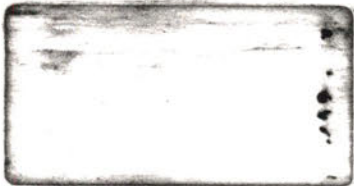
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(For more information or location of camp sites: Joel Berg, 202-720-6350)

-upi-



News



United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service

Subject: USDA AmeriCorps Teams Help Illinois Communities

Release Date: Immediately--September 9, 1994

Contact Persons: James Johnson--217-398-5293 and

Kay Kitchen-Maran--217-398-5273 or 618-583-2514

USDA AMERICORPS TEAMS HELP ILLINOIS COMMUNITIES

The kickoff for the new AmeriCorps program will be celebrated in Chicago on September 12th. Carzella Pritchett, Manager of the Chicago USDA AmeriCorps project will be on hand to participate in the activities.

AmeriCorps is President Clinton's new service program that he likens to a domestic Peace Corps. The difference is that AmeriCorps will be composed of diverse groups of Americans who will get things done by performing critical service to communities in exchange for financial help towards higher education or payment towards student loans.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has three AmeriCorps programs that will be piloted over the next year. The programs are Anti-Hunger, Public Lands and Environment and Rural Development. Illinois will have one Rural Development Team and four Public Lands and Environment Teams. The USDA Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is administering these teams in partnership with other agencies and organizations.

The USDA Rural Development AmeriCorps team will operate out of the USDA Two Rivers Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) office in Pittsfield, Illinois. The project will serve Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Pike, and Schuyler Counties in Western Illinois.

Bill McCartney, SCS RC&D coordinator, will be the project manager for this team and one Environmental Corps team. The six member Rural Development Team is now being recruited. They will work on three goals. USDA AmeriCorps members will assist small communities with a business research, retention and revitalization program. Their second goal will identify and promote alternative uses of land which will be released from Conservation Reserve Program contracts that will keep land in permanent vegetative cover. The third goal is to increase the interest of local township and county officials in using timber bridges built with local wood.

McCartney will also administer an Environmental Corps Team. This team will have nine USDA AmeriCorps members. Applications for this team are being accepted until September 16. For more information about the West Central Illinois area teams, call 217-285-4114.

(MORE)

The mission of the Environmental Corps team is to help Western Illinois communities improve parks, public lands and recreational areas. Their goals are to improve existing hiking trails on public land, reestablish grass, shrubs, and trees in communities which were damaged by the 1993 and 1994 floods. They will be removing debris from streams and repair damages to streambanks.

The USDA AmeriCorps project in Chicago will also be in the Public Lands and Environment program. Twenty AmeriCorps members will work in the Ida B. Wells, Madden Park and other properties of the Chicago Housing Authority, Chicago Park District sites, and other communities. The nature of their work will be cleanup and planting gardens and trees. These USDA AmeriCorps members will build upon the USDA Summer of Safety program that began this summer in Chicago. They will be working with volunteers to help create sites that combine urban agriculture and public safety. Environmental and urban agriculture education will also be provided to 1,000 students in Chicago public schools by the Chicago USDA Environmental Corps team.

Carzella Pritchett, SCS Soil Conservationist, is managing the Chicago program. For more information about the Chicago program, call 815-937-3225.

The East St. Louis/Metro Area and Madison/St. Clair Counties USDA AmeriCorps projects are being jointly managed by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and State Community College. Many other partnerships of federal, state, and local agencies and organizations support these two Environmental Corps teams.

One team, under leadership of Rufus Williams, SCS Soil Scientist, and Dr. Don Wallace, State Community College, will be made up of twenty USDA AmeriCorps members. These members will renovate vacant and/or abandoned residential lots and plant vegetation to beautify the areas. The plants selected will provide low-cost maintenance for the owners. The sites may also be planted to urban vegetable gardens and community parks. Also, East St. Louis Park District facilities will be rehabilitated. Fountains, athletic fields and floral gardens will be restored. Several greenhouses will be refurbished and put back into use. The grounds at State Community College will be landscaped with trees and plants.

Another USDA AmeriCorps project, for Madison and St. Clair Counties, will address flood damaged areas in rural and suburban areas. Ed Weilbacher, SCS Coordinator for Southwestern Illinois RC&D area, is working with Wallace to direct ten Environmental Corps members in their flood restoration work. Their goals are erosion and streambank stabilization, improving stream habitat for aquatic animals, protecting flood damaged streambanks and stabilizing bridge sites. One of the key components of this USDA AmeriCorps projects is to expose, broaden and train the members in career and job opportunities. Partnerships with many natural resource management agencies and recreational institutions will contribute to this aspect of the East St. Louis/Metro area programs.

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APPLICATION SUMMARY

Starting in September 1994, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will run three nationwide AmeriCorps teams: an Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team; a Public Lands and Environment Team; and a Rural Development Team. The Teams will engage a total of approximately 1,700 socio-economically diverse participants in human, environmental, and educational work in 34 different pilot projects located in 27 different states covering nearly 100 Congressional districts. The projects will be spread out across rural and urban areas in every region of the country.

Both the Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team and the Public Lands and Environment Team will share the same corps-type model of service, engaging a mix of high school dropouts, high school graduates, college students, and college graduates to perform service in work crews -- usually ten participants each -- at pilot locations with no less than 20 participants. Both Teams will have an educational component in which participants will run environmental or nutrition education programs in local schools.

In the Anti-Hunger, Nutrition, and Empowerment Team, participants will work in four pilot locations -- three urban and one rural -- to help thousands of low-income families and individuals improve their diets and move toward self-sufficiency. Each pilot location will be run by a unique partnership consisting of an existing youth service corps, a local anti-hunger group, and USDA. While the first few months of this program will focus on expanding the use of Federal anti-hunger programs and increasing access to nutrition information, the Teams will eventually work to implement new empowerment programs such as Earned Income Tax Credits, microenterprise projects, community development banks, assets development projects, and farmers markets. These programs will meet President Clinton's goal of reforming welfare and breaking the cycle of poverty that is the greatest cause of hunger in America.

In the Public Lands and Environment Team, participants will work in 23 pilot locations -- six urban and 17 rural -- to perform community service helping communities reduce environmental hazards and working on public lands to conserve, restore, and sustain natural habitats. Some of these pilot locations will be run directly by USDA and some will be run in partnership with existing youth service corps. Participants will renovate urban and rural parks, plant trees, perform conservation work in National Forests, teach environmental education, promote urban farming, test water quality, boost sustainable agriculture, clean-up rivers and lakes, help in disaster recovery, and restore wetlands.

The Rural Development Team will be similar to the professional corps model of service. The Team would establish regional or state clusters of at least 20 professional and paraprofessional participants who assist rural communities in identifying needs and resources

necessary for economic, human, and environmental well-being. The participants would have highly varied educations and training and would be matched up with individual communities or regions with unmet needs that can be filled by someone with that specific background. Participants will be mostly college graduates or professional school graduates and will provide service improving local economic planning, boosting sustainable agriculture, bringing the running water to areas now without it, increasing the success of enterprise zones and enterprise communities, protecting watersheds, improving rural housing, and aiding disaster relief, supporting existing youth volunteer programs.

All three of the Teams will recruit a mix of participants -- all of whom will receive AmeriCorps education vouchers -- that is diverse by gender, race, physical abilities and disabilities, and economic status. The Teams will each seek to recruit a goal of 20 percent of their participants from the national recruitment pool.

The USDA programs will utilize the tremendous institutional resources of the Department, and build creative partnerships at almost every pilot location. Materials will be donated by the U.S. Department of Defense and non-profit foundations, and other expertise will be provided by higher education institutions, local governments, other Federal departments, community development agencies, and non-profit organizations.

Because these programs are going to be funded largely with existing USDA funds, they will provide the Corporation with an extraordinarily cost-effective way to fill approximately 1,500 of the planned 20,000 AmeriCorps slots for 1995. USDA will provide fully \$22 million of Departmental funds either in cash or in-kind contributions. Thus, even when the Corporation fulfills the entire amount of USDA's \$8 million request, USDA will still be funding 81% of the program. Not including the educational vouchers, each AmeriCorps slot would only cost the Corporation about \$5,000 each.



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250-1300

For immediate release
July 28, 1993

Contact:
Joel Berg
202/720-4623

ESPY ANNOUNCES \$842,000 IN GRANTS TO KANSAS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy announced today that USDA's Extension Service assisted in obtaining \$842,000 in funds for a project in Kansas to develop a national service health care model in rural areas and a project in Lawrence to implement an after-school program.

"These grants, totaling more than three quarters of a million dollars from the Commission on National and Community Service, will provide a big boost for the State of Kansas," Espy said. "This is a perfect example of the kind of public/private partnerships that will be created and bolstered by the President's national service plan."

Continued Espy, "Working together with land-grant universities, USDA's Extension Service will forge a powerful union to provide youth service opportunities throughout this country. My Department will take every step possible to help President Clinton create a national service system that promotes community, opportunity, and responsibility."

With a grant of \$800,000, emergency medical services and Extension Service 4-H offices in several Southeastern Kansas counties will establish service corps that train "first responder" volunteers who provide initial medical care before emergency vehicles arrive. Participants also will manage health education and immunization programs.

In Lawrence, \$42,000 was awarded to implement an after-school child care program. As an increasing number of Kansas families move from single to two-wage earner status, the need for after-school care increases. Extension 4-H offices will develop and manage the program for elementary school children. A teacher will provide oversight, working with youth and senior citizen volunteers who are recruited and trained by 4-H.

CNCS also awarded funds to projects in Missouri, Michigan, and New Mexico, totalling \$1,684 million in funding for Extension Service-related service projects.

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Farm Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington, D.C. 20250-1340 (202) 720-4330

Letter No. 2614

June 11, 1993

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Alexander Zaveryukha, deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, sign a Food for Progress agreement under which the United States will provide \$700 million in agricultural assistance to Russia. At the ceremony Espy said the agreement shows our nation's commitment to the Russian people as they restructure their economy, and it shows the Administration's commitment to help U.S. farmers and agribusiness maintain the U.S. position in the market. USDA photo by Byron Schumaker.



Done 6/4/93

NATIONAL SERVICE -- In testimony to the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources, Agriculture Secretary Mike Espy unveiled three proposals being developed at USDA in anticipation of Congressional passage of the National Service Trust Act. The proposals are a National Empowerment and Anti-Hunger Corps, a National Environmental Youth Corps, and the National Rural Development Corps. The National Service Trust Act would create a domestic Peace Corps to tackle pressing national problems while bridging racial and social gaps in the United States. Participants would earn income for educational use in return for two years of service. If the programs are funded they would begin in the fall of 1994. "The President's goal is nothing short of creating a national service program so successful that it will become a permanent fixture of American society," Espy told the Committee. **Contact: Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623.**

UPGRADING INSPECTIONS -- USDA is undertaking five initiatives to improve meat inspection. They include: continuation of special in-plant reviews and a quarterly report to USDA headquarters on corrective actions ordered by the Food Safety and Inspection Service; publication in the Federal Register of criteria for rapid microbiological tests in processing plants; publication of regulations mandating installation of a hazard analysis critical point system; and a proposal for needed changes in meat inspection laws. Regional hearings have received proposed changes in the laws to improve meat inspections. The final hearing is scheduled for June 18 in Philadelphia. **Contact: Pat Wagner (202) 720-9113.**

NATIONAL HUNGER FORUM -- Former secretaries of agriculture Bob Bergland and John Block will join Secretary Mike Espy at USDA's National Hunger Forum, June 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Andrew Mellon auditorium on Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C. Seventy participants will be divided into four panels to examine the extent and consequences of hunger, access to a healthy diet, empowerment and self sufficiency, and priorities for change. They will review the government's role, and public-private partnerships, in addressing the problem of hunger. **Contact: Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623.**

NEWS

*United States
Department of
Agriculture*

*Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service*



February 3, 1995

Red River Valley Winter Shows and AmeriCorps - A Joint Effort

AmeriCorps National Service Organization and the Red River Valley Winter Shows of Crookston, MN will work together during the Winter Shows this February 17 through February 20.

The Winter Shows will host a variety of events this year. AmeriCorps members, wearing various symbols of their national service program, hope to provide needed help to ensure that events run smoothly.

In addition to helping out the Red River Valley Shows organization, AmeriCorps will have booth space exhibiting AmeriCorps information and descriptions of the projects currently in progress in Northwest Minnesota. These include the following: the Conservation Outreach project stationed out of Warren, Crookston, Red Lake Falls, McIntosh, and Twin Valley; the Agassiz Recreational Trail project out of Thief River Falls and Twin Valley; and the Ag-Waste project out of Thief River Falls.

AmeriCorps will give a short presentation at the Educational (Emu) Seminar located in the Educational Area on Sunday, February 19th at 11:30 am during the Winter Shows.

If interested in learning more about AmeriCorps and what members are doing in your area or find out how you could help out with one of the projects, stop by the AmeriCorps booth at the Red River Valley Winter Shows in Crookston, MN February 17 through February 20. Or, you can contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service(formerly Soil Conservation Service) office to get further information.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications at (202) 720-5881 (voice) or (202) 720-7808 (TDD).

To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C., 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 690-1538 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.

11-22-1994 03:07PM FROM CONSERVATION Placerville TO

8235504

Conservation Educator, a certified teacher and former viticulturist. Jesse Baramati is a Civil Engineering Candidate in a joint UC Santa Cruz-Berkeley Program. They work cooperatively with the El Dorado County, Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) and SCS. As a team they unite their efforts with Auburn's DC, Cliff Heitz's representatives, Carol Rutenberg a geologist, and James Newman, a Humboldt State University graduate in Wildlife Management. Two other team members, Christi Lyn-Maison, an Agronomist and Althea Brusin, an Agriculture Science graduate from Cal Poly, work under the tutelage of Grass Valley's DC, Ron Zinke. The Project Coordinator is Bob Roan of High Sierra Resource Conservation and Development Area (RCD).

The anticipated success of this project will minimize the impact of our inevitable wildfires. Successful implementation of this program will generate more Americorp volunteers and inclusion of more watersheds in the fuel load reduction program.

This Rural Land Development Project aims to demonstrate a model of community interaction, cooperation between Federal and State and local agencies and private landowners. The reduction of fuel loads and fuel ladders to reduce possibility of catastrophic wildfires is one of the most critical environmental issues currently being addressed in the Foothills.

Submitted by:
Aleta Apgar, Americorp
Natural Resource Conservation Service
415 Placerville Drive, Suite M
Placerville, CA 95667
Phone: 522-1410

NOV 22 '94 14:06

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TEAM USDA NATIONAL SERVICE PROGRAM

FAX TRANSMISSION

PHONE: (202) 720-6350 (Joel) FAX: (202) 720-4614
(202) 720-4369 (Kathryn) *Katherine*
(202) 690-3894 (Ron)

TO: *Graeme Belcher*

FROM: *Katherine Gibney*

DATE: *3-22-95* NO. OF PAGES: *3*
(With Cover)

FAX NUMBER: *218-681-5598*

COMMENTS: *Graeme,*
I'm concerned that you sent this on
the 20th and we didn't do a
24-hour turnaround. However, this
is the first time I've seen it. Sorry.
Graeme, is there any way
you could beef up the lead.
Maybe start with something about
a member or a quote from a member.
The article really explains agricultural
waste utilization but it's a little
dry.
Also, am I right on 2nd page that
your AmeriCorps members are part
of a Rural Development Team. (or)
is it Public Lands and Environment?
THANKS

NEWS

United States
Department of
Agriculture

2121-C 2nd Street, Suite 102
Davis, CA 95616-5475
(916) 757-8241

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION	

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

CONTACT: Anita Brown
State Information Officer
PHONE: (916) 757-8241
FAX: (916) 757-8394

AG SECRETARY LAUDS AMERICORPS CONTRIBUTION TO FLOOD RECOVERY

DAVIS, Jan. 26 — Acting Secretary of Agriculture Richard Rominger will visit today with AmeriCorps members helping on flood recovery efforts. Rominger is recognizing the role played by the young people in restoring the flood-ravaged landscapes of an Indian Reservation and a national forest in San Bernardino County.

Twelve AmeriCorps members with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will join counterparts with the U.S. Forest Service (FS) in meeting with Rominger.

In addition to the work in San Bernardino County, NRCS AmeriCorps members are finding useful roles throughout the state:

HUMBOLDT: One AmeriCorps member is helping local community members access available flood assistance information.

LOS ANGELES/VENTURA/ORANGE: Five AmeriCorps members have been sandbagging in Laguna Beach, Pasadena and Ventura Counties. A Lancaster team is working with the California Office of Emergency Services (OES) on a flood mitigation plan.

MARIN: Two AmeriCorps members are claybagging (no sand available) to reinforce a failing levee in Lakeville.

SAN BERNARDINO: Seven NRCS AmeriCorps members are helping tribal leaders on the Morongo Indian Reservation where floods have sent heavy mud flows into homes on the reservation. The members are surveying and documenting the damage and collecting historical information to help design solutions for keeping the mud out of homes.

— more —

The Natural Resources Conservation Service,
formerly the Soil Conservation Service,
is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SONOMA: Two AmeriCorps members are going door-to-door to explain a proposed flood restoration project to landowners and to ask for their participation.

STATEWIDE: One AmeriCorps member will be assisting biologists to identify threatened and endangered species present in areas where the NRCS is assisting in flood rehabilitation. This information will help the biologists design flood programs that won't harm habitat.

The AmeriCorps program is President Clinton's national service initiative to provide critical community assistance in exchange for a small stipend and a voucher to help members further their education.

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