

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Natural Resources Conservation Service****7 CFR Chapter VI****Farm Service Agency****7 CFR Chapter VII**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency, USDA.

**ACTION:** Announcement of forums, on interim rules.

**SUMMARY:** The United States Department of Agriculture's, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced elsewhere in today's Federal Register forums on the implementation of the conservation provisions of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act), which includes: Highly Erodible Land Compliance, Wetlands Conservation,

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Lloyd Wright, USDA/NRCS, Phone: 202-720-1845

Cheryl Zavodny, USDA/FSA, Phone: 202-720-7333.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The United States Department of Agriculture (the Department), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA) will conduct 54 public forums where interested individuals can provide comments and ideas on the implementation of the conservation provisions of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (the 1996 Act), which includes: Highly Erodible Land/Wetland Conservation (Federal Register, August 27, 1996. (Volume 61, No. 167) Rules and Regulations, pp. 43943-43946), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)(Federal Register, September 23, 1996. (Volume 61, No. 185) Rules and Regulations, pp. 49697-49711), and

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The public is invited to attend the meetings to provide brief oral comments. All are encouraged to provide detailed written comments concerning the implementation of the 1996 Act which are due on or before October 22, 1996. Those who wish to speak at a meeting may make arrangements in advance by calling the state contact listed for the meeting. In addition, individuals wishing to provide oral presentations may sign-up at the forum, as time permits.

For information on the dates and locations of these forums, please consult the announcement of forums on proposed rules, located elsewhere in today's Federal Register.

Paul W. Johnson,

*Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service.*

Grant Buntrock,

*Administrator, Farm Service Agency.*

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