



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Soil
Conservation
Service

West National Technical Center
511 NW Broadway, Room 248
Portland, Oregon 97209-3489

1-Coburnley
1-Norris
Econ

February 1, 1989

WEST NTC BULLETIN NO. W200-9-3

SUBJECT: ECN - USE OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP DEVELOP CROP BUDGETS

Purpose. To alert states of the opportunity to use volunteers to help develop crop enterprise budgets and to transmit a Volunteer Job Description for a "Crop Budget Specialist."

Expiration Date. September 30, 1989.

The current redesign of the Field Office Technical Guide and the adoption of new conservation planning software such as CAMPS, CONSPLAN, CARE, and ICE, will require the generation of a large number of crop budgets if SCS is to help our cooperators make economically sound decisions. In addition, upcoming national and/or regional level analyses of erosion, resource use, and productive capability could require the development of a current set of crop budgets as part of the input data.

Development of these budgets can require a large amount of time on the part of the person assigned responsibility for economics in the state. Fortunately there is an opportunity to use volunteers in a state to greatly multiply the effectiveness of the economist and accomplish this task in a time saving manner.

Attached is a copy of a volunteer job description for a crop budget specialist. We suggest that you examine this opportunity to see whether it is something that will help you accomplish a task that is in the difficult-to-accomplish category of important but not urgent.

Your Volunteer Reference Guide provides important information on acquiring and working with volunteers, particularly in the section on recruitment. We feel that there are a number of underemployed farmers, retired farmers, retired professional agricultural workers, students, etc., who have the necessary skills and abilities to do this work and who would welcome the opportunity to have a reason to spend time interacting with farmers for a meaningful purpose.

DIST:
N (Updegraff, ECN)
S (West)
WNTC
T

- MORE -

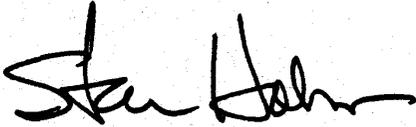


The Soil Conservation Service
is an agency of the
United States Department of Agriculture



WNTC W200-9-3
February 1, 1989
Page 2

We will be happy to work with you to develop some recruitment strategies. If you have any questions about this opportunity, or if you would like some assistance, please phone Bob Caldwell at FTS 423-2841 or Commercial 503-326-2841.



STANLEY N. HOBSON
Director

Attachment

Volunteer Job Description

Job Title: Crop Budget Specialist

Location: At any field location capable of easy access to SCS State Office.

Overall Goal:

To develop a west-wide series of crop enterprise budgets that will be useful in developing technical guides, providing data to conservation planners, and supplying input to state, regional, and national level analyses such as the USDA CARD linear programming model.

Major Results:

Develop sound and reliable crop budgets on CARE software system for common crop/soil situations in the major production regions of a state. Will provide major data source for ICE and CONSPLAN software.

Suggested Activities:

Assemble group of willing farmers.
Discuss and agree on cultural practices and typical cropping systems.
Agree on units and quantities involved.
Input data into CARE computer system.
Review to assure completeness, reliability.

Knowledge and Skills Required:

Knowledge of farming systems, crops, and production inputs including machinery.
Ability to meet and converse easily with farmers.
Ability to sift out key data and achieve concensus.
Ability to input data into computer using CARE software.
Ability to think analytically and objectively.
Possess a valid driver's license for the state of residence.

Orientation and Training:

OJT with an experienced budget developer and a group of farmers.
CARE System User's Manual

Time Requirements:

2-3 days in a row, several times a month - should be willing to commit at least 50 hours per month for at least 3 months. Some overnight travel may be required at government expense.

Supervision:

Direct supervision during OJT and subsequent technical supervision by State Economist. Will report to supervisor on accomplishments including completed budgets.