

# Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Washington, --To upgrade its crop insurance service, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Crop Insurance Corporation (FCIC) is providing special training to private insurance agents.

Beginning with 1983 spring crops, the agency is requiring all Federal Crop Insurance Agents to be certified "in an effort to increase program credibility and improve the quality of service provided to farmers," said Merritt Sprague, Manager of the USDA Crop Insurance Agency.

More than 15,000 professional insurance agents now sell and service Federal Crop Insurance throughout the country.

"We see the development of a well-trained agent sales force as a positive answer to critical areas of concern voiced by members of the agricultural

community," Sprague said. "The certification of agents serves to protect farmer interests in crop insurance as well as to increase their confidence in the agents and the programs."

Sprague said he is pleased with the early response of insurance agents to the training. More than 700 private insurance agents already have participated in the program, which will continue through December 18 at 157 locations around the country.

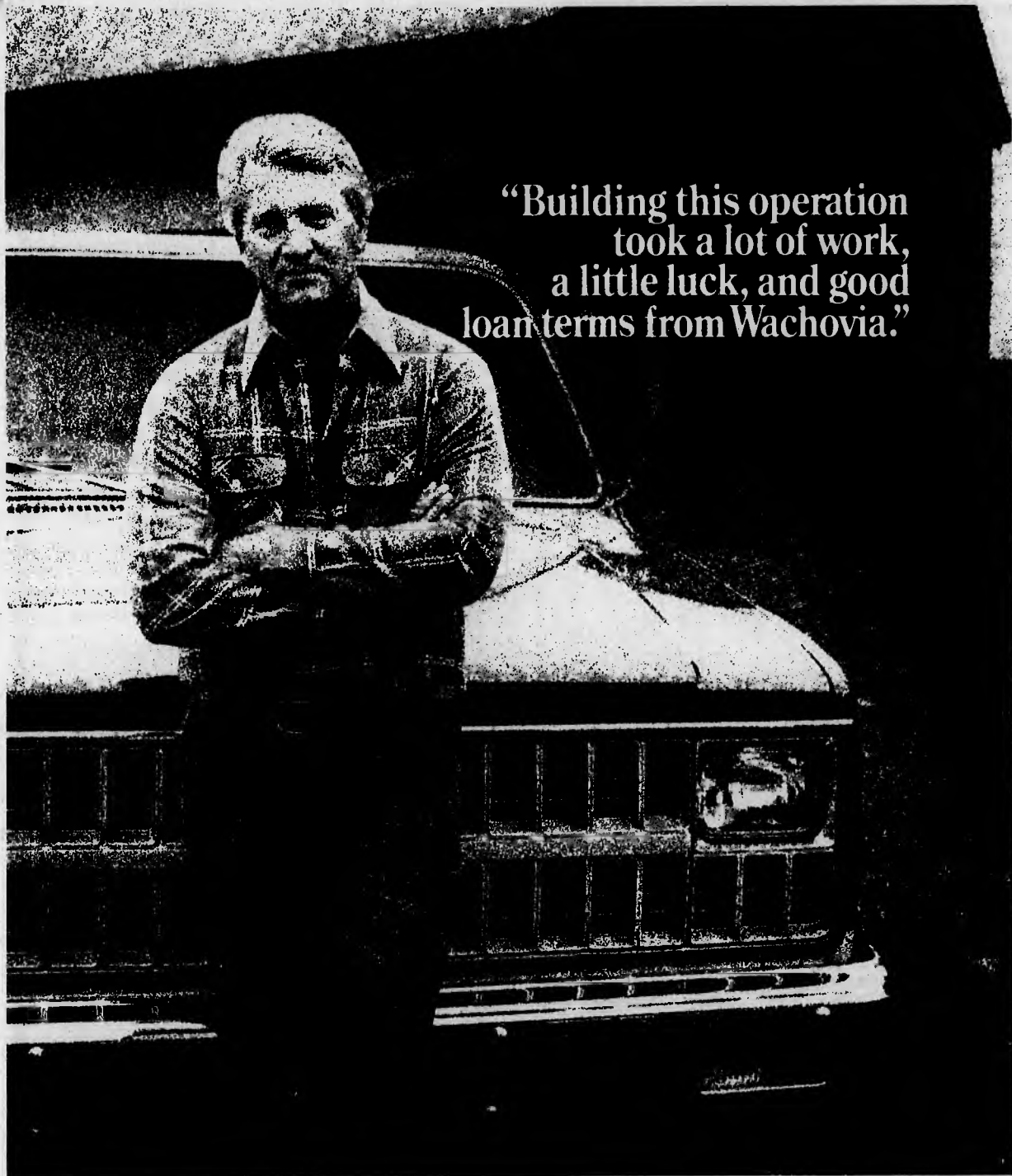
Each training course consists of a three-day intensive study program. Topics include general crop insurance principles, actuarial development, individual crop programs, and proper completion and handling of crop insurance documents. Recent contract improvements, and procedural changes made by the Corporation will also be covered.

Agents must successfully complete examinations to receive certification, Sprague said.

## Seedlings Available

**Seedlings Available**--Seedlings for many types of pine and hardwood trees are available at cost to the public for forestation, erosion control and related purposes. The seedlings may be ordered from County Forest Rangers and should be available from the states' nurseries around Thanksgiving. The seedlings range in price from \$16 per thousand for loblolly pine to \$31.50 per thousand for white pine and \$24.15 per hundred for black walnut. For information on how the seedlings can be ordered in your area and for feature ideas on the benefits of tree planting projects, contact your county forest ranger.

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