

## ACP TO STRESS SPECIAL CONSERVATION PRACTICE

Secretary Freeman has announced that the 1966 ACP will stress to low-income farmers, special beautification-conservation practices, and conservation practices that help shift land from row and small grain crops to less-intensive uses.

The 1966 ACP encourages conservation of soil, water, woodland, and wildlife on individual farms and ranches by sharing cost of approved practices. Authorized funds are allocated among the States on the basis of conservation needs.

Farmer-elected ASC committees will administer the program and will coordinate it with work plans of local soil and water conservation districts. USDA's SCS and Forest Service are responsible for technical phases of certain practices.

In announcing the 1966 ACP, Secretary Freeman said: "The Agricultural Conservation Program for 1966 marks the thirty-first year of a unique cooperation between farmers and government. The program continues to reflect current needs and conditions through annual adjustments in its provisions, without changing its basic purpose — the encouragement of conservation on privately owned farms and ranches. ACP serves as a conservation stimulus, contributing not only to improvement of natural physical resources, but also to a better economic and recreational outlook in both rural and urban areas.

"The changes in program emphasis this year are consistent with and will help implement the policy of promoting beautification and improved economic conditions, adopted generally by the USDA and government as a whole."

State ASC committees are in the process of reviewing their programs to adjust them in line with local con-

servation problems and the current agricultural situation. Normally, the maximum Federal cost-share for each practice is the rate necessary to obtain the needed performance while representing a substantial contribution by the farmer or rancher, but not to exceed 50 percent of the cost.

These ASCS committees are authorized to approve practice cost-sharing of up to 80 percent of the cost for low-income farmers. To be eligible for the higher rate of cost-sharing the applicant must be largely dependent on the farm for his livelihood. The farm family's total income must not exceed \$3,000, and the county committee must find that the conservation measures approved for the higher rate would not be carried out without the higher rate.

## Burnsville Lodge To Install Officers

Burnsville Lodge No. 717 A. F. & A. M. elected and installed their officers for 1966 at a Stated Communication in the Lodge hall Thursday, December 16th. Willie L. Lankford, District Deputy Grand Master of Masons in North Carolina of the 53rd. Masonic District was installing officer, and Mack Branton, Certified Lecturer and Past Master was Marshall. The officers elected were: Master, Herschel Holcombe; Senior Warden, John Dale; Junior Warden, James A. Roland; Treasurer, Mack Branton; Secretary, Billy Ray Bailey; Senior Deacon, Jerry Holcombe; Junior Deacon, J. C. Styles; Senior Steward, Grady P. Melton; Junior Steward, Phillip R. Banks; Chaplain, Woodrow Ballew and Tyler, Ernest Hughes.

## Adult Education To Start

Mrs. Shaby B. Humphries, Director of Adult Education in Mitchell and Yancey counties is now taking registrations for classes to begin in Burnsville January 1966.

All persons 18 years of age or older, with less than an eighth grade education are eligible for this program and are urged to enroll in order to improve their reading and writing abilities and improve their chances of getting better jobs.

This course is FREE and classes will be held twice weekly for three hours each meeting time. Classes may be held in several places in the two counties if enough persons enroll in the program.

Yancey County residents may register for the classes by calling telephone number 682-2113 in Burnsville or by writing to Mrs. Humphries at 225 Walnut Ave., Spruce Pine, N. C.

Officials of the program believe this to be a great opportunity for local citizens and see it as a program later leading to work through the high school level and beyond.

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