



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Office of Information  
Press Service



WASHINGTON, D. C.

Release - Immediate

February 2, 1937

AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
ENCOURAGES PLANTING FOR WILDLIFE

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Outlining a 3-in-1 opportunity for Southern farmers, the Biological Survey of the U. S. Department of Agriculture points out that food supplies for quail, rabbits, and other wildlife can be increased by plantings that will improve the soil and at the same time qualify the farmer for payments under the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program. This suggestion, says the Survey, applies to farmers in the Southern Region, including eastern Oklahoma and Texas, Arkansas, the Gulf States, and Georgia, and South Carolina.

Class I conservation payments for diversion of acreage from soil-depleting crops may be earned by reducing the acreage of cotton, tobacco, grains, and other soil-depleting crops and planting instead soil-conserving crops. The approved list of soil-conserving crops includes seed producing legumes such as cowpeas, soybeans and beggarweed; grain sorghums, if seeded solid and not harvested for grain or forage; sweet sorghums, millets, or Sudan grass either in rows or seeded solid if not harvested for grain seed or forage; cover crops, including rye, barley, oats, wheat, and grain mixtures, not cut for grain or hay and left on the land; and forest trees planted on cropland since January 1, 1934.

Class II soil conservation payments for soil-building practices, to be made at various rates may be earned by planting and leaving on the land lespedeza, any sorghums, Sudan grass, millet, or by planting forest trees on cropland in 1937.

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Payments will be made upon application filed with the County Agricultural Conservation Committee, within the prescribed time, and upon verification by the Committee of the performance on farms for which work sheets have been filed.

Sorghums, millets, Sudan grass, and lespedezas, says the Biological Survey, produce much food for seed-eating birds and mammals. Lespedezas and grain cover crops yield much needed green food. Grains and summer legumes, if planted early enough to mature seed and left on the land, also improve the winter food supply for wildlife. Many forest trees such as oaks, ashes, gums, hickories, and beech, after reaching bearing age, yield food for wildlife over long periods.

These circumstances, says Ira N. Gabrielson, Chief of the Survey, present a splendid opportunity for improving farms as homes for game and other wildlife and at the same time cooperating in a soil conservation program with financial rewards. In the hope that many will take advantage of this opportunity, the Federal wildlife service calls attention to two publications of value to farmers interested in wildlife. Farmers' Bulletins 1719 and 1759, entitled "Improving the Farm Environment for Wildlife" and "Game Management on the Farm" may be obtained on request from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.