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Subject: 10-21-13 eBlast from Utah NRCS

eBlast
News briefs from Utah NRCS

October 21, 2013

CONSERVATION PROGRAM STATUS DURING RE-START OF NRCS OPERATIONS

This message is for NRCS employees to help with any questions customers may have as we get back in business. The following actions/guidelines should be noted. If you have any questions, contact Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Programs Clarence Finley.

1. The program application deadline has been extended from October 18 to November 15.
2. The shutdown likely created a backlog of services for our customers. The attached template letters can be modified for your office use should you want to mail or email something to concerned cooperators or partners (your option).
3. Field office employees are not to submit any payments or modification in Protracts until notified that the system is back up and running. We anticipate the system will be back by the end of the week.
4. District Conservationists are encourage to keep our partners informed about potential delays in services.

The following is a department approved public statement about the resumption of NRCS services following the recent shutdown:

NRCS offices across the country, including those in Utah, are resuming work with farmers and ranchers to implement conservation activities. All offices are open and are working to address the backlog of requests expediently. The agency is able to proceed with implementation of several conservation programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). However, authority to enroll acres in several programs, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and Chesapeake Bay Watershed program, expired on September 30, 2013, due to the expiration of the Farm Bill. For more information, producers are encouraged to contact their local USDA Service Center or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.

Periodic news reports from NRCS Utah

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

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