



**Natural Resources
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NRCS Announces National Water Quality Initiative in Georgia

Agricultural Producers located in priority watersheds will be able to participate

ATHENS, GA, April 4, 2014 — Acting State Conservationist Greg Kist, announced the National Water Quality Initiative to help improve four impaired waterways in Georgia. USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will manage the initiative by making funds available to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in the selected watersheds. Applications must be in by May 16.

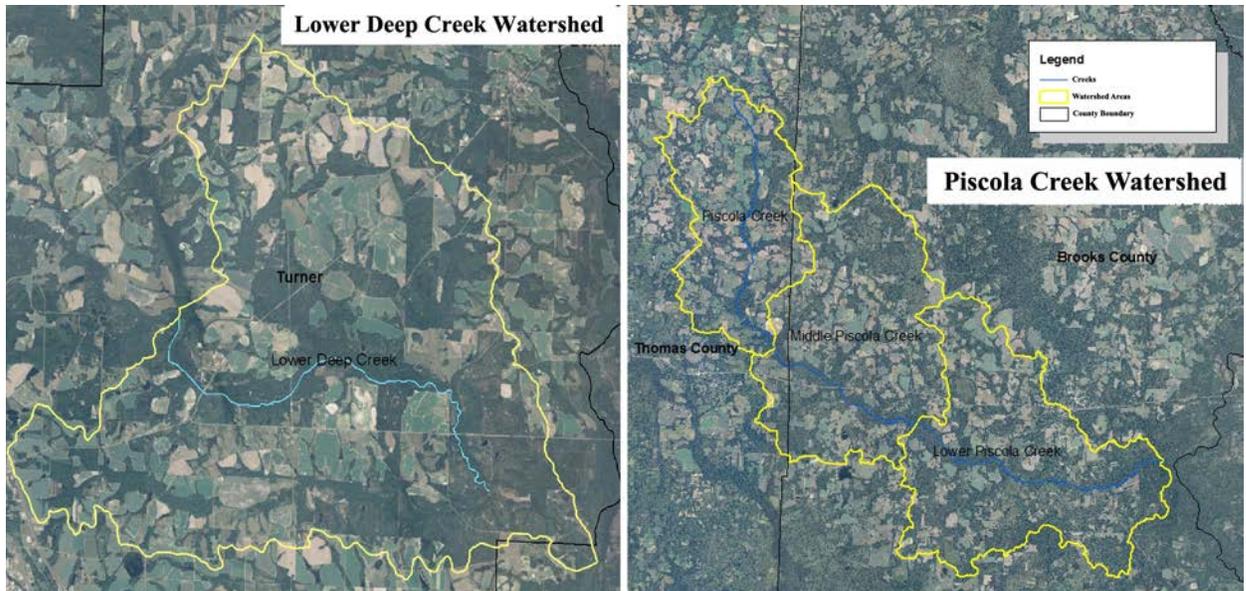
Through this effort, eligible producers in the following four watersheds: Lower Deep Creek, in Turner County; Upper Piscola Creek, Middle Piscola Creek and Lower Piscola Creek, in both Brooks and Thomas Counties, will invest in voluntary conservation actions to help provide cleaner water for their neighbors and communities. The selected watersheds were originally identified with help from state agencies, partners, and the NRCS State Technical Committee.

Using funds from the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, NRCS will provide funding and advice to producers to install conservation practices such as cover crops, filter strips and terraces in watersheds with impairments where the federal investment can make a difference to improve water quality.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. Remember to check with your local NRCS office to see if you are located in a selected watershed. All applications for funding consideration, during this fiscal year, must be received by May 16, 2014. This summer, NRCS will notify all applicants of the results and begin developing contracts with selected applicants.

Since 1935, NRCS' nationwide conservation delivery system works with private landowners to put conservation on the ground based on specific, local conservation needs, while accommodating state and national interests. For more information about NRCS' programs, initiatives and services in Georgia, visit us online at <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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Above are maps of the four priority watersheds in Georgia. Left is Lower Deep Creek, located in Turner County and right is the Upper and Middle Piscola Creek, located in Thomas and Brooks Counties and Lower Piscola Creek located in Brooks County.

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