

For Immediate Release

## North Dakota Announces Funding for Innovation Grants

BISMARCK, ND, February 28, 2007 ----- Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State Conservationist J.R. Flores announced \$300,000 available funding for new technology under the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Through innovation, CIG is an effort to address some of the State's most pressing natural resource conservation needs. CIG is a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

"I am happy to provide this opportunity to emphasize conservation projects that will provide tangible benefits to North Dakota," stated Flores. "These projects will enable NRCS to work with public and private entities to accelerate technology transfer, adoption of promising technologies, and promote innovative approaches to address natural resource concerns."

State, Tribal, and local government entities, non-governmental organizations and individuals may apply. Project proposals should demonstrate the uses of innovative technologies or approaches to address a natural resource concern. Project results are expected to improve and create the transfer of conservation technologies, management systems, and innovative approaches (such as market-based systems) into NRCS technical manuals or guides or to the private sector.

Applications are due in the North Dakota NRCS State Office by April 6, 2007. Project proposals will be evaluated with the assistance of the North Dakota State Technical Committee based on the criteria identified in the announcement of Fiscal Year 2007 program funding.

Ten percent of the total CIG funding will be targeted to proposals from beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers, Indian Tribes, or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities.

Selected applicants may receive grants up to 50 percent of the total project cost, not to exceed \$75,000. Applicants must provide non-federal matching funds for at least 50 percent of the project cost, of which 50 percent may be from in-kind contributions. Projects may be single or multi-year, not to exceed three years.

Additional information, the request for proposals, and related forms are located at [http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/CIG\\_index.html](http://www.nd.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/CIG/CIG_index.html).

###

Helping People Help the Land

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer