

News Release on Additional Wetland Wildlife Habitat Funding

BISMARCK, ND — The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing over \$3 million in additional FY 2011 conservation program funding specifically dedicated to accelerate the implementation of conservation practices to enhance wetland wildlife habitat on North Dakota working lands. Financial and technical assistance will be used to help producers manage their wetlands and farmlands in an economical manner while protecting and enhancing habitats for wildlife populations.

“These new funds present a wonderful opportunity for producers in this state to select alternatives for managing cropland during wet conditions and, at the same time, provide sustainable habitats for wildlife species,” said Jack Russell, Acting NRCS State Conservationist. “Together, we can help ensure this region continues to support healthy agricultural systems and healthy wildlife populations.”

Funding will be disbursed through two previously established NRCS programs— Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

To learn more about these funding opportunities, we invite you to visit your local NRCS Service Center. Applications must be received by August 1, 2011, in order to be considered for funding.



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Wetland Wildlife Habitat Funding:

Helping producers manage their lands while protecting and enhancing habitats for wildlife populations



Helping People Help the Land

Wetland Habitat Wildlife Funding

The North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) received an additional allocation of funding to help producers accelerate the implementation of conservation practices to enhance wetland wildlife habitats on the state's working lands.



Ultimately, these funds will help producers to the north and east of the Missouri River utilize working lands conservation programs and assist in managing wetlands and farmlands in an economical manner while protecting and enhancing habitats for wildlife populations. Three resource objectives will be addressed through this new round of funding:

- Restore working lands back to wetlands;
- Manage farmed wetlands by preparing a management system to minimize impacts on wildlife and water quality; and
- Keep intact wetlands in their current condition.

What conservation programs will receive this funding?

Funding will be disbursed through two previously established NRCS programs—Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

✓ Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to eligible agricultural producers to help plan and implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural lands.

EQIP provides financial assistance payments to producers based on a portion of the average cost associated with the practice implementation.

✓ Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program

Similar to EQIP, WHIP is a voluntary program for conservation-minded landowners who want to develop and improve wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. NRCS administers WHIP to provide both technical and financial assistance to establish and improve fish and wildlife habitat.



How much financial assistance is available?

Over \$3 million in financial and technical assistance will be available to help eligible landowners accelerate the implementation of conservation practices intended to enhance wetland wildlife habitat on working lands in counties to the north and east of the Missouri River. Through that allocation, \$1.2 million will be available in FY 2011 for EQIP and \$600,000 will be available for WHIP.



NRCS is currently accepting applications for this new funding allocation. The application cutoff date for funding consideration is August 1, 2011.

For more information about funding opportunities, please refer to the national NRCS web site www.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local NRCS Service Center.



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