

NEWS RELEASE

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

*P.O. Box 1458
220 East Rosser Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501*

**Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service**

*Contact:
Arlene Deutscher
State Public Affairs Specialist
(701) 530-2099*

For Immediate Release

STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING AND EQIP PUBLIC FORUM TO BE HELD

Bismarck, ND, March 2, 2005— The North Dakota State Technical Committee, authorized by the 1990 Farm Bill, will meet in Bismarck, March 16, 2005, at the Comfort Inn, 1030 East Interstate Avenue. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and is open to the public. The State Technical Committee serves as an advisor to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) State conservationist J.R. Flores.

Agenda items include updates of the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), as well as discussions on Conservation Innovative Grants and conservation program implementation.

In conjunction with the State Technical Committee, NRCS will hold a public forum to provide farmers, ranchers, USDA program participants, and partnering entities an opportunity to comment on EQIP National priorities. EQIP regulation requires periodic reviews. The forum will begin at 1 p.m. and will be instrumental in obtaining feedback for potential updates to funding priorities for EQIP, as well as other programs and issues. Anyone interested in further information on the meeting or the Committee should contact Jennifer Heglund, USDA-NRCS, P.O. Box 1458, Bismarck, ND 58502-1458 (701) 530-2095.

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