

For Immediate Release

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Applications due October 28, 2011 for funding consideration

USDA-NRCS ANNOUNCES APPLICATION PERIOD FOR FARM AND RANCH LANDS PROTECTION PROGRAM

ATHENS, GA, September 29, 2011 -- James E. Tillman, Sr., State Conservationist for the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Georgia today announced that the NRCS is accepting applications for financial assistance through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, (FRPP). Although participants can apply at any time, in order to be considered for funding during fiscal year 2012, applications must be received by October 28, 2011.

The FRPP is a voluntary program designed to protect agricultural use and related conservation values of eligible land by limiting non-agricultural uses of the land. The program provides matching funds to state, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations with existing farm and ranch land protection programs to purchase conservation easements for the purpose of protecting agricultural use and limiting non-agricultural uses.

NRCS enters into cooperative agreements with eligible entities that have active farm and ranch land protection programs to acquire conservation easements. The entity must be authorized to hold conservation easements. Some examples of eligible entities include county Board of Commissioners, Land Trusts, and Land Conservancies.

NRCS is authorized to facilitate and provide matching funds (up to 50%) for the purchase of conservation easements on eligible land that is subject to a pending offer from an eligible entity. These permanent conservation easements prohibit the conversion of farm and ranch land to nonagricultural uses, and ensure agricultural capacity of the soils remain viable for future generations.

FRPP is a voluntary program that helps farmers and ranchers keep their land in agriculture. FRPP is a competitive program, where farms are ranked based on national and state ranking criteria. Funding levels vary every year.

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Helping People Help the Land

To apply for the FRRP, contact a local eligible entity or your local NRCS office to find out more.
Or for more information on eligibility or how to apply please visit our Web site
www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/frpp.html