

For Immediate Release

For more information

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## News Release

### APPLICATIONS FOR THE USDA-NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES'S ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

ATHENS, GA, (September 1, 2011)--James E. Tillman, Sr., State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Georgia today announced that the 2012 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications are due by September 30, 2011 to be considered for funding in fiscal year 2012.

"EQIP is a conservation program that every farmer should consider applying for. Besides helping farmers implement their conservation plans it could help cover a considerable part of the cost. This is a voluntary program that can benefit each farmer and the community. I encourage every farmer to consider applying for EQIP before the cutoff date," said Danny Hogan, acting chairman, Georgia Association of Conservation District Supervisors.

Applications can be taken at all NRCS offices and USDA Service Centers. EQIP is a voluntary program that funds conservation practices based on state identified natural resource concerns, such as forestry, grazing, soil erosion, water conservation and water quality. There are about 60 EQIP conservation practices including, but not limited to: pasture and hayland planting, heavy use areas, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, tree planting, organic crop assistance, and wildlife habitat management. This list will vary based on locally prioritized conservation practices.

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on private lands. Conservation plans must be developed for the entire area that will be included in the EQIP contract.

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment.

More information on NRCS conservation programs can be found at [www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov) under programs.