



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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"Helping People Help the Land"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Subject: Sign-Up for Delaware's 2007 State Environmental Quality
Incentives Program (EQIP)**

Dover, DE – The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that the sign-up period for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is now open in Delaware. EQIP is a voluntary conservation program administered by the NRCS. The program supports Delaware farmers who have set compatible goals in both production agriculture and environmental quality. Through EQIP, Delaware farmers may receive financial and technical help to plan, design and install structural conservation practices, and to plan and implement management practices on eligible agricultural land.

A statewide EQIP sign-up for agricultural waste management, integrated crop management, irrigation water management, erosion control, grazing land management, biodiversity, and poultry house windbreaks is currently underway. Two pilot programs on carbon sequestration and poultry litter amendments are also under review.

EQIP is a competitive program. All applications that are received by December 22 will be ranked. The ranking system uses a combination of statewide and local criteria to help determine which applications are the most environmentally beneficial projects. Those projects that are ranked highest will be funded during the initial ranking. Should funding still be available, a second ranking of applications received will occur by January 26, 2007. Applications for EQIP can be submitted at any of Delaware's three USDA Service Centers.

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For more information about EQIP and the NRCS, or to locate the nearest USDA Service Center, please visit the NRCS on the web at www.de.nrcs.usda.gov. You can reach the Kent County USDA Service Center by calling 302-741-2600. The New Castle USDA Service Center can be reached at 302-832-3100. To contact the Sussex USDA Service Center, please call 302-856-3990.

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