



NEWS RELEASE

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New Conservation Resources Available to Assist Landowners with Difficult Drought Decisions

INDIANAPOLIS, July 24, 2012 – New drought resources developed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) may benefit landowners when making conservation decisions during this droughty season.

NRCS recently developed a drought webpage and series of drought factsheets aimed at providing technical assistance to landowners throughout Indiana. These tools are designed to help Indiana landowners make good land management decisions during this severe weather condition.

"We know farmers around the state have been hard hit by the drought. We have not seen conditions like this since 1988 and according to some the prolonged and extreme heat temperatures coupled with lack of rain is creating situations in some areas comparable to the dust bowl," said Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist. "Developing these conservation tools is just one way we can assist our landowners in making the best conservation decisions available."

The drought website offers visitors vital, up-to-date information about the 2012 drought. Information on this site includes a summary of conservation concerns, drought factsheets and publications, drought press releases, and drought web resources. The factsheet series focuses on four crucial topics including cover crops/no-till, pasture and grazing, engineering practices, and Farm Bill Program flexibility. Landowners interested in visiting the drought website or obtaining the factsheet series should visit <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/drought.html>.

In addition to these conservation tools, NRCS staff is available to assist landowners in making conservation decisions. Landowners are encouraged to contact a NRCS district conservationist at their

local USDA Service Center. Visit http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/field_offices.html to find the nearest USDA Service Center.

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