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USDA-NRCS IN GEORGIA ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM SIGN-UP

ATHENS, GA, October 17, 2016 — State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that a sign up for fiscal year 2017 [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) is underway and all Georgia producers who wish to be considered for financial assistance should apply by November 18, 2016.

While producers can apply year round, this application cutoff announcement is for all general EQIP, as well as some special initiatives such as the [Longleaf Pine](#), [On-Farm Energy](#), [Organic](#), [Seasonal High Tunnel](#), [StrikeForce](#), [Working Lands for Wildlife](#) and the North Georgia Irrigation Pilot Project. They can do so by visiting to their local [USDA Service Center](#) and submitting their [Conservation Program Application \(NRCS-CPA-1200\)](#).

“Together, we have made tremendous strides over the years to improve Georgia’s farms, ranches and forestlands. But there is much more to be done.” said Rudolph. “We want all of those who are in need of our services to know that we are ready to assist producers get conservation on the ground. They can take this time to stop by their local NRCS field office to discuss their current conservation needs or for those already registered online with the [Conservation Client Gateway](#), all you have to do is log on and submit an application.”

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and other natural resource concerns on private lands. EQIP conservation practices include, but are not limited to: pasture and hay land planting, heavy use areas, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, tree planting, seasonal high tunnels, organic crop assistance, and wildlife habitat management.

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 <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov> under the Programs tab.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or

write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.