



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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NEWS RELEASE

USDA Announces Sign Up for NWQI Pilot Watershed Project

Agricultural producers located in Caney Fork and Nolichucky River Watersheds are eligible to apply

NASHVILLE, March 8, 2018 – The United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) recently announced a sign up for National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Pilot Watersheds in the Caney Fork River and Nolichucky River Watersheds to receive technical and financial assistance to address water quality resource concerns in Tennessee.

“Tennessee is excited to be involved in this nationwide effort with producers and communities to improve and protect our water resources,” said Matt Walker, Tennessee NRCS Acting State Conservationist. *“Agricultural producers participating in the initiative will receive conservation payments to work on the land in a sustainable way that will help reduce the flow of sediment, nutrients, and other runoff into impaired waterways.*

NRCS will accept applications from eligible producers in the following counties: DeKalb, Putnam, Smith, White, Wilson, Greene, and Washington, who also fall into one of the following smaller HUC 12 watersheds within the larger Caney Fork River and Nolichucky River Watersheds:

- Muddy Fork Creek
- Big Limestone Creek
- Calfkiller River Middle
- Falling Water River Middle
- Falling Water River Upper
- Center Hill Lake
- Hickman Creek

The application deadline to sign up for this initiative is **Friday, April 13, 2018**.

The NWQI is designed to build on ongoing collaborative conservation efforts to accelerate the improvement of water quality on impaired waterways across the nation.

Producers interested in NWQI are recommended to contact their [local USDA service center](#) or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/GetStarted.

More information can also be found by visiting the [Tennessee NRCS website](#).

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“Voluntary Conservation Works!”