Opportunities for Historically Underserved Producers in Wisconsin

**Purpose**

The 2008 Farm Bill continues to address the unique circumstances and concerns of socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers, as well as beginning and limited resource farmers and ranchers. It provides for voluntary participation, offers incentives, and focuses on equity in accessing U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and services.

Enhancements include streamlined delivery of technical and financial assistance; improved programs and services; and flexibility in decision making. Some programs offer higher practice payments to participants who belong to a group identified as historically underserved. The term “historically underserved” refers to groups that have not participated in or that in the past have received limited benefits from USDA programs. These are beginning farmers and ranchers, limited resource farmers and ranchers and socially disadvantaged producers. NRCS-Wisconsin is committed to ensuring its programs and services are accessible to all customers, fairly and equitably, with emphasis on reaching the underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers and tribes of our state.

**Eligibility**

These traditionally underserved groups are eligible for an increased payment rate in their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) contract. NRCS will help eligible producers develop a conservation plan, which will become the basis of the EQIP contract.

**More Information**

Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov. Find Your Local USDA Service Center at http://www.farmers.gov.