



NEWS RELEASE

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March 20, 2014

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NRCS Improves Impaired Watersheds in Texas

Agricultural Producers located in priority watersheds will be able to participate

NRCS will make financial assistance available this year to help farmers, ranchers and forestland owners install conservation practices that manage nutrients, pathogens and sediments. Funding comes through the agency's National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI).

NRCS worked closely with partners to select the priority watersheds where on-farm conservation investments have the best chance to improve water quality. State agencies, key partners and technical experts have chosen five sub-watersheds in Upshur, Camp, Titus and Morris counties which reach downstream into East Texas' Lake O' the Pines as part of the NWQI.

The Lake O' the Pines is an important municipal, cultural, recreational, ecological and aesthetic asset. Working to preserve and maintain water quality will ensure prosperity, productivity and quality of life for surrounding communities and lands.

Producers in the selected counties may be eligible to receive assistance for installing conservation systems that may include practices such as nutrient management, cover crops, waste storage facility, pasture planting and tree planting.

The sign up time deadline for applications to apply for NWQI funding at your local NRCS field office through the agency's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is May 16, 2014.

NRCS accepts applications for financial assistance on a continuous basis throughout the year. For more information about NRCS' programs, initiatives and services in Texas visit www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service helps America's farmers and ranchers conserve the Nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment.

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