



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Heath Eisele
District Conservationist
585.343.9167 ext 115
heath.eisele@ny.usda.gov

NRCS-NY Extends Application Cutoff Dates for NRCS Conservation Programs

Batavia, N. Y., October 24, 2013– The New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces **November 15, 2013** as the extended application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2014.

Applications accepted after November 15, 2013 may be considered for funding if additional application rounds are announced throughout 2014. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

Although a new Farm Bill has not been approved, applicants may still apply for funding through several of the programs still authorized under the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008. During time of application, participants must specify the resource concern(s) that they intend to address. If necessary, NRCS employees will work with participants to transfer applications to the appropriate conservation program once a new Farm Bill is authorized..

“NRCS NY looks forward to helping farmers and rural landowners address priority resource concerns on their land,” said Donald Pettit NRCS State Conservationist. “Each year NRCS offers a variety of programs which help landowners address a wide range of conservation needs in New York.”

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** Offers financial assistance for practices which address soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Some practices implemented through EQIP include strip cropping, grassed waterways and waste storage facilities. Focus areas within the EQIP program include soil health, livestock waste, habitat, forestry and grazing.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):** helps participants restore and protect wildlife habitat in grassland and shrubland areas.

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit our web site for information on applying at:

http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/general_information/how_to_apply.html.

You may apply by visiting your local NRCS field office, which can be located using the web site:

<http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=NY>.

###

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.