

Patricia D. Hastings

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Cc: "Barbara Phillips-Somerset, NJ" <Barbara.Phillips@nj.usda.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2007 7:54 PM
Subject: 2008 USDA NRCS Farm Bill EQIP, WHIP, & WRP Program Funding Applications Due June 1st!

Courtesy of Barbara L. Phillips, Public Affairs Specialist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS):
 Announcement of **2008 Farm Bill Programs** funding available to land managers and landowners.

Apply by June 1, 2007, for 2008 Farm Bill Programs

Land managers applying for 2008 funding through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**, the **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)** and **Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)** should submit applications to their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office by June 1, 2007. Applications received after the 1st will be held for consideration in the next funding period for 2009 contracts.

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical experts can help land managers assess natural resource needs on their land and develop conservation plans to address water, soil, and other natural resources. They can also identify federal and state programs that can be used to help fund the implementation of the plan.

For details about conservation programs and to contact your local NRCS Service Center, please visit the NRCS website www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/.

Three USDA Programs successfully used by land managers in New Jersey include:

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. EQIP provides assistance to install permanent measures or adopt new management strategies that address resource concerns on farms.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a USDA voluntary program for people who want to improve or develop fish and wildlife habitat on non-federal lands. The program is designed to provide both technical assistance and cost sharing to help establish and enhance habitat. Landowners work with the USDA-NRCS to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. WHIP priorities include: Early Successional Habitat (with a provision for planting "Wild Flower Meadows for Pollinators), Riparian Habitat, Bog Turtle Habitat and Invasive Exotic Vegetation Control. NRCS can provide up to 75% of the costs of the improvements.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve program is a voluntary program that offers landowners a chance to receive payments for restoring and protecting wetlands on their property. The term "wetland" describes a landscape area with unique soils, plants, hydrology and wildlife. Some wetlands have water year round while other wetlands dry out seasonally. New Jersey's WRP-funded restored wetlands help reduce flooding, filter pollutants from water, provide critical wildlife habitat, protect open space, and help keep our ecosystem healthy.

For further information:

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2. See the New Jersey NRCS Conservation Programs website pages on its programs including these under the Farm Bill at <http://www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>; (choose program on left margin of index page).
 - o **Wetland Reserve Program (WRP):** www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/.
 - o **WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP):** www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/.

- **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)**
www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/index.html.
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