

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 17, 2015

Eligible producers are encouraged to apply for assistance by December 18, 2015

NASHVILLE, TN – For agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland producers interested in applying for farm bill conservation program financial assistance in Fiscal Year 2016, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Tennessee has set Friday, December 18, 2015, as the signup cutoff date for first evaluation funding consideration. Pending the availability of funds, additional evaluation periods may occur and cutoff dates will be posted on the Tennessee website on [the EQIP page](#). The application deadline applies to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and EQIP National Initiatives.

“When landowners take part in conservation cost share programs, the funds filter through the community, and the initial investment rolls over several times, benefitting the whole area,” said Kevin Brown, Tennessee NRCS State Conservationist. The funds from EQIP help farmers improve the natural resources and soil health on private working lands in Tennessee. Conservation practices help the environment while also making the land more productive by addressing issues like water quantity, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and soil health.

Eligible producers with a conservation plan for their operation receive priority for financial assistance. NRCS staff is available to help producers with conservation plan development. Only applications that meet requirements of the TN EQIP screening tool and are “ready to implement” will be ranked for funding. Applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year.

NRCS's conservation programs address resource concerns such as soil erosion, soil health, irrigation efficiency, impaired water quality and wildlife habitat. EQIP, one of NRCS's largest conservation programs, helps eligible producers plan and implement conservation practices that provide opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, energy, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

For additional information, eligible producers are encouraged to contact their local NRCS Service Center. Service center locations and more information on the programs can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tn/contact/local/>.

NRCS has provided leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water and other natural resources since 1935.

For program information, contact John Rissler at (615) 277-2576.

Learn more about EQIP and other NRCS programs.
[\[http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs\]](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs)

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NEWS RELEASE

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 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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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

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Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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