

Looking For Financial Assistance NRCS Conservation Programs Deadlines Announced

Farmington, ME - May 26, 2011 – The Maine USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced Fiscal Year 2012 deadlines for applying for conservation program funding through the 2008 Farm Bill as follows:

- The 2012 general Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline is July 1, 2011. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forest producers to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible lands which include crop & hayland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland, and other farm lands.
- EQIP also offers technical and financial assistance to growers with an irrigation land use history for irrigation-related practices such as irrigation sprinkler systems and irrigation storage reservoirs. Applications which are received by July 1, 2011 will be considered for funding in Fiscal Year 2012.
- Applications are being accepted until July 1, 2011 for the establishment of high tunnels, funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which increase the availability of locally-grown produce in a conservation-friendly way. Fiscal Year 2012 will be the third year of a three-year pilot study established under the “Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food” initiative.
- Funding for the development of 2011 Conservation Activity Plans, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, is currently available for Agricultural Energy, Organic Transition, Forest Management, Comprehensive Nutrient Management, Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and Pollinator Habitat. Applications will be funded as requests are received and eligibility has been determined, as long as funding is available, but no later than June 30, 2011. After that date, applications will be accepted for Fiscal Year 2012 funding.

For more information go to www.me.nrcs.usda.gov or contact the Franklin County USDA Service Center 107 Park St in Farmington at 778-4767 ext 105 or ext 108 to talk to Paul or Jade.

Since 1935, 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. NRCS employees provide technical assistance based on sound science and that is suited to a customer’s specific needs, and provides financial assistance for many conservation activities.

All programs and services of Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District and the USDA Department of Agriculture are offered on a non-discriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status.

Contact:
Rosetta Thompson
107 Park St
Farmington, ME 04938
207-778-4279
info@franklincswcd.org