



NEWS RELEASE

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NRCS-NY Announces Application Cutoff Dates for NRCS Conservation Programs

Ithaca, N. Y., September 17, 2013— New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces **October 18, 2013** as the application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for Fiscal Year (FY)2014. Applications accepted after October 18, 2013 may be considered for funding if additional application rounds are announced or for potential consideration in FY2015. 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 yet to be approved, applicants may still apply for funding through the same programs offered through the 2008 Farm Bill. At the time of application, applicants must specify the resource concern(s) that they intend to address. Once further guidance on the 2013 Farm Bill is provided, NRCS will work with applicants to transfer applications to the appropriate conservation program.

“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. Practices implemented through EQIP include strip cropping, grassed waterways and manure 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 fish and 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>.

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