
August 27, 2010

FLORIDA NRCS ANNOUNCES SIGNUP CUTOFF DATE FOR THREE KEY FARM BILL PROGRAMS

GAINESVILLE, Fla.— State Conservationist Carlos Suarez with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces October 30, 2010 as the cutoff date for three Farm Bill conservation programs. All applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) will be accepted until close of business on October 30.

EQIP and WHIP offer financial and technical assistance to install structural and management practices on eligible non-federal lands to address natural resource concerns and wildlife habitat restoration. Conservation treatment activities for EQIP and WHIP are carried out in accordance to a conservation plan that is developed with the landowner or manager. State-wide priorities for EQIP include erosion control, water quality, water quantity, animal / plant health and confined livestock operations. Priorities for WHIP include habitat restoration on scrubby flatwoods, pine rocklands, tropical hammocks, and native grasslands for bobwhite quail. Individual county priorities may vary slightly due to locally established objectives.

WRP provides wetland restoration and conservation easement opportunities for private landowners to restore and protect wetlands throughout the state. Wetlands suitable for restoration and conservation easements under WRP must have been impacted due to agriculture activities to be eligible.

For additional details on these Farm Bill programs and for specific eligibility requirements to participate, contact your local NRCS Office.

###

*Cocoa Field Office: 3695 Lake Dr, Cocoa, Fl. 32926
Phone-321- 633-1702
Contact: David Millard, District Conservationist*