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USDA-NRCS IN GEORGIA ANNOUNCES ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM SIGN-UP

ATHENS, GA, October 20, 2015 — State Conservationist Terrance O. Rudolph of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced today that a sign up for fiscal year 2016 [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) is underway and all Georgia producers who wish to be considered for financial assistance should apply by December 18, 2015.

While producers can apply year round, this application cutoff announcement is for all general EQIP, as well as some special initiatives such as the [Longleaf Pine](#), [On-Farm Energy](#), [Organic](#), [Seasonal High Tunnel](#), [StrikeForce](#), [Working Lands for Wildlife](#) and the North Georgia Irrigation Pilot Project. They can do so by visiting to their local [USDA Service Center](#) and submitting their [Conservation Program Application \(NRCS-CPA-1200\)](#).

“If last year’s EQIP signup was an indication of future interests, we expect another enthusiastic signup this year” said Rudolph. “We want all of our customers to know that we are ready to assist producers get conservation on the ground and hope they will take this time to stop by their local NRCS office to discuss their current conservation needs. And for those already registered online with the [Conservation Client Gateway](#), all you have to do is log on and submit an application.”

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill and reauthorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and other natural resource concerns on private lands. EQIP conservation practices include, but are not limited to: pasture and hay land planting, heavy use areas, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, tree planting, seasonal high tunnels, organic crop assistance, and wildlife habitat management.

NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain and improve our natural resources and environment. More information on NRCS conservation programs can be found at <http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov> under the Programs tab.

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