NRCS Offers New Opportunities for Farms and Wildlife

The U.S.D.A. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced that farmers and landowners interested in installing farmland and/or wildlife conservation practices must apply by February 3rd to be considered for 2012 funding. Applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), as well as the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) are available at your local USDA Service Center.

EQIP is the primary program available to farmers to provide financial and technical assistance to install needed conservation practices. Over 80 types of conservation practices are available. EQIP can help all types of farmers - livestock and dairy, grazing, or cash crop, including specialty crops, organic, and agro-forestry and can provide additional assistance for beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited resource farmers.

The WHIP program offers practices to restore wildlife habitat for targeted species. Depending on the site, streams, prairies and oak savannahs and other types of habitat, including habitat for pollinators, may qualify to be restored. Land restored through WHIP has resulted in excellent new habitat, for trout, grassland and migratory birds, and species in decline.
All eligible applications received by Feb. 3 will be evaluated and ranked for funding.
Landowners in Outagamie County can sign up at the Appleton Service Center, 3369 W Brewster St., Appleton; phone 920-733-1575 Ext. 3. Last year, Wisconsin received about $16 million in funds for EQIP.

For more information, visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center serving your county.

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