



## ***Natural Resource News in South Carolina***

*USDA-NRCS, 1835 Assembly Street, Room 950, Columbia, SC 29201*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**    **Contact: Amy O. Maxwell, Public Information**  
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### **Conservation Programs Protect Soil, Water, and Wildlife**

***Landowners Encouraged to Apply by October 1<sup>st</sup> for Prioritized Funding***

***Columbia, SC, September 11, 2006***— The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Carolina encourages farmers and private landowners to improve and protect their land and enhance wildlife habitat through two voluntary conservation programs. There is a continuous signup for these programs; however, to increase your chances of funding, apply by October 1, 2006. The two Farm Bill programs are the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).

Producers interested in applying should visit their local USDA Service Center as soon as possible to prepare their applications.

EQIP helps farmers improve production while protecting environmental quality by addressing such concerns as soil productivity, prescribed grazing, animal waste, and forestry concerns. WHIP assists landowners who want to improve fish and wildlife habitat or restore natural ecosystems on their land.

USDA-NRCS State Conservationist Walter W. Douglas is encouraging farmers and landowners to begin the conservation planning process. “These programs can provide qualifying landowners with technical and financial assistance to improve soil and water resources as well as enhance wildlife habitat.”

Visit [www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.sc.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/) for more information.

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