**Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**NRCS Conservation Programs**

 **2015 Funding Cycle**

**Sign up ends November 21, 2014**

**Note: NRCS Program applications are accepted at any time during the year**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) accepts application sign ups at anytime. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign up will close in **November 21, 2014**. Applications accepted after **November** **2014** will be considered for funding consideration in FY2016. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state, and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**: Offers financial assistance for practices which address soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Practices implemented through EQIP includes strip cropping, grassed waterways and manure storage facilities. Focus areas within the EQIP program include:

* soil health
* livestock waste
* wildlife habitat
* forestry
* grazing
* Energy conservation

**The Conservation Stewardship Program sign up deadline for 2015 has not been announced yet!**

**Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP)**: The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) presents a significant shift in how the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides conservation program payments. CStP participants will receive an annual land use payment for operation-level environmental benefits they produce. Under CStP, participants are paid for conservation performance: the higher the operational performance, the higher their payment.

CSP is a voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:

* Undertaking additional conservation activities; and
* Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

**NRCS is an equal opportunity employer and provider.**