



Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 Davidson Ave., 4th Floor
Somerset, NJ 08873

www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS Conservation Programs Available

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) technical experts can help people in the Raritan Basin assess natural resource needs on their land and develop conservation plans to address water, soil, and other natural resources. They can also identify federal and state programs that can be used to help fund the implementation of the plan.

Applications for the voluntary USDA assistance programs are accepted year round, but application periods are established to facilitate project selection and awarding of funds. Land managers applying for 2008 funding through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) should submit applications to their local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office by **June 1, 2007**. Applications received after the 1st will be held for consideration in the next funding period for 2009 contracts.

For details about conservation programs and to contact your local NRCS Service Center, please visit the NRCS website www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov.

Contact: Barbara Phillips
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Three USDA Programs successfully used by land managers in New Jersey include:

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides both technical and financial assistance to help establish and enhance fish and wildlife habitat on non-federal lands. Landowners work with the USDA-NRCS to prepare and implement a wildlife habitat development plan. WHIP priorities include: Early Successional Habitat (with a provision for planting "Wildflower Meadows for Pollinators), Wetland Habitat, Bog Turtle Habitat and Disturbance Dependent Habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air and related natural resources on their land. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to install permanent measures or adopt new management strategies that address resource concerns on farms through the EQIP program.

WETLANDS RESERVE PROGRAM (WRP)

The Wetlands Reserve program offers landowners a chance to receive payments for restoring and protecting wetlands on their property. The term "wetland" describes a landscape area with unique soils, plants, hydrology and wildlife. Some wetlands have water year round while other wetlands dry out seasonally. New Jersey's WRP-funded restored wetlands help reduce flooding, filter pollutants from water, provide critical wildlife habitat, protect open space, and help keep our ecosystem healthy. Financial assistance is available to purchase conservation easements and/or implement restoration activities on previously disturbed wetlands.