

## NEWS RELEASE



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### **Funding Available to Farmers for Water Conservation Practices**

INDIANAPOLIS, June 16, 2008— For the second year in a row, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has funding available to help farmers conserve water in their operations. Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) dollars are a special allocation through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"This program can help farmers improve irrigation efficiencies or improve water storage through drainage water management," explained NRCS State Conservationist Jane Hardisty. "This will be especially helpful for farmers who use irrigation for high level production, specialty crops, organic crops, vineyards, and orchards," said Hardisty.

There is \$103,000 available through July 25, 2008. Incentives are based on set payment amounts for each management practice. Limited resource producers and beginning farmers can receive higher incentives. Improvements must result in a net savings of 10 percent of ground or surface water resources.

NRCS has an Energy Estimator for Irrigation systems on line at <http://ipat.sc.egov.usda.gov/>. It is a quick and easy way for producers to evaluate their irrigation system and see where alternatives can save energy and money. Information on drainage water management practices is available through Purdue Extension at <http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/WQ/WQ-44.pdf>.

Farmers can apply now for the EQIP Ground and Surface Water Conservation program. To find out more, contact NRCS at the nearest USDA Service Center.

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