

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



Brought to you by the Idaho Potato Commission  
Website: [www.idahopotato.com](http://www.idahopotato.com)

## FARM BILL PROGRAM APPLICATIONS DUE BY FEBRUARY 12 FOR 2010 FUNDING

**BOISE, ID - January 14, 2010** – Idaho agricultural producers and landowners interested in protecting or improving natural resources on their land may benefit from a visit to their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. Applications for several Farm Bill programs are due by February 12 to qualify for conservation financial assistance in 2010.

“Whether they’re interested in improving irrigation efficiency, improving wildlife habitat, protecting water quality or reducing erosion,” said Jeff Burwell, NRCS State Conservationist, “chances are, we have a program that can provide both technical and financial assistance for qualifying applicants.”

The Farm Bill programs administered by NRCS that have the February 12 cut-off date include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) which helps agricultural producers improve resource conservation on their operations; the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) that assists landowners with wildlife and fish habitat improvements; and the Grassland Reserve and Wetland Reserve Programs (GRP and WRP) that protect valuable range, grassland, and wetlands through easements.

“This is a good time to consider the resource problems you have on your land and evaluate ways to mitigate them,” added Burwell. “If one of the Farm Bill programs could help you get conservation work completed, you must submit applications by the February 12 cut-off date to be ranked and considered for 2010 funds.

Last year in Idaho, the NRCS provided more than \$19 million in financial assistance to its customers for implementing conservation practices and activities through its Farm Bill programs.

“The practices put in place produced numerous on- and off-site benefits including improved water, air and soil quality, as well as improved irrigation efficiency and wildlife habitat,” Burwell said.

For more information on Farm Bill program eligibility, stop by your local USDA service center or visit NRCS online at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

###