

# IDAHO POTATO PULSE



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## For Immediate Release

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## CUTOFF DATE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM (EQIP) APPLICATIONS DECEMBER 16, 2011

**BOISE, ID – November 18, 2011, 2011** – A cutoff date of December 16, 2011 has been set for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications. Applications are accepted on a continuous basis, but only applications received by December 16<sup>th</sup> will be considered for the first period of funding in Fiscal Year 2012. Applications received by this date will be evaluated and then awarded based on available funds. In 2011, approximately 39% of applications were funded.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a Farm Bill program that helps agricultural producers complete natural resource conservation projects and make conservation-related management changes on their farms or ranches. Examples of projects that have been funded include:

- Conversion from flood irrigation to sprinkler systems with adoption of irrigation water management practices to conserve water and reduce erosion on irrigated cropland.
- Conversion from conventional tillage to no-till or conservation tillage practices to reduce erosion and improve soil quality.
- Installation of cross-fencing and watering systems to facilitate prescribed grazing practices that improve stream and wildlife habitat conditions.

In 2011, Idaho NRCS received 970 applications of which 359 were funded. A total of \$13.8 million was provided in financial assistance. Projects funded in Fiscal Year 2011 included conservation practices on over 274,000 acres of agricultural land.

“Through EQIP agricultural producers identify conservation projects or management changes they want to make on their lands, and then they work with conservationists in their local field office to develop a conservation plan. This program has been very effective in enhancing Idaho’s natural resources.” said Jeff Burwell, NRCS State Conservationist.

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