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GRANT PROGRAM SEEKS INNOVATIVE RESOURCE CONSERVATION PROJECTS FOR AGRICULTURE

Boise, Idaho, January 28, 2011 – The Idaho Natural Resources Conservation Service set aside \$200,000 this year for its Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) program which funds projects that stimulate new strategies for resource conservation on agricultural lands. Pre-proposal applications are due to the Idaho NRCS State Office by 4 p.m. on February 25, 2011.

"The purpose of this program is to fund leading-edge, on-the-ground conservation projects on agricultural land," said Jeff Burwell, Idaho NRCS State Conservationist. "It's an opportunity for organizations or individuals to get funding for one- to three-year projects that work on solutions to specific agricultural related resource problems."

"The application process is a two-phase process which includes a pre-proposal application followed by a full proposal package for selected applicants," said Burwell. Grants may not exceed a maximum of \$75,000 and will be awarded through a statewide competitive process.

Pre-proposal applications must be received by 4 p.m. on February 25, 2011 at the Idaho NRCS State Office, 9173 W. Barnes Drive, Suite C, Boise, Idaho, 83709 or apply electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>

Applications that best meet the grant criteria and address state priorities will be selected for funding consideration. Selected applicants will be notified by March 23, 2011 and must develop and submit a comprehensive proposal to the Idaho NRCS State Office by 4 p.m. on May 6, 2011.

"We are looking for proposals that lead to creative conservation techniques or technologies that producers can adopt," said Burwell. "They should take methods that have been shown to work and apply them to field demonstration or pilot projects."

Projects must take place in Idaho and address soil, water, atmospheric, wild life, and plant-related resource concerns or focus on energy, climate change, and market-based approaches to conservation. The complete category list and application requirements are posted on the Idaho NRCS Web site: <http://www.id.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig/index.html>.

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