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New pilot program available to Kansas farmers and ranchers

The Secretary announced today a new pilot program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas and Colorado to remove sediments from ponds to restore their water holding to previous capacities. This will allow livestock producers and irrigators to store water longer allowing better management of their resources. Part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the pilot provides an additional conservation option for producers who face drought-related issues on their agricultural operations. Also, for the current fiscal year, NRCS has made available over \$16 million through the EQIP program to farmers and ranchers for water conservation, practices, and wildlife habitat that have been affected by the drought. Those funds are in addition to the over \$27 million provided to farmers ranchers in 22 states for drought mitigation during fiscal year 2012.