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NRCS Announces New Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Acting State Conservationist Daniel H. Meyerhoff, announced that funds are available for a new edge-of-field water quality monitoring program under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). "In an effort to improve the effectiveness of agricultural conservation practices and systems, NRCS is implementing this program in which producers use edge-of-field monitoring to evaluate the quality of water draining from their farms," said Meyerhoff. Producers in Headwaters Grasshopper Creek in the Delaware River Watershed in south-central Brown County and small portions of Atchison and Jackson Counties may apply. Applications must be received by **June 14, 2013**.

Edge-of-field water quality monitoring will use a watershed approach to establish baseline information and has the potential to provide much needed water quality data to show the effects of conservation practices in quantifiable terms. As monitoring progress is made, NRCS will be better able to focus conservation practices on the areas of greatest need using the most effective conservation systems. Edge-of-field water quality monitoring has three primary purposes: evaluate performance of conservation practices and conservation system, validate and calibrate models, and inform on-farm adaptive management.

For more information about NRCS and its programs, stop by your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center or go to the Web site www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.