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Applications for new USDA Farm Bill Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Kansas is now accepting applications for its new Agricultural Conservation Easements Program (ACEP). The ACEP combines NRCS' former Farm and Ranch Lands Protection, Grassland Reserve, and Wetlands Reserve programs.

"This is an exciting new opportunity for even more people to get involved in conserving natural resources," said Kansas State Conservationist, Eric B. Banks. "We encourage Indian tribes, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to apply." Applications must be submitted by June 6, 2014.

ACEP has two components, one for wetland reserve easements (ACEP-WRE) and one for agricultural land easements (ACEP-ALE).

Wetland reserve easements would restore and enhance wetlands and improve habitat. Eligible lands include farmed or converted wetlands that can be successfully and cost-effectively restored. If you are interested in a wetland reserve easement, contact your local NRCS office.

Under the agricultural land component, funds are provided to eligible entities that can use ACEP funding to purchase agricultural land easements that protect the agricultural use of eligible land. Interested landowners should work with an eligible entity to submit an application.

Learn more about ACEP and other Farm Bill programs at www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill

Please contact your local NRCS office or conservation district office located at your local county USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov) for assistance. More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas.

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