The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) encourages Florida agricultural producers to visit with your local NRCS staff to discuss conservation measures and natural resource management on your land. You can work with our staff to develop a Conservation Plan and receive technical assistance. You may also decide to apply for a cost share funding program. Programs such as the ones listed below may help eligible participants pay for conservation practices to prevent soil erosion, improve water quality, restore wetlands and provide habitat for wildlife.

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** provides financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland.

- **Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)** helps conservation-minded landowners with developing or improving high quality wildlife habitat of National, State, Tribal, or local significance.

- **Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)** provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore and protect degraded and altered wetlands on privately owned lands in exchange for retiring the land from agriculture.

- **Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)** provides support for working grazing operations by conserving grasslands. Participants voluntarily limit future development and cropping uses of the land.

**Participation in all NRCS programs is voluntary.**

Although applications are accepted on a continuous basis for all programs, Florida NRCS has established a cut-off date of **November 15, 2013**, for the acceptance of EQIP and WHIP applications for the 2014 program year. Other programs may have different cut-off dates. See your local office for more details.