

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service •
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Apply Now for 2010 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program

SOMERSET, May 6, 2010 –The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will accept applications for the 2010 Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) in New Jersey. NRCS has recently received an additional allocation of funds providing this opportunity to enroll private agricultural and forest lands in the program this year. NRCS State Conservationist Tom Drewes said, “WHIP has continued to be a popular program to improve pollinator habitat, aquatic areas, and habitat for grassland (song) birds. We are excited about this opportunity to fund additional projects that contribute to the health of our ecosystem.”

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary USDA program for improving or developing fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. The program provides both technical and financial assistance to establish and enhance habitat for priority species and habitat types.

Eligible applicants work with their local Natural Resources Conservation Service staff to prepare and implement a wildlife plan of operations. The plan becomes the basis for a contract which, if funded through a competitive ranking process, provides payments for completed practices that create or improve the approved wildlife habitat. Selected applicants from this application period will begin implementation of the contracted work before July 2011.

Applications for this and all NRCS conservation programs are accepted at any time, however all applications for WHIP received by May 21, 2010 will be considered for current year funding. Interested applicants should contact their local USDA service center or visit the New Jersey WHIP web page (www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip) for more information.

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NRCS Service Center Locations

Serving Mercer, Middlesex & Monmouth Counties
Serving Hunterdon, Somerset & Union Counties
Bergen, Hudson, Essex, Passaic, Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties
Serving Burlington, Camden, & Ocean Counties
Serving Atlantic, Cape May, & Cumberland Counties
Serving Gloucester & Salem Counties

Freehold - (732)462-0075 X3
Frenchtown -(908)782-4614 X3
Hackettstown -(908)852-2576 X3
Columbus -(609)267-1639 X3
Vineland -(856)205-1225X3
Woodstown -(856)769-1126 X3

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