



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **NRCS EXTENDS END DATE FOR EQIP ENERGY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE**

*Portland, August 24, 2006* — NRCS extended the deadline for completing environmental projects to qualify for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) energy cost assistance until December 29, 2006.

The energy conservation initiative has been effective at offsetting energy cost increases, and accelerating the application of conservation practices. Prior to today's announcement the deadline for completion of the EQIP projects was September 1, 2006.

The one-time payment adjustment is available only to program participants who signed EQIP contracts in 2004 or earlier and who have EQIP practices that have been delayed due to increasing energy costs.

EQIP is a locally-led, voluntary conservation program that helps farmers and ranchers address water quality, soil conservation, and other natural resource needs on their working agricultural lands.

For more information about EQIP, please visit <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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