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News Release

Natural Resources
Conservation Service
101 S. Main St.
Temple, TX 76501
Voice 254.742.9800
Web: <http://www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov>

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Contact:
Mark Habiger, Assistant State Conservationist
254-742-9881
mark.habiger@tx.usda.gov

Assistance Available for Flood Damaged Ag Land through NRCS

TEMPLE, Texas – *September 6, 2017* — The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Texas has established two special Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign ups to help farmers and ranchers that suffered damage to working lands and livestock mortality as a result of Hurricane Harvey. EQIP is available to help farmers and ranchers treat the on-farm/ranch problems caused by the high winds, rainfall and flood waters due to Hurricane Harvey along the Texas Gulf coast.

Declared Disaster Counties and eligible under these sign ups include: Austin, Aransas, Bastrop, Bee, Brazoria, Calhoun, Chambers, Colorado, DeWitt, Fayette, Fort Bend, Galveston, Goliad, Gonzales, Hardin, Harris, Jackson, Jasper, Jefferson, Karnes, Kleberg, Lavaca, Lee, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Newton, Nueces, Orange, Polk, Refugio, Sabine, San Jacinto, San Patricio, Tyler, Victoria, Walker, Waller, and Wharton.

An EQIP special sign up specific to agricultural livestock mortality and carcass disposal is now open and available to immediately assist producers in disposal of livestock carcasses on their farm or ranch. This special sign up ends **September 22, 2017**.

NRCS is also now accepting EQIP applications from producers in the Harvey disaster declared counties to apply conservation practices, to address resource concerns due to Harvey, as well as

agricultural livestock mortality carcass disposal. The first funding deadline is **October 6, 2017**, with additional funding dates of November 3, 2017 and December 3, 2017.

Farmers and ranchers seeking NRCS financial and technical assistance can sign up for EQIP at their local NRCS office or if already a USDA client, on-line via Conservation Client Gateway (CCG). CCG can be accessed at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/cgate/>. Conservation practices available through this EQIP funding are specifically designed to address flood and wind damage, and excessive runoff to address natural resource concerns caused by the hurricane and provide future protection from exceptional storm events.

For more information contact your local USDA Service Center office in your county, call 1-888-489-8732 or visit the Texas NRCS Web site at www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov. Information regarding EQIP can be found at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/tx/programs/financial/eqip/> .