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SIGNUP DEADLINE REVISED FOR EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM (ECP) FOLLOWING HURRICANE IRENE DAMAGE

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Richard Burke announced recently that the official signup for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) which began on January 23, 2012 and originally was scheduled to end on March 23, 2012 has been shortened to end on **February 29, 2012**. According to Mr. Burke, this unprecedented action was taken to allow the critically needed funding to be made available to owners of farmland in a more expedited and timely manner.

Owners of farmland who suffered severe damage from the Tropical Storm Irene may be eligible for assistance under the ECP. A farmland owner qualifying for ECP assistance may receive financial assistance levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures which are aimed at restoring farm related resources. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- EC1 Removing Debris From Farmland
- EC2 Grading, Shaping, Releveling, or Similar Measures
- EC3 Restoring Permanent Fences
- EC4 Restoring Conservation Structures and Other Installations

(Examples: DIVERSIONS AND SOD WATERWAYS)

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for financial assistance (FSA-848) has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made a needs determination.

Farmland owners who may have suffered a loss should contact their local [USDA Farm Service Agency office](#).

SIGNUP DEADLINE REVISED FOR EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM (EFRP) FOLLOWING TORNADO DAMAGE

USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director Richard Burke announced recently the official sign-up for cost-share assistance under the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) which began on January 23, 2012 and originally was scheduled to end on March 23, 2012 has been shortened to end on **February 29, 2012**. According to Mr. Burke, this unprecedented action was taken to ensure that the critically needed funding is made available to owners of tornado damaged woodland in a more expedited and timely manner.

Owners of woodland who suffered severe damage from the June 1st tornados may be eligible for assistance under the EFRP. A non-industrial private woodland owner qualifying for EFRP assistance may receive financial assistance levels not to exceed 75 percent of the eligible cost of restoration measures which are aimed at restoring forest related resources. The following types of measures may be eligible:

- EF5 Upland Hardwood Forest Restoration
- EF6 Upland Softwood Forest Restoration
- EF7 Upland Mixed Forest Restoration

To be eligible for assistance, practices must not be started until all of the following are met:

- an application for financial assistance (FSA-848) has been filed
- the local FSA County Committee (COC) or its representative has conducted an onsite inspection of the damaged area
- the Agency responsible for technical assistance, such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has made a needs determination.

Farmland owners who may have suffered a loss should contact their local [USDA Farm Service Agency office](#).



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/agcommishsoares. For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.