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Press Release

Monday, June 16, 2014

Questions: Trey Cooke (662) 686-3370

Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project Announced

The Mississippi Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force is proud to announce a sign-up for the Mississippi Water Conservation Management Project (MWCMP) through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

The MWCMP was established as a result of a collaborative effort between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality and the Mississippi Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force to incentivize the adoption of irrigation water management practices. Practices eligible through MWCMP include Phaucet, pump timers, Surge Valves, pump automation, soil moisture sensors, side inlet irrigation, rice markers, water level sensors, Polyacrylamide (PAM) water flocculent treatment systems, pumping plants, flowmeters, and other practices.

"This is an excellent opportunity to help Mississippi producers voluntarily conserve critical water supplies in the Mississippi Delta", stated Kurt Readus, Mississippi NRCS State Conservationist.

The MWCMP is available in Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma, Desoto, Grenada, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tate, Tunica, Warren, Washington, and Yazoo. Owners and operators of irrigated agricultural lands are eligible to apply for program benefits offered through MWCMP. In order for a producer to be considered for financial assistance, the land associated with a program application must be located above the Mississippi River Valley Alluvial Aquifer. Only producers who meet the Agriculture Act of 2014 eligibility requirements may receive financial assistance through this program.

Producers can apply for financial assistance by contacting the NRCS office in their local USDA Service Center. EQIP offers a continuous sign-up. However, if requests for funding assistance exceed available funds, applications will be funded based on NRCS ranking criteria. Therefore, producers are urged to apply for MWCMP before June 30th to be considered during the first ranking period. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will be documenting water savings provided by MWCMP as well as associated water quality benefits.

"This is an excellent example of how the efforts of the Mississippi Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force are yielding positive results to address irrigation supplies in the Delta," stated Trudy Fisher, MDEQ Executive Director.

The Mississippi Delta Sustainable Water Resources Task Force serves to facilitate and foster the development and implementation of water resource management strategies in the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. The MDEQ-led Task Force includes Delta Council, Delta F.A.R.M., Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation, Mississippi Soil and Water Conservation Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Joint Water Management District.

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