

## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

Date: August 12, 2010

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### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM Local Work Group Participation**

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a primary tool for private landowners who want to put soil and water conservation practices on the ground. EQIP provides technical assistance and cost-share payments to producers. It addresses natural resource issues associated with livestock operations and agricultural production for cost-share assistance on practices such as: terraces; conservation tillage; nutrient management plans; water and sediment control structures; and grazing management plans and materials.

Prior to holding an EQIP signup, we would like local input for prioritizing and developing the EQIP ranking system. The EQIP initiative has 4 national priorities: soil erosion, water quality, air quality, and wildlife habitat. Applications for conservation practices that address at least 1 of the 4 national priorities will be ranked and considered for cost share funding. This ranking system should address the environmental quality needs of Lincoln County. The Lincoln County Local Work Group meeting (LWG) meeting will be on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the USDA Building in Ivanhoe (located at the Divine Providence Health Center on County Road 5). If you would like to have input in the local decision on the ranking for Lincoln County please attend the meeting or if you are unable to attend and would like to have your opinions conveyed to the group, please call Dennis or Pauline a call at 507-694-1630, Ext. 3.

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