



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi Announces Second Sign-Up for Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative to Create and Enhance Longleaf Pine Forests

JACKSON, MS, April 26, 2011 – State Conservationist Al Garner has announced over \$200,000 for the second sign-up of the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Wildlife. This program, administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), aims to establish new longleaf pine sites and enhance existing longleaf sites. CCPI is a voluntary initiative of NRCS' Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). CCPI allows landowners and operators of agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands to use selected conservation programs and resources from eligible partners to put conservation on the land. Under this program, NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners that want to enhance conservation on agricultural and non-industrial private forest lands.

Partners include federally recognized State and local units of governments, producer associations, farmer cooperatives, colleges and universities and non-governmental organizations with a history of working closely with producers. This second sign-up is available for CCPI EQIP Wildlife Mississippi only.

A producer's land must be located within the approved CCPI project area to be considered for financial assistance through CCPI. In fiscal year 2011, producers can apply for financial assistance by contacting the NRCS Office in their local USDA Service Center. The deadline for submitting your application for the second sign-up for CCPI Wildlife MS is May 6, 2011.

For additional information about CCPI, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/>. For details, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service office.

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