



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mississippi Announces Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Sign Up

JACKSON, MS, January 20, 2011 - State Conservationist Al Garner has announced up to \$1.3 million for the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) Signup. Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Mississippi Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary initiative. 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. In 2009 four partners were selected to participate in CCPI in Mississippi. These same four partners will be participants in FY2011. They are: Grenada County Cattle Association, Delta F.A.R.M., Wildlife Mississippi, and Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife. Each of these partners will work with NRCS to advertise and promote the program within the proposed designated geographic area.

A producer's land must be located within an 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 CCPI is **March 11, 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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