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NRCS ANNOUNCES INITIATIVE TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY TORNADO ASSISTANCE (ETA)

JACKSON, MS — “Individuals and communities in portions of Mississippi that sustained damages from tornadoes might be eligible for federal assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through the special Emergency Tornado Assistance (ETA) Initiative,” said Dr. Homer Wilkes, State Conservationist, for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Mississippi. Applications are being accepted through June 18, 2010. While this is a continuous sign-up, applications for 2010 funding must be received by the cut-off date.

NRCS has set aside one-half million dollars through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) to respond to the emergencies created by the recent tornadoes. This Special Emergency Tornado Assistance Initiative is for assisting participants with **re-planting and site preparation** of forestry resources damaged during the April and May storms. If we do not use all the funds towards forestry concerns, any excess money will be made available to participants for land conservation structures. The Emergency Tornado Assistance Initiative is **ONLY available on tracts of land damaged by tornadoes** in the following counties: Warren, Yazoo, Attala, Holmes, Choctaw, Monroe, Lauderdale, Jasper, Smith, Kemper, Benton, Tippah, Lafayette, Tishomingo, Prentiss, Oktibbeha, Issaquena, Union and Alcorn.

The measures that are taken must be environmentally and economically sound and generally benefit forestry and possibly sedimentation resources.

Federal funds may cover up to 75 percent of the **re-planting and site preparation** of forestry resources damaged by the storms.

To request ETA Program assistance or to get more information about the program, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

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