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## Deadline April 15 for Landowners Wanting to Sign Up for WHIP through CCPI

JACKSON, Miss., March 9, 2012 – Al Garner, Acting State Conservationist, has announced the WHIP Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) signup. Administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), the Mississippi Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) is a voluntary initiative.

The deadline for submitting your application for funding consideration through CCPI is **April 15, 2012**.

Sign-up for fiscal year 2012 Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) through CCPI will be focused on Mississippi Partners for Fish and Wildlife.

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 American Indian tribes, 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 fiscal year 2012, producers can apply for financial assistance by contacting the NRCS Office in their local USDA Service Center. For additional information about CCPI, go to <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ccpi/>. To find your local NRCS office, visit <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=MS&agency=NRCS>.

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