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**(Neb.)-Nebraska Farmers, Ranchers Reminded About Aid Deal**



By: Jeremy Anderson Posted at: 11/23/2012 06:38 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - Federal officials are reminding Nebraska farmers and ranchers about conservation aid they can get from U.S. Department of Agriculture program.

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service says signups are encouraged before Dec. 21 for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

It's a voluntary program that can provide farmers and ranchers with financial and technical help with conservation practices on agricultural land.

The goal is to provide financial incentives so landowners can protect natural resources, which results in cleaner air, water and more wildlife habitat.

The ranking of applications to receive funding will begin Dec. 21. Those interested are advised to visit their Natural Resources Conservation Service field office and complete an application before that date.