

Resource Concerns on Your Farm or Ranch?

Apply Now for Conservation Assistance. You may be Eligible for the Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GoMI) !

If you are an agricultural producer living in the Escambia River Area watersheds, the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Acting State Conservationist, Roney Gutierrez, encourages you to contact your local NRCS office before March 15, 2013. Farmers and ranchers in these watersheds may be eligible for the Gulf of Mexico Initiative (GoMI). The initiative is designed to help improve water quality and ensure sustainable production of food and fiber. GoMI will direct additional technical and financial assistance to landowners within specified watersheds in parts of Escambia County FL. These funds will be available to eligible producers to voluntarily implement conservation plans and practices that will help reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, and improve wildlife habitat on cropland, pastureland, and forestland along rivers, tributaries and bays that flow into the Gulf of Mexico.

Under GoMI, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers financial assistance to help you carry out conservation work on your property. Some of the conservation practices that might interest you under these programs are brush management, pasture and hayland planting, fences, water development for livestock, prescribed grazing, drop pipes for erosion and drainage control and management type practices like nutrient (fertilization) and pest (weed control). These are just a few of the programs that the NRCS is offering landowners who depend on these significant watersheds.

Application cutoff date for GoMI 2013 funds is **March 15, 2013**. Please contact the Molino, FL (NRCS) Field Office at 850-587-5404 ext 3 (located at 151 Hwy 97, Molino, FL 32577) for more information on this and other programs. All programs are voluntary but participants must meet eligibility requirements.

- ◆ **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a conservation program that provides financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land. Through EQIP, NRCS develops contracts with agricultural producers to voluntarily implement conservation practices to address natural resource problems. Persons engaged in livestock or agricultural production and owners of non-industrial private forestland are eligible for the program.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov

For more information on conservation assistance and cost share programs contact your local NRCS field office. **For Escambia County, FL contact: the Molino field office, 151 Hwy 97 Molino FL 32577, phone 850-587-5404 ext. 3, or visit www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html** for other counties.