

FACTSHEET



Louisiana

Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC):

Information about Ground and Surface Water Conservation...

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2008 (the 2008 Farm Bill) authorizes the GSWC provision of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Ground and Surface Water Conservation (**GSWC**) portion of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (**EQIP**) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers to conserve ground and surface water in their agricultural operations.



Through EQIP/GSWC, NRCS provides assistance to producers to carry out eligible water conservation activities to improve groundwater and surface water conservation.

What are the purposes of (GSWC)?

- Enhance the water quantity resource concerns related to irrigation efficiencies of existing irrigation systems statewide
- Convert irrigated cropland statewide to non-irrigated cropland, pasture or forest land
- Groundwater recharge within Chicot Aquifer

What will NRCS do to help?

NRCS can help to:

- *Improve* irrigation systems
- *Enhance* irrigation efficiencies
- *Convert* to the production of less water intensive agricultural commodities
- *Convert* farmers to dryland farming
- *Improve* the storage of water through such measures as water banking and groundwater recharge
- *Mitigate* the effects of drought

Helping People Help the Land

What are the program requirements?

NRCS works with each program participant to develop an EQIP plan of operations. This plan becomes the basis of the agreement between NRCS and the participant. NRCS provides program payments to landowners through contracts that can have a minimum term of one year after implementation of the last scheduled practices and a maximum term of ten years. Participants must complete activities as outlined in the EQIP plan of operations in order to receive program payments.

Water Savings Can Occur by:

- *Converting* to a less water intensive cropping system or non-irrigated land use
- *Improving* irrigation systems
- *Enhancing* irrigation efficiencies
- *Improving* water storage through water banking and groundwater recharge
- *Including* other practices that improve groundwater or surface water conservation, as deemed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary

**For more information on Ground and Surface Water Conservation
or conservation programs, contact your local USDA NRCS
Service Center or visit NRCS on the web at:
www.la.nrcs.usda.gov**