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## USDA HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND PROVISION REMINDER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Springfield, IL** – December 16, 2011-- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) State Executive Director, Scherrie Giamanco reminds landowners and operators that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL<sup>C</sup>) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions is required.

Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified in their conservation plan. Producers should also notify FSA prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance.

"If you are planning on installing new tile or grading wet spots in a field, contact your local FSA County office before starting any work." said Giamanco. "Also, if you intend to clear any trees to create new cropland, these areas will need to be reviewed to ensure any work will not jeopardize your eligibility for benefits."

Landowners and operators can complete form AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HEL<sup>C</sup>) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification to determine whether a referral to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is necessary.

"Something as simple as clearing a fence row or converting a pasture into cropland could result in losing USDA benefits." explained Giamanco.

For more information on Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation provisions, contact a FSA County Office or visit the FSA website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/>