

January 7, 2019

EQIP Sign-up Deadline January 18th

Submitted by Deb Daniel, RRWCD General Manager

Wray, CO – The sign-up deadline of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is fast approaching. The deadline for filing an application for a 2019 EQIP contract with NRCS is Friday, January 18, 2019.

The Republican River Water Conservation District (RRWCD) acting through its Water Activity Enterprise (RRWCD-WAE) will again partner with NRCS to encourage water conservation and provide incentives to producers that offer to voluntarily permanently retire their irrigation well through the EQIP program.

For the permanent retirement of an irrigation well, the NRCS will provide approximately two hundred thirty-eight dollars (\$238.25) per acre to producers that enroll in the permanent water retirement program. The RRWCD will provide well owners who offer to voluntarily permanently retire irrigation wells of between six hundred (\$600.00) and one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500.00) per acre depending on the location of the well within the District boundary.

Water conservation measures such as weather stations, soil moisture monitoring and conversion from sprinkler irrigation to a more efficient irrigation system can contribute substantially to prolonging the life of the aquifer, while maintaining a strong irrigated agricultural economy. The NRCS provides funding for these additional voluntary incentive-based tools that all producers can use to prolong the life of this aquifer.

The funding available from the RRWCD-WAE is provided for the voluntary permanent retirement of irrigation and is not available for these additional practices in 2019.

The deadline for signing an application for the 2019 EQIP program is **January 18, 2019**, so please contact your local NRCS office or the RRWCD office in Wray, Colorado, at (970) 332-3552, as soon as possible if you wish to apply for conservation funding through this program.