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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2012

Local Work Group to Prioritize NRCS Conservation Program Delivery

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) district Conservationist Mary Ann Core and Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District Director Jennifer Fish announce that a Local Work Group (LWG) meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. November 8, 2012 at the Franklin Soil and Water and NRCS office 1328 Dublin Road, Suite 101, Columbus Ohio, 43215.

NRCS administers the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), a federal program that provides technical and financial assistance to land users to address natural resource concerns. NRCS is asking for local input for the fiscal year 2013 program. The LWG was established by the 2002 Farm Bill as a group to provide recommendations to NRCS on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. Originally, this group was limited to governmental representatives; however, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) has now made LWG meetings public meetings and all interested persons are invited to attend.

The 2013 LWG meeting agenda includes a review of 2012 EQIP results, a review of 2013 Ohio EQIP target dates, and conservation priorities for Franklin County. Ohio NRCS' FY 2013 budget has identified six priority resource concerns, 1) water quality degradation, 2) soil erosion, 3) degraded plant condition, 4) inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, 5) soil quality degradation through compaction and 6) excess/insufficient water.

NRCS works with landowners through conservation planning and assistance designed to benefit the soil, water, air, plants and animals that result in productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

The mission of Ohio NRCS is to help Ohioans protect their land and our environment.

The mission of Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote responsible land use decisions for the conservation, protection and improvement of soil and water resources by providing information assistance through effective partnering, technical guidance and education.

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