

In This Issue

1. *Special Weather Statement*
 2. Deadline to apply for EQIP and other conservation Program extended
-

Patchy Frost Potential for Sunday Night Monday Morning

Vegetable and strawberry growers should play close attention to weather forecasts for Sunday night into Monday morning since patchy frost is in the forecast from the National Weather Service office in Cleveland for many locations in the northern half of OH. Private forecasters are calling for lows of 33 degrees in Columbus and other locations in central OH. This extends as far south as Chillicothe, Ohio

Vegetable growers should delay transplanting sensitive vegetables until this cold period has passed. For sensitive crops already in the field, frost protection may be necessary.

A large high pressure system with cold air will move into the region in the late weekend with high temperatures only in the 50s providing the potential for strong radiation cooling on Sunday night. A warming trend will begin on Tuesday

Deadline to apply for EQIP and other Conservation Program Extended - Christina Coulon, NRCS, 614-255-2471; Jim Jasinski, OSU Extension, IPM Program

Sections of the following article were excerpted from a National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) news release on May 7th, 2009. Although not specifically mentioned in the article released by NRCS, specialty crop growers interested in pest management (practice 595) are fully eligible for the extended sign up period. For growers who want to review the application process for EQIP, please read issues #2 and #6 of the VegNet Newsletter located at <http://vegnet.osu.edu/news/newslist.htm>.

State Conservationist Terry Cosby of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Ohio announced today that the deadline for funding decisions for applications to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), and Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) has been extended to May 29, 2009. The original deadline for application selection was May 8, 2009. While the application process for these Farm Bill conservation programs is continuous, funding selections are only made once or twice a year.

There are several options within EQIP to select from, including a special EQIP initiative for organic farmers, as mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill. An Air Quality EQIP initiative, a forestry focused EQIP initiative, and increased funding for beginning, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers are also available. EQIP is the primary program available to farmers for farmland conservation practices, offering a flat-payment rate for over 50 conservation practices.

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) provides technical assistance and cost sharing to restore wildlife habitat. In Ohio, over 20 different conservation practices are available, ranging from creating a fish passage to establishing a riparian buffer. Special priority is given to habitat that benefits species of national or State significance, including declining and endangered species.

The Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) makes it easy to create, restore, or enhance the wetlands that provide important environmental benefits on your land. WRP is a voluntary program offering technical assistance from experts in creating wetlands. Financial assistance, up to 100 percent of the cost of restoration, is also offered for wetland restorations. Conservation easements can be placed on the wetland for 30 years or permanently for a lump sum easement payment or payments may be spread out over a period of up to 30 years.

For more information and applications on any of these programs, visit www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov, or contact the NRCS office at the USDA Service Center serving your county.