

# EQIP

## Notice

The deadline for the second signup of the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is Friday, May 13, 2005. Recall that EQIP is a program that provides cost share money for various conservation practices. These practices are designed to assist landowners in

addressing any resource or environmental concern that may exist on their land. Some practices that are eligible to be funded through EQIP include Agrichemical Handling Facilities (secondary containment for



fertilizer), livestock fence, spring development, composting and animal waste facilities, and critical area/pasture seeding.

Pickaway County is expected to receive approximately \$50,000 dollars to fund applications for this signup. The EQIP program is administered by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS); applications can be made at the Pickaway Soil and Water Conservation District and Natural Resource Conservation Service office.

## Soil Testing for more than Fertility

Soil testing and soil fertility are key concerns for any agricultural operation. However, farmers may see more benefits from soil testing than just improved yields & reduced fertilizer cost. In order to qualify for incentives through the **Conservation Security Program (CSP)**, farmers who follow a nutrient management plan must have current soil tests that are less than 3 years old; and a soil test will be required for each field that is enrolled into this program.

The Conservation Security Program is a federal program that

rewards farmers for existing stewardship practices currently being implemented on the land. Incentives for this program are paid on a per acre basis, and the rates are based on the level of environmental stewardship currently in place.

In addition to providing soil test data, farmers will also be asked to provide records concerning rotation, tillage, and fertilizer application for the past 2 to 3 years.

The Conservation Security Program is not currently being offered in Pickaway County, but it is

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