

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service continues to work with Lexington Fayette Urban County Government to preserve agricultural land

Lexington, Ky., May 5, 2010—USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service continues to work with Lexington Fayette Urban County Government (LFUCG) to preserve agricultural land through the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP).

This fiscal year (2010), funds were awarded to LFUCG's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program in the amount of \$2.1 million.

The PDR program and NRCS FRPP have had a relationship in preserving land in Fayette County since 2001. During those years, FRPP has awarded more than \$18 million and continues to preserve over 2500 acres within the county.

Under the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill), FRPP funding provides matching funds to local entities to purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses. In turn, the entity is responsible for managing the conservation easements.

In all of Kentucky, FRPP has partnered with local entities to acquire over 170 easements on more than 25,000 acres.

Each year, applications are accepted from local entities which then can purchase conservation easements. Interested landowners must work through an eligible entity to participate in FRPP. Applications are ranked according to criteria listed in the Farm Bill regulations and put forth by the State Conservationist.

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For more information, please contact the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office at 771 Corporate Drive, Suite 210, Lexington, Kentucky 40503 or 859-224-7350

For more information regarding FRPP in Kentucky, please visit <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/2010FRPP/index.html> or the national NRCS Web page at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>.