



## USDA Grants- Jan 8 Application Deadline For Napa County Farms and Ranches

By Phill Blake, NRCS- Napa

We are now approaching the deadline for farm and ranch applications for the 2010 Environmental Quality Incentives Program, (EQIP) for Napa County farms and ranches. This locally popular program has provided grants for many kinds of soil and water conservation projects on ranches, since 1997. In 2009, EQIP grants were contracted for over \$400,000 in Napa County alone. New changes in federal farm bill programs now provide flat rate payments instead of the traditional cost-sharing percentage format in past years. A few examples of projects we assist with include:

- *Vineyard cover crops*
- *Streambank stabilization and riparian Pierce's Disease management*
- *Livestock watering and fence systems for grazing management*
- *Irrigation water management and improved efficiency systems*
- *Forest and brush fuel load management*
- *\*NEW- Organic certification financial assistance*
- *Integrated pest management and beneficial insectary plantings*
- *Farm and ranch water quality protection systems*
- *Erosion control systems for vineyards*
- *Farm road improvements for erosion control management*
- *Development and enhancement of farm edge natural habitat*
- *Control of noxious weeds*

If you're not already familiar with us, the Natural Resources Conservation Service is a USDA agency, charged with providing free-of-charge technical consultations and financial assistance to encourage adoption of sustainable farming technology and conservation land use. We also provide planning services and assistance with preparation of any necessary permits for your project.

**INTERESTED?** Give us a call for more information on our programs and on eligibility requirements for grant funds. The deadline is rapidly approaching for this year, **(Jan 8, 2010)** so we encourage you to contact us soon! You can reach us at 252-4189, or email us at [phillip.blake@ca.usda.gov](mailto:phillip.blake@ca.usda.gov). Our office is located at 1303 Jefferson St., Suite 500B, Napa. Remember too, whether or not you choose to participate in our financial incentives programs, NRCS consultation, design, and planning services are free-of-charge.