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Farm Bill Program delays From: Shields, William (ANNAPOLIS, MD)  
[william\_shields@ml.com]  
Sent: Monday, March 30, 2009 2:53 PM  
To: AGSEC -USDA  
Subject: Farm Bill Program delays

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

The delay of the final rules for the 2008 Farm Bill Programs are coming perilously to causing farmers around the country to have to choose between financial set back or delaying conservation projects until 2010. Many of the conservation practices encouraged under programs such as WHIP and EQIP require work to be done on agricultural lands where crop planting will commence upon completion of those practices. Where a farmer hopes to enroll land in a buffer strip, a hedgerow, or create a wetland, he cannot begin planting adjacent to that land until work is completed. With the delays in the final rule/funding of these projects, many will soon be up against the planting deadline for corn which will likely set these projects back to 2010 at great cost to the environment. Buffer plant materials frequently have spring planting deadlines such as April 30th for tree planting in my state of Maryland.

Please expedite the rollout of these programs to ensure the benefits they were designed to provide for the environment and wildlife are not delayed a full year.

Thank you,

William H. Shields

Trappe, MD

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