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MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 4, 2008

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TDA NOW ACCEPTING WATER QUALITY GRANT PROPOSALS

-Funds support projects aimed at improving water quality and reducing pollution-

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Tennessee Department of Agriculture is now accepting grant proposals for projects that will help improve water quality and reduce or eliminate nonpoint source pollution. The deadline for submitting grant proposals is Dec. 1. Proposals will be evaluated based on program goals and objectives, performance evaluation criteria and applicable EPA Nonpoint Source grant guidelines.

“The purpose of the Nonpoint Source Pollution Program is to make a measurable difference in water quality by reducing runoff of sediment, nutrients and other pollutants,” said state Agriculture Commissioner Ken Givens. “This is a great opportunity for local governments and agencies to work with the department in addressing water quality problems and to improve water stewardship in both urban and rural areas.”

Local governments, regional agencies, public institutions, private nonprofit organizations and other state agencies are eligible to apply for federal dollars administered by TDA’s Water Resources office. Priority is given to projects that seek to make measurable improvements to waters known to be impaired by nonpoint source pollution.

Nonpoint source pollution is soil, urban runoff, fertilizers, chemicals and other contaminants that come from many different sources and that degrade surface and groundwater quality. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation assesses water quality and compiles a list of impaired waters. This information is described in that department’s 2008 303(d) List, which can be found online at http://www.state.tn.us/environment/wpc/publications/2008_303d.pdf

Other priorities for funding include water quality related educational programs, projects that implement an approved Total Maximum Daily Load in a watershed area, and projects that reduce urban runoff.

The FY 2009 Request for Proposals can be found online at <http://tn.gov/agriculture/nps/nps.html>, or for more information call TDA’s Nonpoint



Pollution Program at (615) 837-5306, or email sam.marshall@tn.gov.

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