

How to Apply

Contact your local NRCS office for an appointment. During the appointment the NRCS employee will go over the application process, and gather your thoughts and desires for the conservation practice. Application is then signed and goes through a competitive process to compete for dollars.

If the application is selected, a conservation plan is developed with design of the practice taking place. After the practice is completed bills are turned into NRCS for payment. The individual is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the cost shared practice for the length of the contract.



Funding

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program was reauthorized in the Farm Bill of 2002. Funding comes from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC). EQIP's authorized budget is 6.1 billion over six years. The first year starts with \$400 million in fiscal year 2002, and increases to 1.3 billion in fiscal year 2006.



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*Last Revision: 4/29/03
Printed On: 4/29/03*

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program EQIP



Cost Share Opportunities for Livestock Producers and Working Lands

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What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as goals for producers. Through EQIP, farmers, ranchers and horse owners may receive financial and technical assistance to help install structural practices, and manage conservation practices on their land.



Applications are accepted throughout the year with collection periods ending approximately June, 2003. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) evaluates each application using a state and locally developed evaluation process. Applications that encourage the use of cost-effective conservation practices, and optimize environmental benefits are chosen.

What are the Incentives?



EQIP may pay from 50 to 75 percent of the costs of certain conservation practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to adopt land management practices, such as nutrient management, wildlife habitat management, or to develop a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP). Limited resource and beginning farmers may be eligible for higher cost share on conservation practices.

Eligible Cost Share Practices

These and other practices are eligible for funding through the EQIP program:

- Access Road
- Composting
- Critical Area Planting
- Diversion
- Farmstead Windbreak
- Fencing
- Filter Strip
- Grassed Waterway
- Heavy Use Area Protection (paddocks)
- Livestock Pad
- Pasture/Hayland Planting
- Pipeline
- Pond (for livestock only)
- Roof Runoff management
- Spring Development
- Stream Crossing
- Trough/Tank
- Underground outlet
- Waste Storage Structure
- Waste Treatment Lagoon
- Wells
- Windbreak Renovation
- Chemical Containment Facility

