



# The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Organic Transition Initiative

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# USDA Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)

- Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS): Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) with local organizations including CCOF and UC Organic Ag Institute. Partners will connect transitioning producers to mentors. [www.ams.usda.gov](http://www.ams.usda.gov)
- Risk Management Agency (RMA): Premium assistance for crop insurance. [www.rma.usda.gov](http://www.rma.usda.gov)
- NRCS offering payment for a new practice called “Organic Management” which offsets the cost to implement an OSP. These costs include management, activities that go beyond NRCS standards, attending workshops and may include forgone income. Payment is based on size of operation, complexity and whether livestock is involved. [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Available on cropland, rangeland and forestland
- Provides 50-75 % cost share for conservation practices outlined in a Conservation Plan developed by NRCS.
- Applications will be ranked according to environmental benefit. Highest ranked applications will be offered a contract with NRCS and payments will be made as a reimbursement after a practice is complete.
- Separate EQIP funds for Organic producers and Organic Transition producers. Must be certified with USDA accredited organization or working toward certification.
- Applications are accepted throughout the year but cut-off dates will be announced. An office appointment to fill out paperwork is recommended.



# Cover Crops



Soil Builder/Plow Down Mix



Permanent Cover

\$92 - \$112/acre

# Conservation Cover and Hedgerows



Conservation Cover: \$165 – \$724/acre

Hedgerow: \$6 - \$11/foot

# Reduced Tillage and No-Till



\$45 - \$76/acre

# Compost and Mulch



Compost: \$209/acre

Mulch: \$346 - \$2,574/acre

Plastic mulch: \$0.06/Sqft.

# Conservation Crop Rotation



\$1,272 per year for 3 years



# Management Practices

- **Irrigation Water Management**  
Payment based on complexity. From scheduling using soil moisture by feel to installing soil moisture probes and weather stations.
- **Nutrient Management**  
A nutrient budget is developed for N,P and K using all sources of nutrients. Producer keeps records and the budget is used to verify if plan objectives are met.
- **Pest Management System**  
Producer must follow UC IPM Program for crop and practice PAMS: Prevention, Avoidance, Monitoring and Suppression.



# High Tunnels and Low Tunnels



High Tunnel: \$6 - \$10/SqFt.

Low Tunnel: \$1 - \$5/SqFt.

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# How to Apply

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CALL: The NRCS Ukiah Field Office at (707)485-3236  
OR Carol Mandel at (707)485-3233  
[carol.mandel@usda.gov](mailto:carol.mandel@usda.gov)

VISIT: NRCS at the USDA Service Center in Ukiah  
1252 Airport Park Blvd., Suite B1

WEBSITE: [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov)

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