

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



What is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assists farm, ranch, and forest production and improves and protects environmental quality. The Farm Bill program offers financial and technical assistance to help agricultural producers voluntarily implement conservation practices that keep lands healthy and productive.

The Plan

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) assists applicants with developing conservation plans for EQIP enrollment. Plans include conservation practices that meet NRCS' standards and the applicant's objectives.

Applications are ranked based on the level of conservation benefits that will be achieved in meeting those objectives.

The Professionals

NRCS offers expert analysis and recommendations to help you plan and design conservation improvements for your farm.

Our technical assistance is one-on-one, personalized advice and support — and is offered free of charge.

Eligibility

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP offers payments for over 100 conservation practices to help all types of farmers and landowners.

How to Apply

Landowners or agricultural producers may apply by contacting their local USDA service center in the county in which the land is located.



EQIP applications are accepted throughout the year. Cutoff dates are scheduled to allow for current year ranking and selection of applications for funding. State and local ranking criteria are developed considering annual stakeholder advice.

Visit the website below to review current EQIP cutoff dates, eligibility information, and special initiative opportunities.

Something for Everyone

EQIP offers assistance for all types of agriculture, including:

- Conventional and specialty crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Historically underserved farmers*
- Livestock operations

*Special payment rates available for farmers who qualify under beginning, economically and socially disadvantaged criteria. Special provisions apply to qualifying veterans.

Some of the Eligible Practices

- Buffer strips
- Contour strip cropping
- Cover crops
- Critical area plantings
- Erosion control
- Grassed waterways
- Grazing management
- Livestock water systems
- Manure management systems including storage structures and barnyard runoff protection
- Nutrient management
- Pollinator and wildlife habitat
- Stream exclusion

For more information about EQIP, visit: www.nrcs.usda.gov/EQIP



Natural Resources Conservation Service