

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Eric Kaeb of Iroquois County is on the brink of completing a conservation plan on his father's farm. His father, Elmer Kaeb, purchased the farm in the early 1980's and developed a conservation plan shortly afterwards. He completed practices using a variety of cost-share programs including EQIP.

Eric recently became the farm operator. Through EQIP, he has received financial incentives to help complete the conservation plan his dad started. By using a combination of cost-share programs, both Eric and Elmer have been able to address soil erosion, water quality, and animal waste concerns on the farm. Wildlife has also benefited from the nesting and winter cover provided.

This combination dairy and cash grain farm uses a corn-soybean-wheat-alfalfa hay rotation. It also includes a 60-head dairy herd. Soils are sloping especially next to drainageways that dissect the farm. Filter strips installed under CRP are used to control sediment movement into the drainageways. Terraces and grade stabilization structures are used to control erosion.

Eric completed cleaning and enlarging the farm pond this past year and plans to stock it with fish when it has refilled. This will allow for some family recreation and provide water for wildlife.

A waste storage structure installed in 1998 using EQIP funds stores manure for up to 6 months. The manure is analyzed and applied to the ground based on soil test and crop removal requirements. Additional nutrients are applied based on a nutrient management plan developed with NRCS. Nutrients in the manure are now efficiently used to supplement commercial fertilizers. Eric has installed a drop-pipe structure through EQIP and plans to install the last one needed on the farm next year.

Eric resides on the farm with his wife Lou Ann and family, who are heavily involved in the farming operation.

Illinois Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continues to be a popular program in Illinois. Illinois has emphasized spending EQIP money through priority areas resulting in 90 percent of the EQIP allocation being spent in that direction. Currently, Illinois is funding 20 priority areas with 10 additional priority areas on a list waiting for funding. More priority areas are anxious to get onto the waiting list. In FY 2000, Illinois spent about \$2.5 million working with approximately 400 producers.

Accomplishments

Over the past few years, EQIP in Illinois has covered a wide variety of practices because of the local process driving the needs of a given priority area. Practices have ranged from traditional terraces; waterway and structure practices, such as treating oil brine damaged land; streambank erosion treatment; nutrient management; and field border strips.

Outlook

As mentioned in the overview, many locally led groups in Illinois are interested in having an opportunity to tap into EQIP. An increase in funding would allow Illinois to provide more local work groups the opportunity to solve their local natural resource problems.

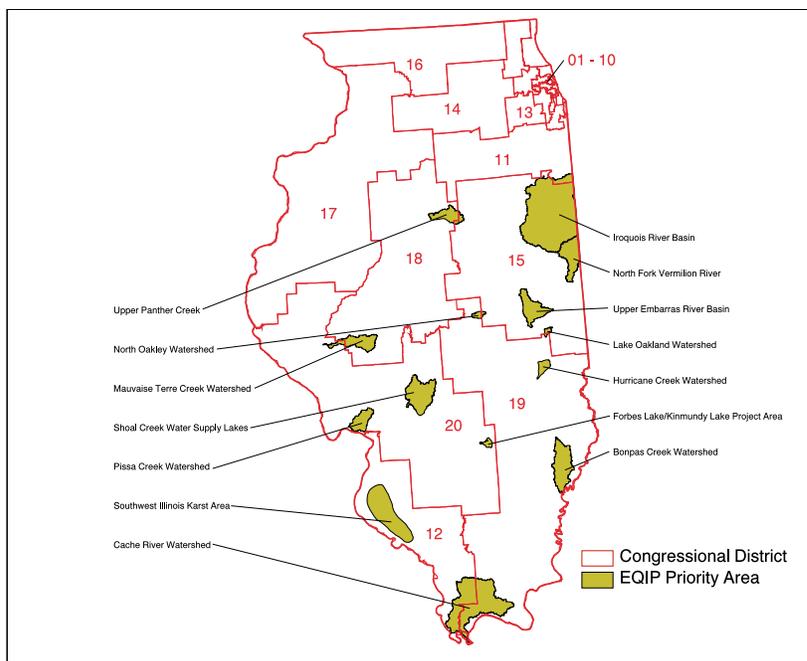
State contact

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Eric Kaeb used EQIP assistance to complete conservation plan activities on the Kaeb family farm.

Illinois EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Illinois EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$9,950	2	\$2,543,770	670
District 12	601,961	96	2,887,335	363
District 15	829,125	94	2,241,674	271
District 17	39,326	10	39,326	10
District 18	275,035	29	1,387,987	329
District 19	410,973	62	2,715,881	535
District 20	337,312	47	1,687,501	239
State Totals	\$2,503,682	340	\$13,503,474	2,417

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas, which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns, which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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