

# 2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus—

Ed Oborny and his son Tim of Rush County, farm irrigated land and dry-land, have high praise for the EQIP and the NRCS field personnel who are helping them make the program work for their operation. “You need the desire to improve, and EQIP can be one of the tools to help you make those improvements,” said Ed Oborny. “EQIP takes some of the risk out of the process by providing incentives to upgrade technology that we didn’t feel we could afford,” he added. “EQIP will only be as good as the people who deliver the program. We rely on the NRCS staff to explain and help us through the process.” The Obornys are in the fourth year of their EQIP contract.

The Obornys have used their EQIP incentive payments to improve their nutrient management system by hiring a crop consultant to complete soil tests.

“Just the system improvements you wouldn’t change,” said Tim, “if you didn’t have the incentives. They are also using EQIP financial assistance to improve their irrigation water management and conservation tillage systems.

“It’s just a darn good incentive to move ahead,” said Ed speaking about EQIP. “Success cannot be contested.”

## Kansas Summary

### Overview

Kansas has had an overwhelming response to EQIP since its inception with the 1996 Farm Bill and FY2000 continued the trend. This locally led voluntary, incentive-based program has provided \$16.5 million of financial assistance to producers to apply improved resource management systems and environmental enhancements. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) also provides technical assistance to producers to help them best address their natural resources concerns and meet their economic goals.

### Accomplishments

In FY 2000, 842 producers applied for funding, which totaled \$6 million. NRCS assisted producers in developing 479 plans that obligated \$3.3 million of Federal cost-share assistance. These contracts cover 142,633 acres. Twelve priority areas were selected, and three statewide concerns outside of priority areas will address grazing lands, water quality, and wind erosion.

### Outlook

Locally led groups identify resource concerns and present more priority areas than can be funded. Additional funding or funding at the 1996 Farm Bill level (\$200 million) would ensure the implementation of conservation systems. These systems would include structural practices, such as terraces, waterways, and windbreaks, and management practices, such as rangeland management, no-till, and nutrient management. Additional funding would ease the overall demand from farmers and ranchers, and provide needed financial incentives.

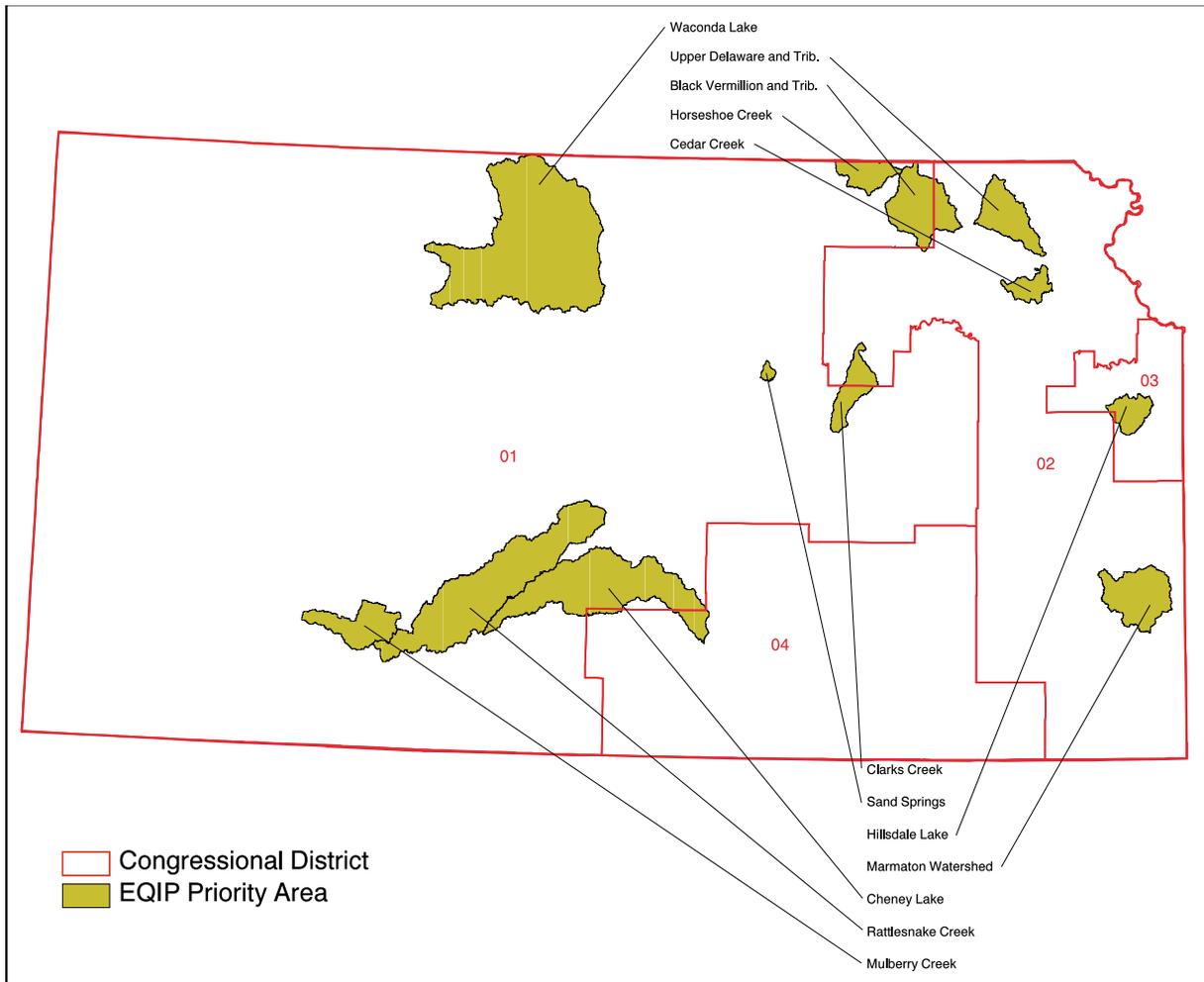
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*Ed Oborny (left) with son Tim used EQIP cost-share for several farm improvements (NRCS photo)*

## Kansas EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Kansas EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000 Total		Cumulative Total (97–00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$2,179,661	319	\$10,067,997	1,549
District 2	892,095	107	4,841,443	697
District 3	107,757	17	764,913	158
District 4	144,754	36	829,365	183
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$3,324,267</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>\$16,503,718</b>	<b>2,587</b>

Source: Kansas NRCS data through FY2000

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