

# 2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus—

Rotational grazing systems were one of many conservation practices funded throughout Maryland under the Farm Bill's EQIP. Farmers using divided pastures planted with warm-season grasses and rotational grazing methods can economically and environmentally manage their herds and increase production. Last year, NRCS Maryland received 326 EQIP applications for the \$1.5 million in available cost-share assistance funds. Since EQIP was created 4 years ago, Maryland farmers have received approximately \$6.2 million in conservation funds. Historically, NRCS Maryland has only been able to fund about 50 percent of all requests for conservation assistance sought through EQIP to carry out locally led conservation practices.

For more information on state and individual county accomplishments, check the NRCS Maryland homepage at [www.md.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov) and click on PRMS.

## Maryland Summary

### Overview

Maryland producers had a high level of interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in FY 2000, as in the years past. A total of 326 applications were received, totaling close to \$1.8 million. With less than \$1.5 million in funding, all applications could not be funded. Demand for EQIP financial assistance this year, as in all previous years, has far exceeded available funds.

### Accomplishments

FY 2000 was another active year for EQIP in Maryland. Contracts totaling 307 were funded using EQIP financial assistance funds in 12 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA's) and one statewide Natural Resource Priority Concern Area (NRPCA).

### Outlook

With EQIP applications far exceeding funding levels, the outlook to use EQIP funding is very good. Nonpoint source resource concerns in Chesapeake Bay watershed are of the utmost concern to meet the 40 percent nitrogen and phosphorus reduction goals set by the various jurisdictions. Recent concerns related to *Pfiesteria piscicida* have made agriculture, water quality, and nutrient management household words for the citizens of Maryland. This has led to recent nutrient management regulations in Maryland for all agricultural producers as well as other nutrient users. EQIP continues to have excellent potential to help agricultural producers meet their water quality issues by addressing their land based natural resource concerns.

### State Contacts

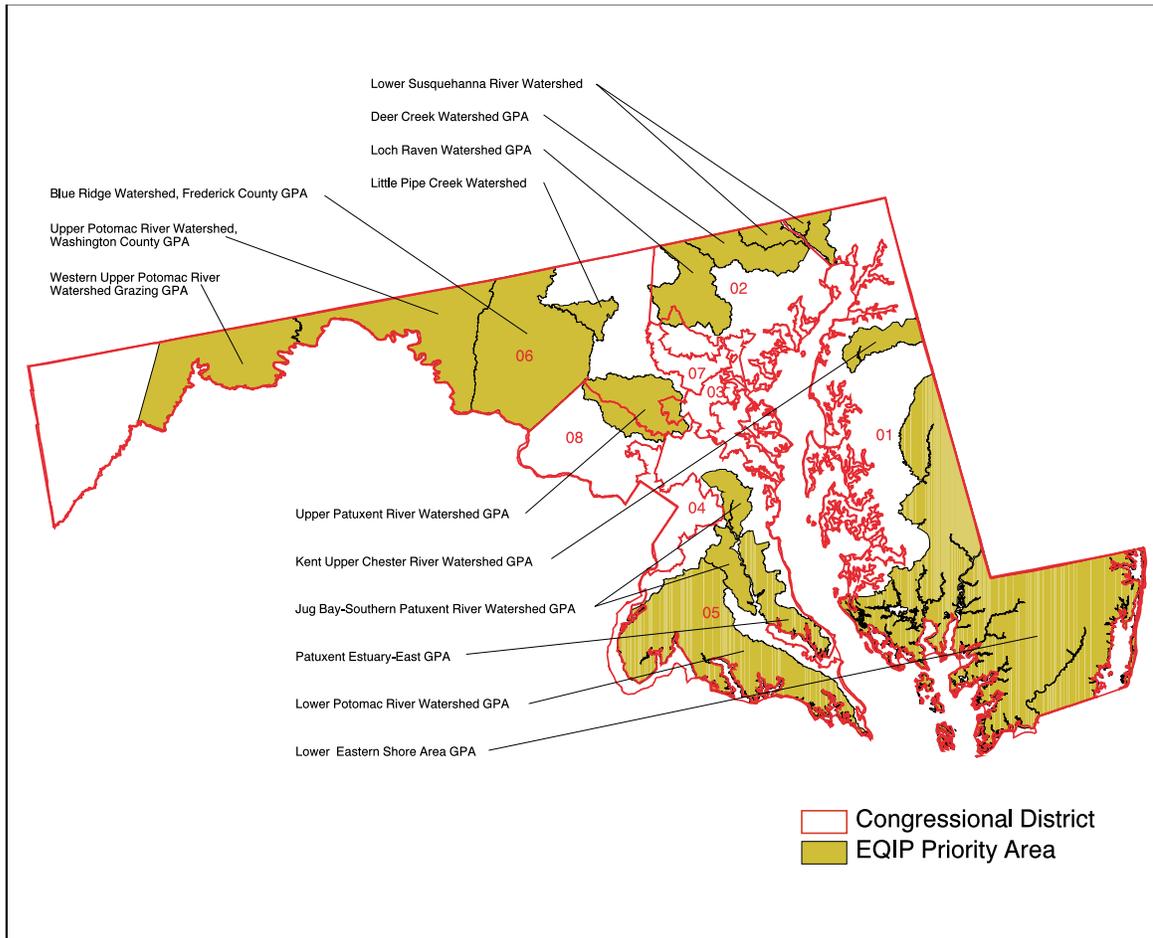
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*Rotational grazing systems were one of many conservation practices funded throughout Maryland under EQIP.*

## Maryland EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Maryland 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	\$406,104	107	\$1,609,277	507
District 1	400,173	110	1,437,479	453
District 2	154,956	7	1,078,243	94
District 5	270,214	97	755,723	322
District 6	176,666	25	1,104,308	108
District 8	67,946	6	248,676	27
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$1,476,059</b>	<b>326</b>	<b>\$6,233,706</b>	<b>1,511</b>

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. EQIP contracts for Congressional Districts 3, 4, and 7 are included in the District 0 category.

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

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