

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Missouri Summary

Customer Focus—

Eddie Caldwell farms 600 acres of corn, milo, soybeans, and wheat, and also has a cow-calf herd on a farm in northeast Missouri. Lick Creek runs through the farm and drains directly into Mark Twain Lake. The lake provides public drinking water to much of northeast Missouri. Eddie became the main operator of the farm about 5 years ago. One of his first concerns was soil fertility levels. He wanted to implement an affordable build-up program based on soil test recommendations and was interested in reducing soil erosion and runoff of nutrients and pesticides.

In 1997, the Lick Creek and South Fork Salt River Watershed was selected as one of the first EQIP priority areas in Missouri. Water quality was the emphasis in the heavily cropped priority area. Incentive payments are offered to participants who are willing to enter into 5- to 10-year contracts to implement practices like nutrient and pest management. Payments are made through the Farm Service Agency, and NRCS provides the technical assistance to develop and implement the conservation plan. The timing of this program was perfect for Eddie and for what he wanted to do on his farm.

Eddie's EQIP contract includes nutrient management, pest management, and filter strips between the creek and crop fields. The conservation plan and EQIP contract include other water quality protection practices that are economically viable. Eddie says, "It's like getting paid to be a better farmer." The NRCS technical assistance on crop scouting for pests, fertility management, and recordkeeping were beneficial. "I'm becoming a better crop scout, finding problems when they are small, before they become big problems that cost more to control and reduce yields." He uses the EQIP recordkeeping system to organize data used later when making decisions for the following year's crop.

Overview

Interest in EQIP continues to be overwhelming in Missouri. Applicants committed to addressing water quality concerns requested \$7.1 million, but only 47 percent of the financial assistance requests could be funded. NRCS and our conservation partners assisted producers and landowners to develop 519 water quality improvement contracts in fiscal year 2000. Missouri EQIP minimizes financial assistance for traditional soil erosion control practices to maximize financial assistance funding for other water quality systems, such as waste management, integrated crop management, rotational grazing systems, and stream protection. The state cost-share program provides about \$20 million annually for soil erosion control practices; however, EQIP interest would be greatly increased if more funding were made available for erosion control.

Accomplishments

A total of 519 contracts for \$3.4 million dollars were developed on over 85,000 acres in FY 2000. Since EQIP began in 1997, Missouri has enrolled about 310,000 acres in long-term contracts to protect and improve water quality. About 60 percent of EQIP financial assistance was obligated for live-stock systems, and 75 percent of all state funds are dedicated to locally led priority watersheds. Limited resource farmers used 14 percent of Missouri's funds for water quality improvement contracts. FY 2000 contracts include 74 waste management systems, 285 integrated crop management systems on over 46,000 acres, 148 rotational grazing systems on over 25,000 acres, and 142 wildlife habitat plans on 16,000 acres.

Outlook

Requests by locally led steering committees for EQIP priority areas continue to exceed funding. Waste management systems, pesticide management in public water supply watersheds, and protection of stream resources from agricultural impacts are critically needed in Missouri. Locally proposed projects and existing priority watershed projects need additional funding to significantly address natural resource concerns.

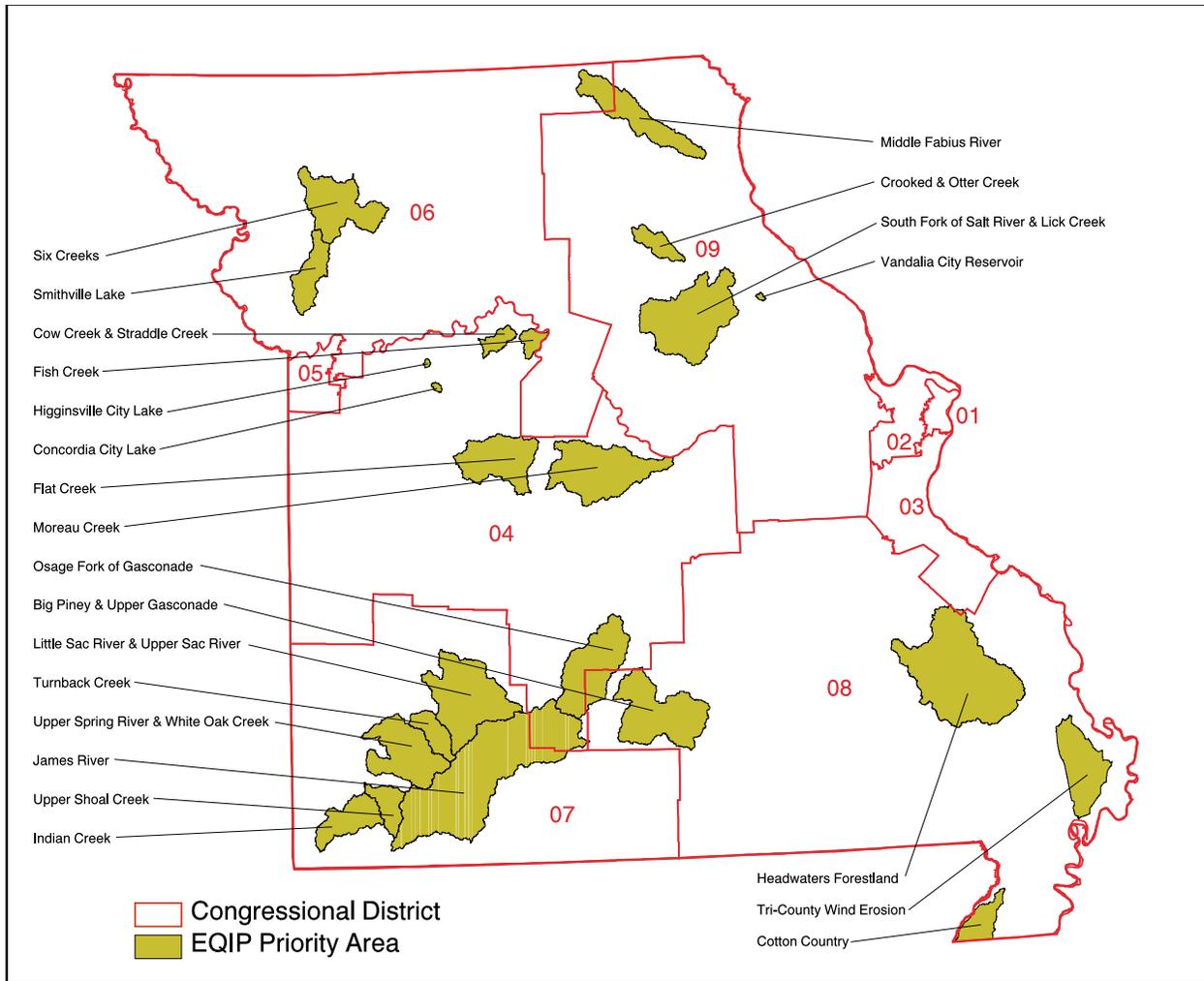
State Contacts

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Eddie Caldwell realizes that farming close to Mark Twain Lake is an environmentally sensitive endeavor. His family's drinking water comes from the lake. He says, "Incentive programs like EQIP help take the pain out of implementing new practices and in fact make it economically doable and hopefully in the long-run, more profitable."

Missouri EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Missouri 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 4	\$632,919	100	\$3,083,449	486
District 6	203,061	18	1,748,218	198
District 7	1,074,679	106	4,015,845	341
District 8	926,641	219	4,271,309	958
District 9	592,349	70	2,201,242	247
State Totals	\$3,159,649	513	\$15,320,063	2,230

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

Source: Missouri NRCS, data through 4th quarter FY 2000.

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