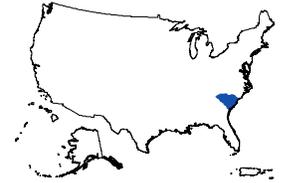


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



South Carolina Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has generated great interest in South Carolina. In FY 2000 alone, hundreds of landowners requested funding assistance totaling over \$4 million. NRCS received \$1.5 million, \$1 million to assist landowners through 14 priority areas and \$562,000 to improve water quality, the statewide concern. As a result, NRCS was able to assist landowners in nearly each of the 46 counties.

Accomplishments

EQIP provides South Carolina farmers, through technical and cost-share assistance, the opportunity to install conservation practices that might not otherwise be affordable. Much of this assistance is directed toward waste management and utilization – the state’s highest priority. Because the structure associated with waste management is very expensive, NRCS and EQIP have played a critical role in helping landowners meet state requirements, including strict laws established by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC).

Outlook

South Carolina is faced with the constant challenge of poor growing conditions and low farm produce prices, which is also a growing national concern, that threaten the foundation of farming —society’s food and fiber backbone. EQIP will continue to be essential in bringing South Carolinians together to address erosion, water quality, waste management, wildlife habitat, and other natural resource issues, all which greatly impact the future of the farming community.

State Contact

Glenn Sandifer, Program Specialist, (803) 253-3894

Customer Focus—

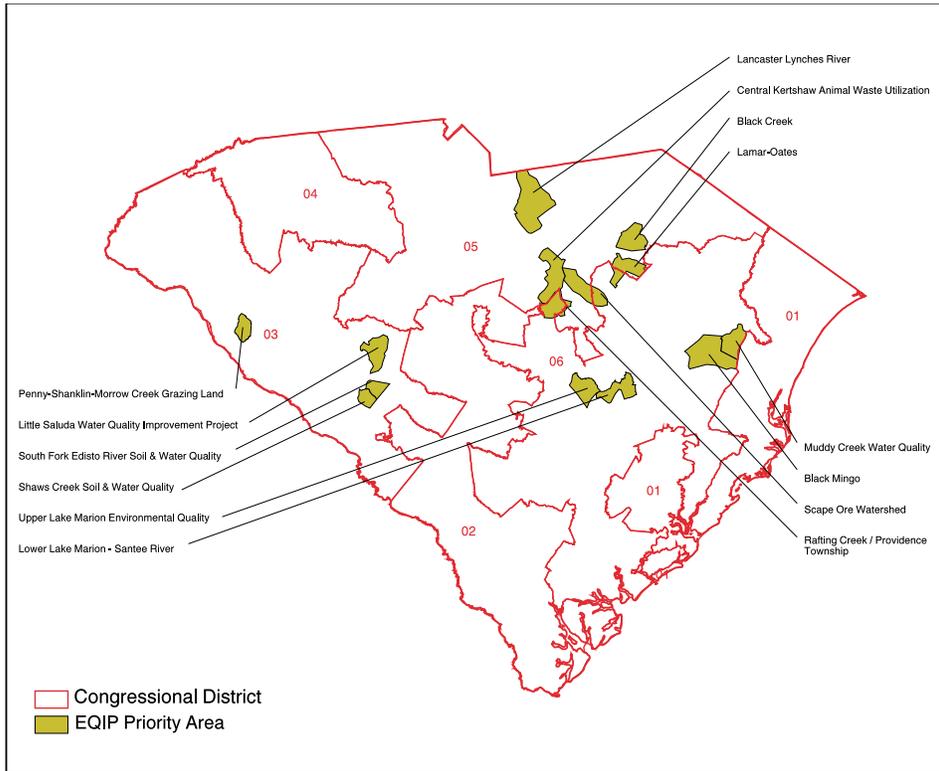
Fred and Tammy Morris own a 46-acre, 60-head cattle operation in Florence County, South Carolina. The couple, who hold fulltime jobs, and their two children work part-time on their small farm, working from sunup to sundown on Saturdays.

When the Morris family enrolled in EQIP, the \$10,000 and technical assistance they received provided a needed boost to the small operation. “We have been able to grow so much in the past few years,” said patriarch Fred Morris. “I don’t know if we could have done it without NRCS’ assistance.” The Morrises are a conservation conscious family, serving as an excellent example to other small family farmers. “It is a lot of hard work, but the rewards are many,” stressed Fred. “For our family, farming is a team effort, and the assistance received from NRCS and EQIP has been invaluable to us.”



Tammy Morris (right) reviews the conservation plan designed by Florence County NRCS District Conservationist Frank Stephens.

South Carolina EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



South Carolina 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 | \$576,736 | 111 | \$2,659,183 | 989 |
| District 1 | 2,541 | 1 | 357,033 | 63 |
| District 3 | 254,038 | 63 | 1,048,396 | 260 |
| District 5 | 376,820 | 41 | 1,671,028 | 169 |
| District 6 | 409,290 | 35 | 1,092,407 | 100 |
| State Totals | \$1,619,425 | 251 | \$6,828,047 | 1,581 |

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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