

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Clarence Tays, Jr., has been farming all his life. Even as he launched successful businesses as an adult, he continued to farm. Along with his son, Sam, he also continues to help out at his mother's farm on the old home place. However, it has been on his own farm that he has begun implementing modern conservation methods in earnest, hoping to get more beef production from his land.

The county where Tays lives is rapidly urbanizing, and land values have rapidly risen. Farmers are realizing that they must make the most of their land to expand their farming opportunities rather than buy more land. Using technical assistance and financial incentives from the USDA, NRCS, through EQIP, Mr. Tays has in just a year transformed his 54-acre beef cattle farm. With the installation of high tensile wire cross fencing, a freeze-resistant water tank, heavy use areas, exclusion fencing, critical area treatment, a livestock access ramp into an existing pond, and prescribed rotational grazing, he has nearly doubled the carrying capacity of his farm. This past fall his farm was the highlight of a farm conservation demonstration tour.

Tennessee Summary

Overview

The financial assistance available to fund contracts in FY 2000 was less than 20 percent of the total applicant needs. This trend has been consistent since the beginning of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in FY 1997. Nine conservation priority areas were funded at \$1,383,680, and three natural resource concerns of statewide significance were funded at \$774,520. Highest priority for funding of contracts was given to those applicants with natural resource problems associated with water quality protection and improvement, soil sustainability, and grazing land improvement.

Accomplishments

Approximately 1,070 applications were received and ranked during the first two approval periods of FY 2000. Applicants were not actively sought after the second approval period because of lack of funds. The total available funds of \$2,158,200 resulted in approval of 364 contracts. Conservation practices, including agricultural waste management systems, prescribed grazing, pasture and hayland planting, grade stabilization structures, terraces, filter strips, riparian forest buffers, and fencing for livestock exclusion and rotational grazing were highest priority.

Outlook

As landowners and operators have become more familiar with whole farm planning and long-term contracts, EQIP is being highly effective in solving soil, water, and other natural resource problems. Funding limitations have caused landowners frustration after not being accepted into the program. The number of applicants declined in FY 2000 as compared to previous years, possibly because they were not accepted into the program previously. Interest and participation in EQIP continues to be high, mainly because it is effective in getting conservation applied to the land.

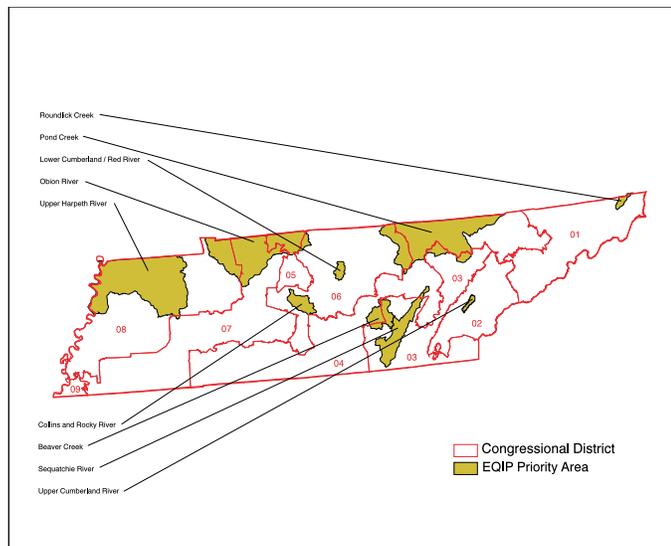
State Contact

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Clarence Tays, Jr., Lazy One Farm, stands beside the livestock access ramp into the pond that is now otherwise excluded from cattle.

Tennessee EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Tennessee 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	\$707,372	116	\$3,450,797	866
District 1	49,524	8	605,019	87
District 2	356,588	121	1,001,836	283
District 3	99,538	14	1,690,603	210
District 4	22,795	9	32,349	10
District 6	190,625	17	190,625	17
District 7	453,321	56	742,290	105
District 8	238,400	32	2,248,380	318
State Totals	\$2,118,163	373	\$9,961,899	1,896

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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