

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Brian Vanderspek of Vanderspek Dairy in southern Sacramento County is participating in the FY 2000 USDA EQIP. With the assistance of local NRCS specialists and EQIP cost-share funds (\$16,000), Brian has developed a conservation plan designed to address dairy waste storage and distribution systems along with nutrient management and irrigation water management on his dairy farm. With the installation of waste storage ponds and a tail-water recovery irrigation system, he will have the flexibility needed to control all waste produced by his 250-head dairy. What was once waste now becomes a nutrient-rich resource that can be used by forage crops grown on the dairy farm. Brian, at his own expense, has already installed new pipelines for the dual purpose use of waste and irrigation water distribution and further plans to install a separator for more efficient solid waste management. Waste storage ponds allow him to store waste during the rainy season and apply it in response to crop needs during dry periods. A tailwater recovery system captures irrigation surface water runoff for reuse, which reduces ground water overdraft and helps to manage nutrients. Incentive payments targeted at nutrient management and irrigation water management will complement his efforts to evaluate waste ingredients and irrigation water use efficiency. Installation of these systems will greatly improve local water quality and protect adjacent riparian wildlife habitat areas.

California Summary

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), created under the 1996 USDA Farm Bill, was first implemented in California during 1997. Guided by working groups and a locally led process, funds have been allocated to address resource concerns throughout the state. This fiscal year, funds were directed to 51 Geographic Priority Areas (GPAs) and additional funds targeted to specific Statewide Natural Resource Concerns (NRC) such as Forestry, Range and Air Quality. This year, nearly \$7 million in EQIP contracts were approved for 578 landowners. There was a shortfall of more than \$6 million for 584 applications to meet current client interest. In addition to financial assistance, EQIP funds were also provided for 20 "Educational Grants" through local working groups. The EQIP program is managed in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and local working groups.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in California through 51 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 3 statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. About \$5,999,099 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$979,343 obligated in NRC projects. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covering nearly 376,000 acres throughout the State. Practices have been applied on nearly 112,000 acres. About 13,600 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in California as reported in PRMS. Since the inception of EQIP in California, nearly 30,000 distinct conservation practices have been planned in approximately 2550 EQIP contracts.

Outlook

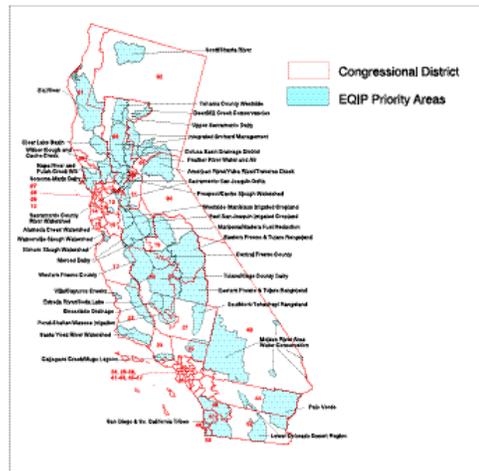
If participation were a measure of success of this program, California would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet need requests from clients are \$6,102,340 in FY 2001, and the total unmet need of unfunded GPAs (approved GPA applications that have not been funded) is about \$19,998,400. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns. There is continued need for program support and funding of this program.

State Contacts

Helen Flach, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, USDA NRCS EQIP Program Manager, 430 G Street, #4164, 530-792-5602, Davis, CA 95616-4164
Mark Parson, Resource Conservationist, EQIP Program Specialist, 530-792-5660



California EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



California EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	447361	43	Information	not available for 97-00
District 2	285759	29		
District 3	910365	75		
District 4	247769	23		
District 5	0	0		
District 6	418080	26		
District 7	0	0		
District 10	50000	1		
District 11	531529	58		
District 14	0	0		
District 15	93245	7		
District 17	98076	4		
District 18	836325	97		
District 19	558612	23		
District 20	926063	87		
District 21	289085	7		
District 22	290211	10		
District 23	45000	1		
District 40	267997	27		
District 43	0	0		
District 44	409846	51		
District 48	129770	9		
District 49	0	0		
District 50	0	0		
District 51	0	0		
District 52	0	0		
State Totals	\$7481750	578	\$	

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.