

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Delaware's revived horseracing industry and increased interest in pleasure horses has led to a dramatic increase in equine numbers. Recognizing the potential for water quality degradation from horse farms, the EQIP Local Work Group requested that NRCS provide technical and financial assistance to plan and install agricultural waste management systems and to develop nutrient management plans. The Davis Stables board nearly 80 racehorses in Kent County and have installed two strategically located and custom designed manure storage bunkers. Location and design are important because the manure is hauled from the horse stalls to the storage bunkers using wheelbarrows. Mr. Davis stated that his stable hands really appreciate the convenience of the concrete ramps and the proximity of the bunkers to the stalls. Horse manure is either used to fertilize pastures and crops or as a growth medium for the mushroom industry. NRCS has responded by designing two types of structures. One is a roofed manure storage structure where manure can be stored several months until it can be applied to a growing crop. The other is a 3-sided bunker structure shown below at the Davis Stables. The manure is periodically removed using a grappling hook, trucked to the mushroom grower and composted with other ingredients to create the organic

Delaware Summary

Overview

Delaware farmers continued their strong interest in EQIP during 2001. Over 100 farmers requested \$1,363,000 in federal financial assistance to develop 206 contracts on over 15,000 acres. Starting in 2003, Delaware farmers must start to develop and implement nutrient management plans on all their cropland. By 2007, all Delaware farms must be operating under a state approved nutrient management plan. The state is relying on EQIP to help Delaware farmers develop nutrient management plans on 50,000 acres.

Accomplishments

Two thousand and one was an active year for EQIP in Delaware. NRCS and district staff used the \$778,000 allocated to Delaware to develop 125 conservation plans and contracts on 9500 acres. Nearly 90 percent of the funds were used to address natural resource concerns related to livestock production. Approximately 41 farmers participated in the program, developing 5-year contracts providing for nutrient management on 34,000 acres of cropland, construction of 32 manure storage facilities and installation of 19 livestock mortality composters. Approximately 80 percent of the 81 unfunded contracts for \$585,000 were requests for nutrient management.

Outlook

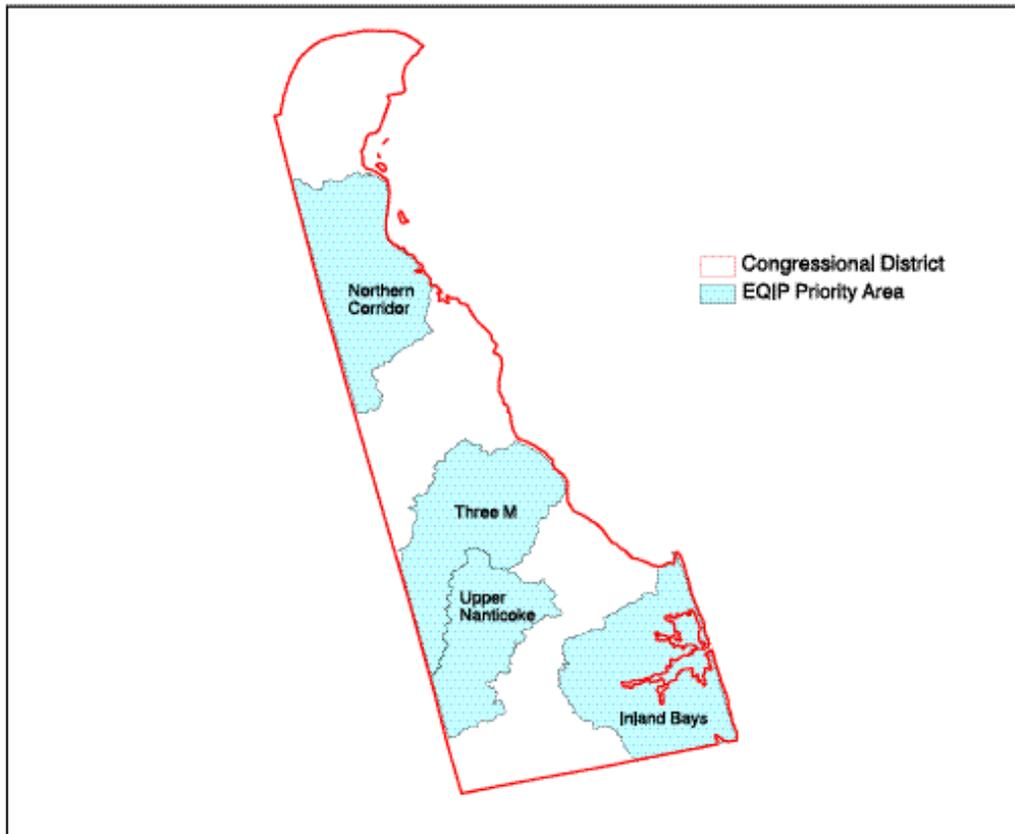
NRCS and its conservation partners are committed to meeting the Delaware goal of improved water quality while maintaining the profitability of the state's agricultural industry. Additional EQIP funding would provide more farmers financial incentives to develop and implement complete conservation plans including nutrient management and installation of needed conservation practices.

State Contact

Lester Stillson, State Operations Manager, TEL: (302) 678-4162 FAX: (302) 678-0843
E-mail: lester.stillson@de.usda.gov



Delaware EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional District *



Delaware EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$775,217	125	\$3,669,891	670
State Totals	\$775,217	125	\$3,669,891	670

*** NOTE: The state of Delaware has one Congressional District so the District 1 data are the same as the state totals**

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