



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus

When Canyon County farmer John Wilson stopped in the NRCS field office to seek help in converting his surface irrigation system to a sprinkler system, he never imagined the amount of work he was getting himself into--or the rewards it would bring. After three years of planning, a new pressurized gravity pipeline is providing irrigation water to Wilson and 8 other landowners.

The project became a cooperative EQIP contract with the landowners. "The cost share funding provided through EQIP made the system economically feasible for the group," said John Gleim, district conservationist, Caldwell. "We helped get the landowners together, evaluate alternatives, and worked with their contractor to get the job installed properly."

Seven of the group converted surface irrigation systems to sprinkler systems pressurized by gravity. Two other members saved energy by switching from use of electric pumps to gravity pressure.

The pressurized system provides water to 536 acres of irrigated cropland. The conservation practices installed as part of the project will result in a savings of 5,364 inches of water and 1,434 tons of soil each year.

## Idaho Summary

### Overview

EQIP funding was available in 15 conservation priority areas. Priority resource concerns, identified by local work groups, included surface water quality, soil quality, grazing lands and wetlands health, air and groundwater quality, water quantity, deforestation, and wildlife habitat quality.

Farmers and ranchers outside the 15 priority areas were eligible for EQIP funding to address resource problems of statewide concern--surface and ground water quality with particular focus on problems associated with livestock. EQIP also helped them meet TMDL requirements.

Applicants who had current conservation plans received a higher priority in the EQIP ranking process.

Conservation districts, in cooperation with local agencies and organizations, used EQIP education assistance funds to transfer knowledge about new tools and conservation techniques to potential EQIP participants.

### Accomplishments

- 223 EQIP applications were received in 2001, totaling over \$4.9 million in requests and far exceeding available funds.
- 135 EQIP contracts were funded for \$2,686,574, covering 31,007 acres.
- Total EQIP contracts (1997-2001) total 891, covering 497,171 acres.
- In 2001, 44,699 acres of conservation systems were planned and 42,852 acres of conservation systems applied through EQIP. Prescribed grazing systems were implemented on 38,055 acres; 98 animal waste systems and 23 miles of conservation buffers were installed.

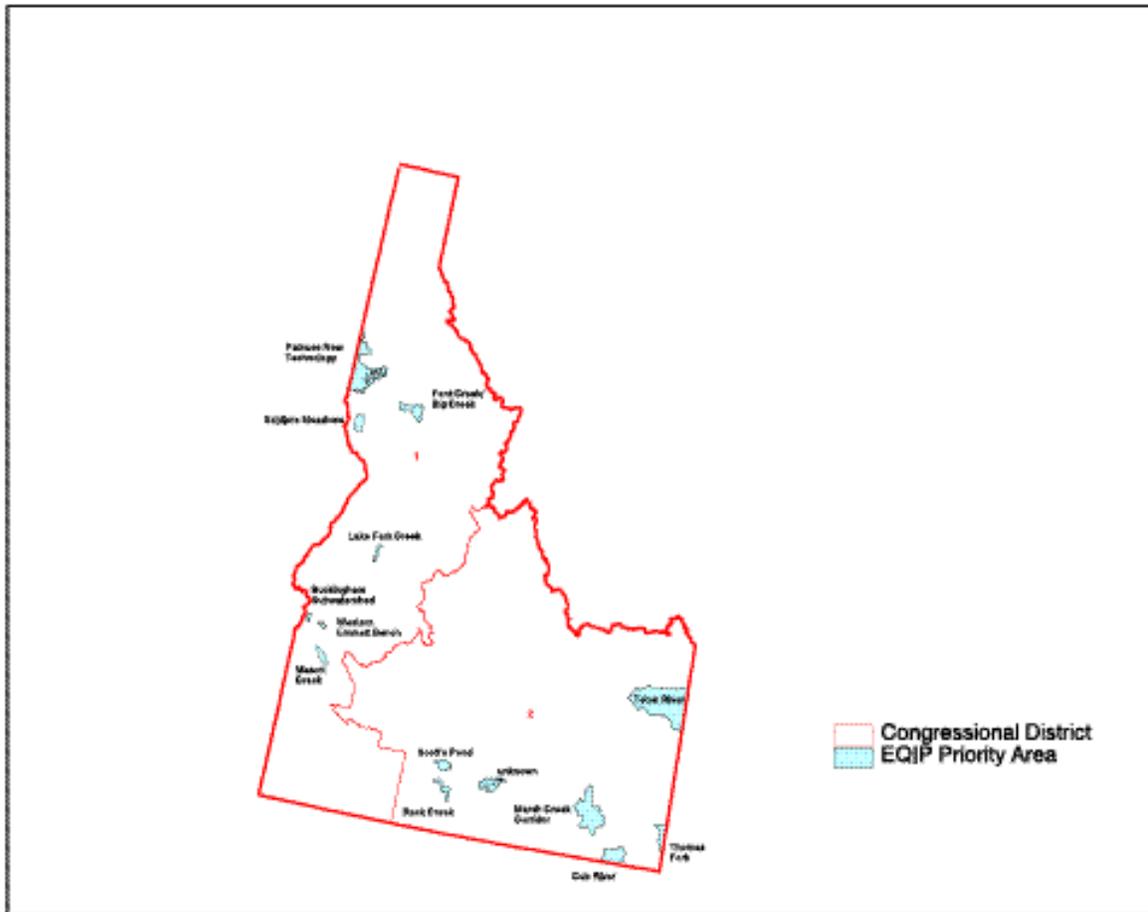
### Outlook

Competition for participation in EQIP is rigorous with applications running twice the available funding.

### State Contact

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## Idaho EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Idaho 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	1,238,072	75	4,599,548	348
District 2	1,448,502	60	8,853,877	543
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>2,686,574</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>13,453,425</b>	<b>891</b>

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