

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Johnny Boudreaux is a cattle producer in south Louisiana near the Gulf coast. Operating his farm near Abbeville, Louisiana, Mr. Boudreaux has a long history of being an aggressive, innovative and successful cattle producer and rice farmer. Carrying out a natural resource conservation plan, and the many best management practices that go along with it, has always been a priority for Mr. Boudreaux.

In 1997, Mr. Boudreaux applied for and became a participant in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program. He received cost-share assistance and incentive payments to assist with installation and application of conservation practices on his farm. Mr. Boudreaux chose to take advantage of EQIP by installing a water system for livestock and implementing a prescribed rotational grazing program. He converted 80 acres of cropland to permanent pasture.

"EQIP offered cost-share assistance specifically for grazing land pastures," said Boudreaux. "I had been utilizing the technical assistance provided by the NRCS range and pasture management specialists for several years, but EQIP allowed me to construct fences and install the water system that was necessary to implement the current conservation grazing management program that I use today."

(Johnny Boudreaux on his farm near Abbeville, Louisiana, only a few miles from the Gulf of Mexico.)

Louisiana Summary

Overview

In Louisiana, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. EQIP provides technical, educational, and financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil and water, and related natural resource concerns on their lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner. The program provides assistance to farmers and ranchers in complying with federal, state, and tribal environmental laws and encourages environmental enhancement. In FY 2001, one thousand three hundred and ninety-five applications were received in the state for EQIP cost-share funds. Of those 1,395 applications, 660 EQIP contracts were funded covering 98,350 acres at a contract cost of \$3,188,669.

Accomplishments

The average soil saving on acres under EQIP contract is 3.5 tons per acre per year. Erosion control measures have been applied on 200,483 acres saving 701,691 tons of soil per year from being deposited in area streams and waterways. One acre inch of water is equivalent to 27,152.4 gallons of water. Through EQIP, irrigation water management practices have been applied on 70,115 acres with 128,421 acre inches of water conserved. As a result, EQIP participants in Louisiana have reduced irrigation usage by 3,486,938,360 gallons per year!

Outlook

The need for EQIP and its related conservation assistance work continues to be great. Sixty-six percent (three out of five) applicants for EQIP do not receive funding for the program because of the funding limitations of the program. Continued program support is needed in Louisiana to address significant resource concerns.

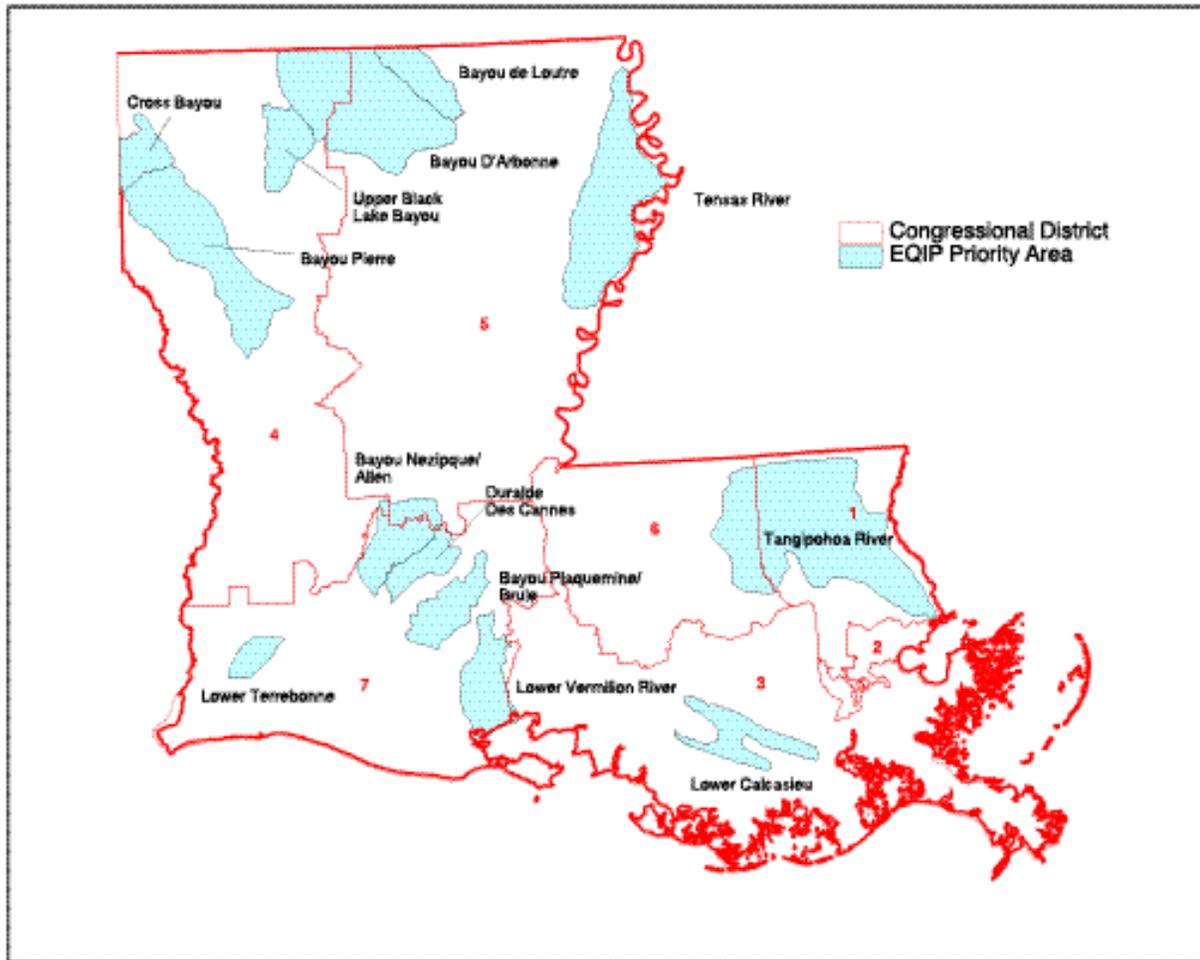
State Contacts

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Louisiana EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Louisiana EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-01)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$107,447	26	\$693,221	187
District 2			\$40,871	22
District 3	\$217,836	75	\$1,049,207	680
District 4	\$331,904	63	\$3,742,778	1,126
District 5	\$1,023,183	192	\$5,554,935	1,700
District 6	\$111,654	27	\$445,699	192
District 7	\$1,396,645	277	\$5,608,990	1,601
State Totals	\$3,188,669	660	\$17,135,701	5,508

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