



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus

What does a farm do with excess manure? Land available for spreading is decreasing due to urban pressures. Competition among farmers for remaining open fields is heavy. Other waste utilization alternatives are limited--composting manure for off-farm use is one viable option.

The Schultz Farm, one of two remaining farms in Rutland, applied for EQIP assistance to install a compost facility. A matrix of gravel and crushed stone over a liner was developed and compacted to allow runoff to drain to a filter strip. A mixing area was installed next to the pad. The finished product is bagged and sold at the farm store.

The compost operation provides the farm a way to handle excess manure, protects land and water resources from excessive levels of phosphorus, and benefits local homeowners by providing soil amendments for their gardening and yard needs.

## Massachusetts Summary

### Overview

In Massachusetts, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting federal cost-share funds totaling more than \$1.13 million dollars were submitted by 80 landowners. Massachusetts' FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was \$699,000. This is a shortfall of nearly \$430,000 to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and partners developed and approved 46 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated 100 percent of allocated financial assistance funds. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) employees in Massachusetts devoted about 140 hours or \$4600 to EQIP administration in FY 2001.

### Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Massachusetts through one composite Geographic Priority Area that includes parts of 13 major watersheds, and 1 special project that provides planning assistance specifically to cranberry growers. A total of \$699,000 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in the statewide priority area and \$55,000 were obligated in the special project area. FY 2001 EQIP conservation plans and contracts covered nearly 5,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. About 2,900 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP. In addition to financial assistance, \$11,800 in EQIP educational grants was awarded to organizations and groups promoting resource conservation throughout the state. Since the inception of EQIP in Massachusetts, more than 1500 distinct conservation practices have been planned in EQIP contracts.

### Outlook

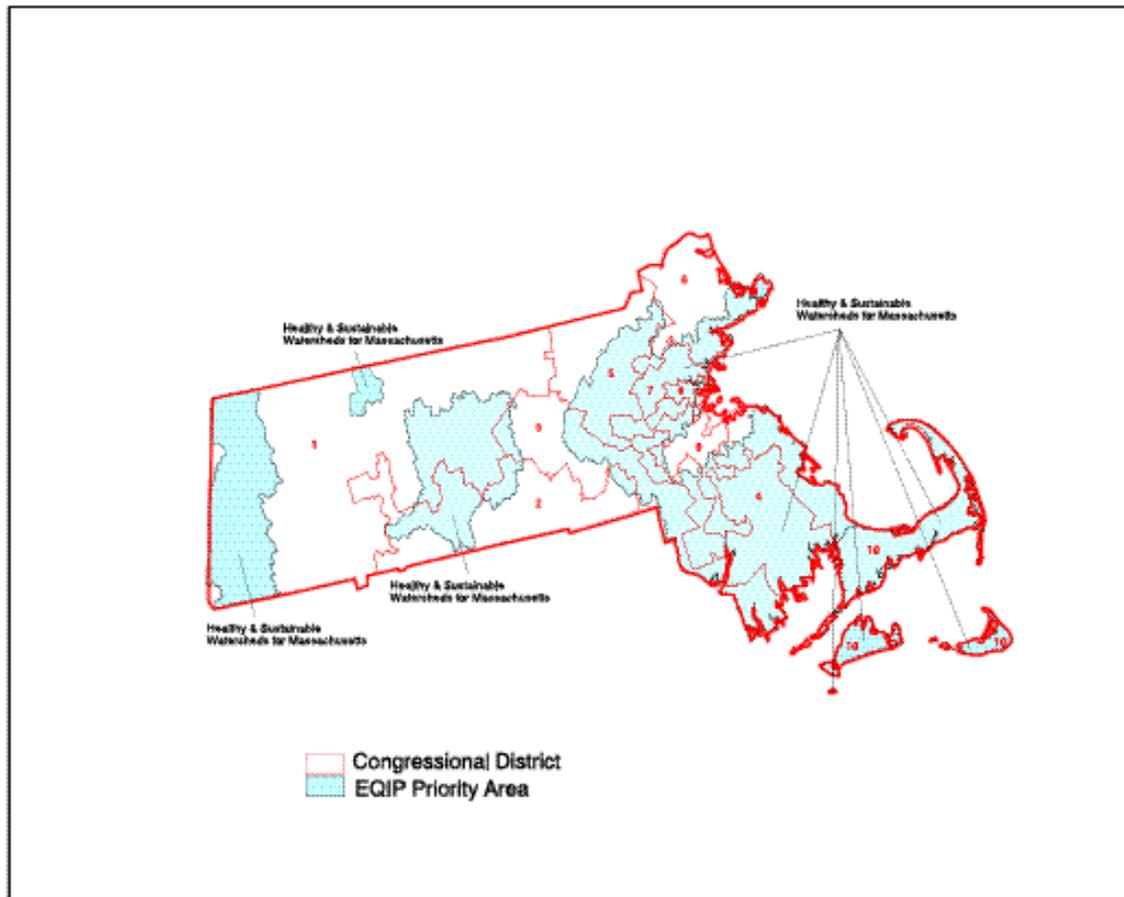
If participation were a measure of success of this program, Massachusetts would report tremendous success with EQIP. The FY 2001 unmet need requested by clients totaled \$425,000. The total unmet need is estimated to be \$3.5 million. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

### State Contacts

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## Massachusetts EQIP Priority Within Congressional Districts



## Massachusetts EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (1997-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$312,651	18	\$1,347,563	75
District 2	76,275	4	219,957	13
District 3	49,654	2	355,137	31
District 4	146,882	14	511,817	66
District 5	563	1	102,574	24
District 6	22,018	2	225,789	29
District 7	18,910	1	25,563	2
District 8	0	0	0	0
District 9	0	0	28,930	0
District 10	72,049	4	281,959	38
<b>State Total</b>	<b>699,003</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>3,070,360</b>	<b>278</b>

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