

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus –

Ann and Richard Frisbee of Newaygo County, Michigan, have been farming for 31 years. Their farm was originally a dairy farm; today the main operation consists of a small herd of beef cattle.

The Frisbees wanted to make improvements to their land when they heard about the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). They contacted the District Conservationist (DC) at the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office about the assistance available through EQIP.

The farm consists of two large pastures used to graze the cattle. One pasture had a large wet wooded area created by drainage from a small stream. The cattle would enter this area, punching up the soil. The other pasture was only accessible by traveling all the way around the pasture because of the stream blocking what would be the closest point of entry. The DC recommended a conservation plan to address these problems. The Frisbees agreed with the DC's assessment and applied for EQIP using the Native American EQIP Priority Area which they qualified for due to Ann's tribal heritage.

The conservation practices installed included restoring the wetland area in the first pasture. A fence was erected to keep the cattle from the wet area. In the second pasture, a stream crossing was constructed to allow access to the pasture at an environmentally appropriate location.

The Frisbees were surprised at how easy working with a government agency could be, there was very little paperwork involved and the process moved along smoothly. They stated the cost-share funds for installing the practices allowed them to make the environmental improvements they had always dreamed of.

Michigan Summary

Overview

Michigan had a very successful year in implementing the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Twenty-two (22) Geographic Priority Areas were funded to address locally identified resource concerns. Overwhelming participation was evident in both the American Indian and statewide programs.

Accomplishments

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Michigan assisted landowners in developing 153 EQIP contracts obligating over \$3 million. All of these contracts were based on a certified conservation plan.

Outlook

Demand for EQIP remains high in Michigan. Additional funding would allow Michigan to fund more Geographic Priority Areas. Local work groups continually express a desire to establish more Geographic Priority Areas. Statewide demand consistently exceeds available funding.

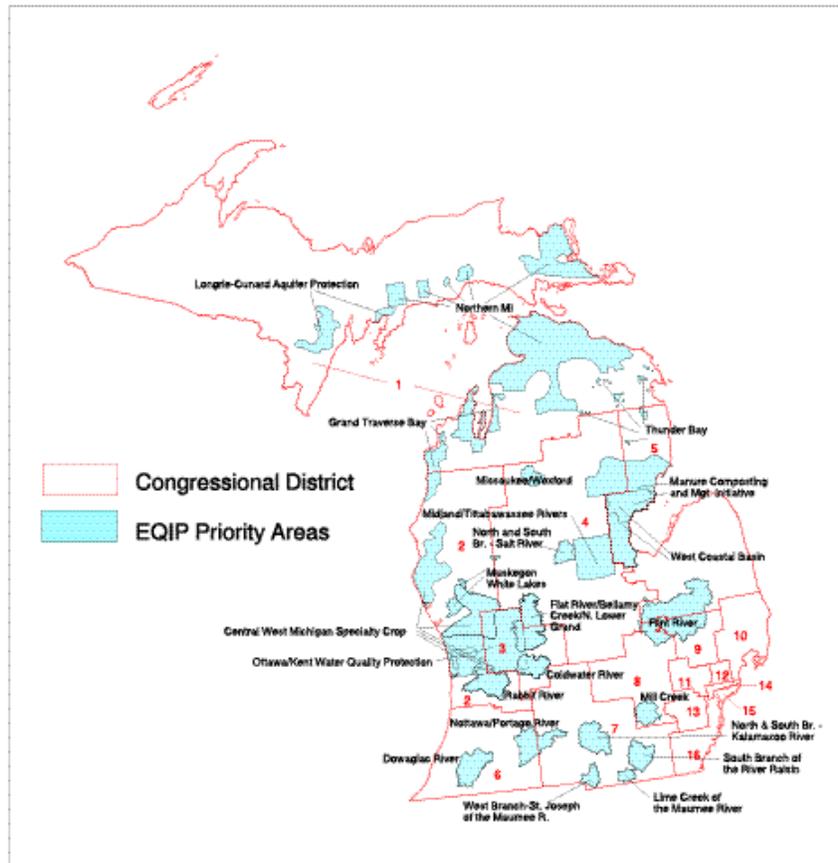
State Contact

Brian MacMaster, EQIP Coordinator, 517-324-5256



Ann Frisbee of Newaygo County, Michigan

Michigan EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional District



Michigan 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	\$1,065,779	36	\$3,826,968	166
District 2	\$630,589	19	\$3,556,157	170
District 3	\$24,333	2	\$464,467	38
District 4	\$392,749	20	\$3,323,545	260
District 5	\$191,957	23	\$1,587,711	183
District 6	\$445,549	26	\$2,145,303	108
District 7	\$255,106	19	\$2,323,416	144
District 8	\$149,980	8	\$500,267	33
State Totals	\$3,156,042	153	\$17,727,834	1,102

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.