

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

Rupert and Karen Smith are dairy farmers in south central Missouri. They want to be sure to meet environmental regulations, and have a personal desire to enhance and protect the environment of the picturesque farming area in Texas County.

The Smiths' farm is located in the Big Piney and Upper Gasconade Rivers EQIP priority area, so they elected to use the USDA program to assist them in building a waste management system and developing a nutrient management plan. They want a system that uses the manure from their dairy operation to fertilize their pasture and hay fields.

They use it in a way that benefits the dairy cows' forages and protects the natural resources. The Smiths' nutrient management plan reduced the amount of commercial fertilizer needed for the dairy's forage crops.

Cow manure is high in phosphorus, so applying it on Ozark land, which is naturally low in phosphorus makes a perfect match on the Smiths' dairy farm. Testing the manure and soil for nutrient levels ensures that the soil fertility levels will stay balanced. This improves production and prevents excess nutrients from running into streams.

EQIP provided financial assistance for the Smiths to construct waste collection and storage structures and incentives to use a nutrient management system. Their waste management plan lets them protect the environment while providing benefits from their livestock waste.

Missouri Summary

Overview

Interest in EQIP continues to exceed Missouri's annual allocation. Applicants committed to addressing water quality concerns requested \$5.7 million, but only 69 percent of the financial assistance requests could be funded. NRCS and our conservation partners helped producers and landowners develop 489 water quality improvement contracts in fiscal year 2001. Missouri EQIP minimizes financial assistance for traditional soil erosion control practices to maximize financial assistance for other water quality systems, such as livestock waste management, integrated crop management, rotational grazing systems, and stream protection. The state cost-share program provides more than \$20 million annually for soil conservation practices.

Accomplishments

A total of 489 contracts for \$3.8 million were developed on more than 76,000 acres in fiscal year 2001. Since EQIP began in 1997, Missouri has enrolled about 386,000 acres in long-term contracts to protect and improve water quality. About 60 percent of EQIP financial assistance is obligated to waste management and prescribed grazing systems. About 75 percent of all state funds are dedicated to locally led priority watersheds. Limited resource farmers used about 14 percent of Missouri's funds for water quality improvement contracts. FY 2001 contracts include 91 waste management systems, 212 integrated crop management systems on 37,600 acres, 156 rotational grazing systems on 22,100 acres and 149 wildlife habitat improvement plans on 18,200 acres.

Outlook

Requests by locally led watershed steering committees and potential EQIP participants continue to exceed funding. Waste management systems, pesticide management in public water supply watersheds and protection of stream resources from agricultural and forestry impacts are critically needed in Missouri. Locally proposed projects and existing projects need additional funding to significantly improve natural resources.

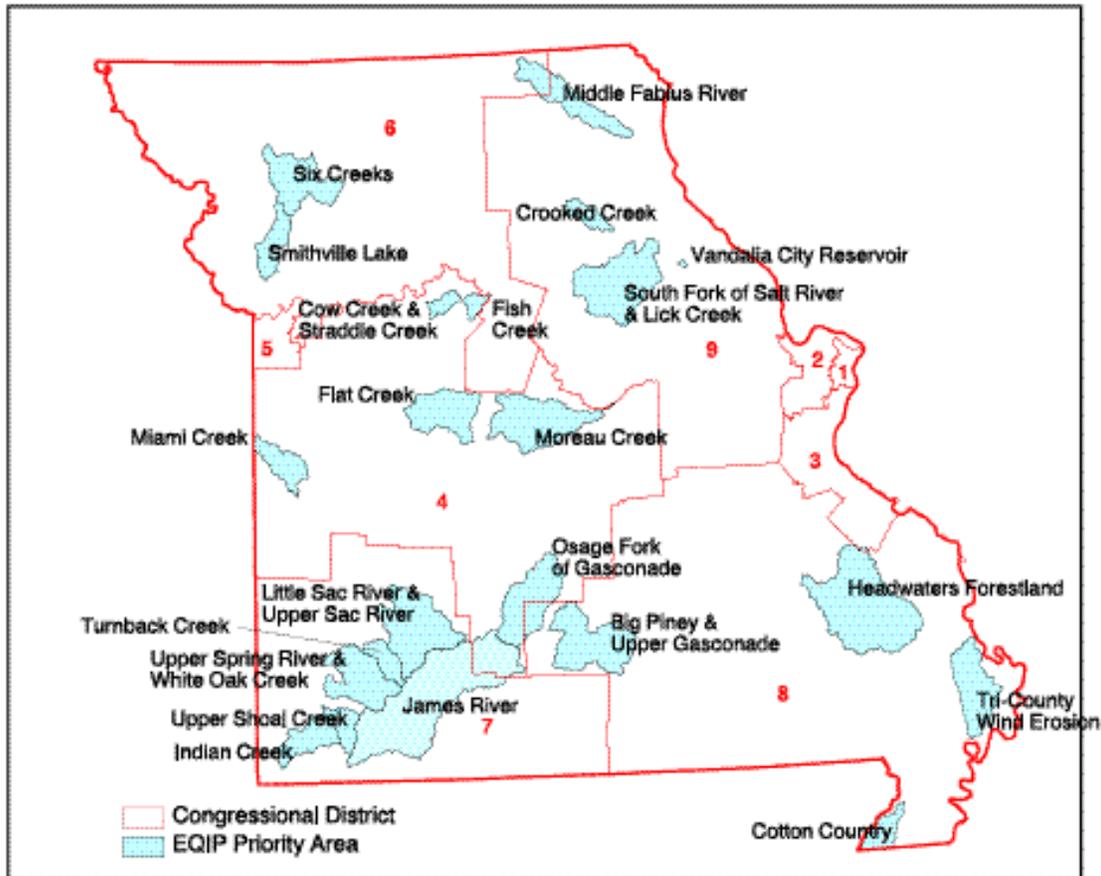
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Rupert Smith, left, and his wife Karen used EQIP cost-share for a waste storage lagoon, and incentive payments for waste utilization on their dairy farm.

Missouri EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Missouri 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 4	754,273	102	3,837,722	588
District 6	280,793	25	2,029,011	223
District 7	1,207,024	116	5,222,869	457
District 8	1,140,940	206	5,412,249	1,164
District 9	456,492	40	2,657,734	287
State Totals	\$3,839,522	489	\$19,159,585	2,719

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