



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Mississippi Summary

NRCS in Mississippi is helping farmers stop soil erosion in a cost-effective manner in Yalobusha County. Landowner Coley Bailey and his father grow a lot of cotton in the hill section of northeast Mississippi. Soil erosion can be challenging and is serious for the Baileys. Planting no-till is one method that helps with erosion, but doesn't solve all of the problems. EQIP has helped the Baileys deal with some serious erosion problems by providing cost share on five drop pipe structures that slow down water – thus preventing erosion and improving water quality.

One of these structures on a 50-acre tract of land prevents up to 8 acres of land from having erosion problems. Three other drop pipes provided by EQIP are also stopping erosion on 30 acres.

"If you want to keep farming, you want to do what's right for the land," according to Bailey. "The cost share that I have to pay is not much, considering what this conservation practice does for the land." He adds, "It's not a large price to pay, and you will get your return back of about \$4,000 at today's prices with about 10 or 12 bales of cotton."

According to Jerry Griffin, NRCS district conservationist, the Bailey land is located in an important large watershed, draining into the Grenada Lake reservoir. "Controlling the soil erosion on this land is keeping sediment out of streams draining into the reservoir and is also addressing water quality problems.

Bailey is proud of what he and his father have been able to do through NRCS and the EQIP program to improve the land they farm. To them it is a long-term investment. "If we had to continue farming before EQIP was available and not address the needs, the land was going to wash away. We hope to be here for a long time and continue farming this land," states Bailey.

### Overview

In Mississippi, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$9 million dollars were submitted by 1,586 landowners. The Mississippi FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was \$4,222,400. This is a shortfall of about \$5 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved 697 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 99 percent of allocated financial assistance funds. NRCS employees in Mississippi devoted over 57,700 hours to EQIP administration in FY 2001. This is equivalent to \$1,517,259 in wages associated with the program.

### Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in Mississippi through 18 Geographic Priority Areas (GPA) and 5 statewide Natural Resource Concern (NRC) projects. About \$3,048,240 in EQIP Federal cost-share dollars were obligated in GPAs and \$1,174,157 obligated in NRC projects. NRCS staff evaluated over 134,850 acres across the state. About 4,150 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP. Since the inception of EQIP, over 3,795 distinct conservation practices have been planned in contracts.

### Outlook

If participation were a measure of success of this program, Mississippi would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet need requests from clients are \$5,046,471 in FY 2001, and the total unmet need of unfunded GPAs and NRC is about \$20 million. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

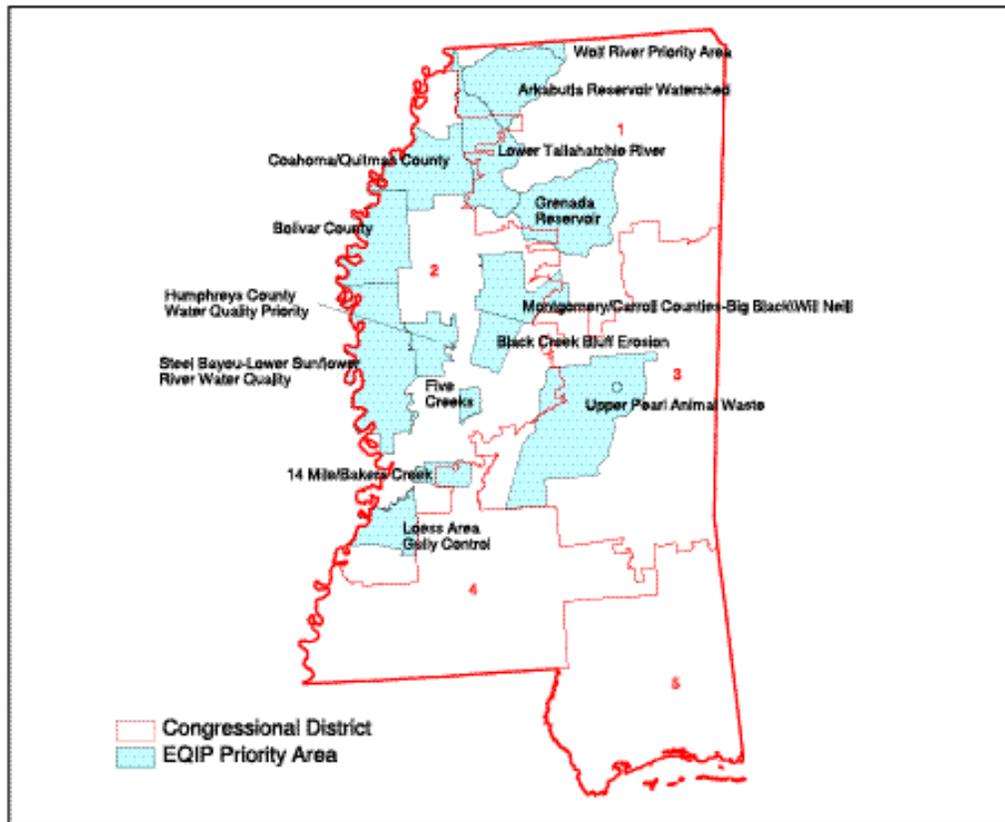
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Over 1100 of these structures have been planned or applied in the state since the authorization of EQIP.

## Mississippi EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## Mississippi 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 0	\$1,174,157	274	\$6,383,324	1387
District 1	\$693,583	134	\$2,708,894	557
District 2	\$1,853,333	238	\$5,220,733	603
District 3	\$322,787	44	\$3,843,862	773
District 4	\$178,540	7	\$1,735,801	302
District 5	0	0	\$405,121	129
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$4,222,400</b>	<b>697</b>	<b>\$20,297,735</b>	<b>3795</b>

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