



# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Customer Focus

Johnny Moore, a dairy farmer in Rowan County, has 485 acres of cropland under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP funds have been used to install grass waterways and diversions, and to provide incentives for using no-till. "No-till is one of the best things that has happened to farming," exclaims Moore.

Despite the last three years having below average rainfall, Johnny Moore has averaged over 150 bushel of corn per acre and has some acres producing as much as 250 bushels of corn. "Even with the drought we've had some of our best yields, thanks to no-till," Moore said. The Moore's are North Carolina's 2001 Conservation Farm Family.

## North Carolina Summary

### Overview

In FY 2001, EQIP helped address natural resource concerns in most of our 100 counties. Funds were targeted to North Carolina's statewide resource concerns: soil erosion and sedimentation, animal waste and nutrient management, and wildlife habitat. In addition to the statewide concerns, local work groups targeted specific resource problems in 18 local priority areas, including the Qualla Boundary on the Cherokee Indian Reservation in the Smoky Mountains. Landowner requests to treat these concerns with EQIP cost-sharing far exceeded the available funding.

### Accomplishments

Many North Carolina landowners will improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, and increase wildlife habitat during the next five years as a result of FY 2001 EQIP cost-sharing. Priority areas across the state focused EQIP to address such concerns as improving nutrient management in the Neuse River basin, reducing streambank erosion in the Blue Ridge Mountains, treating the severely eroding cropland in the State's central piedmont section, and stabilizing old abandoned logging trails on the Cherokee Reservation. Conservation practices to be installed include almost 100 livestock watering facilities, 3,700 ft. of animal trails, 150 waste management systems, 20,000 acres of nutrient management, 19,000 acres of pest management, over 20 miles of field borders, 500 acres of filter strips, 7,500 acres of critical area treatment, and 45 acres of grassed waterways, utilizing about \$3.5 million in cost share funds. Landowners submitted additional applications for \$3.2 million that were not approved due to lack of funds. Applicants are accepted based on the cost-effectiveness of the practices planned and the resulting environmental benefits. NC contracts developed in 2001 will install conservation practices on 94,308 acres over the next five years. Additional practices on 58,205 of these acres were installed without EQIP funding. This leveraging activity improves applicants' chances of being accepted into the EQIP program, and increases conservation practices installed. EQIP is critical to the conservation efforts of the State's farmers, working in coordination with the North Carolina Agriculture Cost-Share Program to address agricultural concerns.

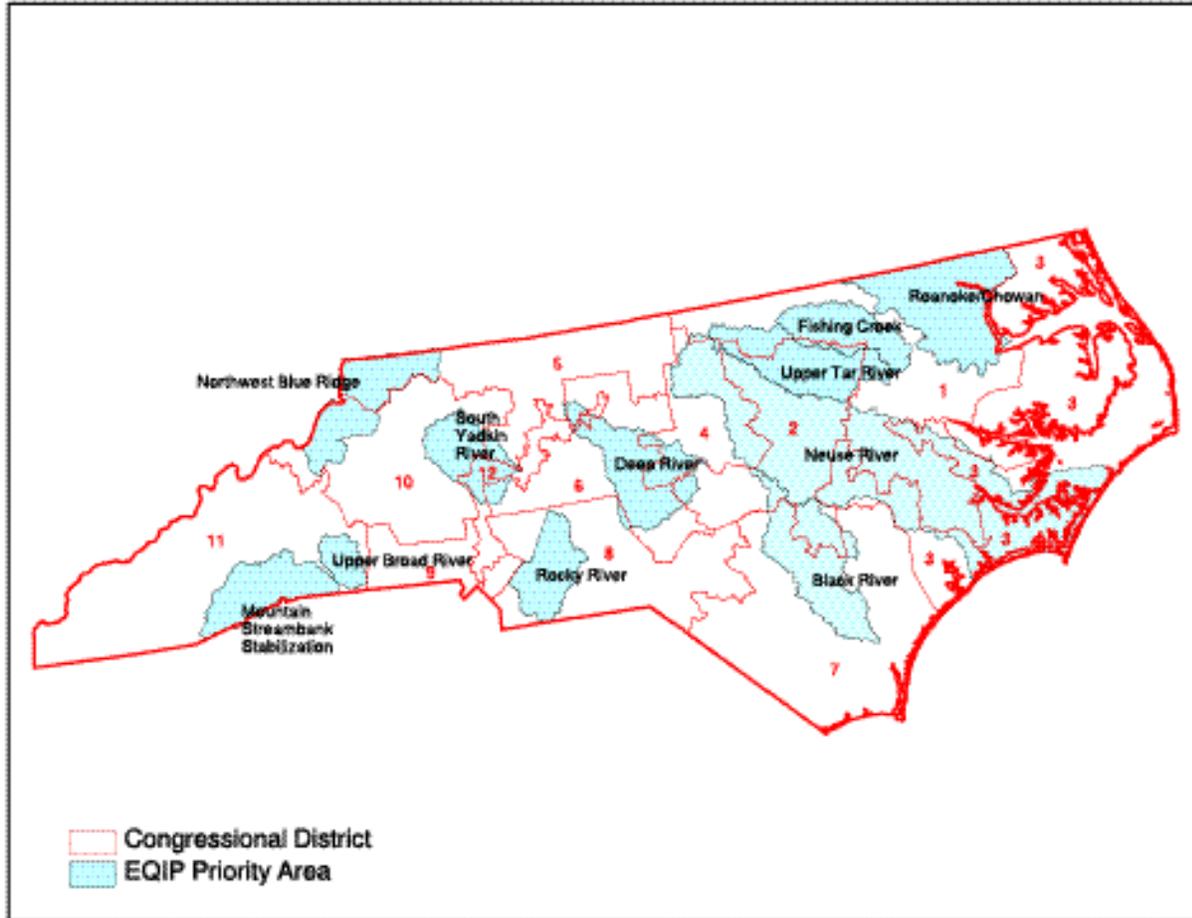
### Outlook

EQIP is enormously popular among North Carolina farmers and will continue to be one of our strongest conservation programs. The program has the unique benefit of helping a farmer to treat a whole farm or tract, achieving a total resource management system. Since 1997, 4,565 contracts have been funded totaling \$22,400,967. An additional 1,815 applications totaling \$15,038,564 were not approved due to insufficient funds. Increased funds are obviously needed to meet the citizen's demands for the program, and North Carolina has demonstrated the ability to put more funding to good use.

### State Contacts

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## North Carolina Priority Within Congressional Districts



## North Carolina Fiscal Year 2001 EQIP Dollars and Contracts

| Congressional Districts | Obligated Dollars  | Number of Contracts |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| District 1              | \$704,378          | 167                 |
| District 2              | 474,091            | 124                 |
| District 3              | 317,228            | 150                 |
| District 4              | 174,628            | 13                  |
| District 5              | 20,370             | 6                   |
| District 6              | 553,204            | 50                  |
| District 7              | 271,767            | 77                  |
| District 8              | 415,559            | 63                  |
| District 9              | 0                  | 0                   |
| District 10             | 330,029            | 60                  |
| District 11             | 371,428            | 93                  |
| District 12             | 9,050              | 3                   |
| <b>State Totals</b>     | <b>\$3,641,732</b> | <b>806</b>          |

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