

# 2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Partnership Focus -

As a steward of the land, Richard Gross, a farmer/rancher in Logan County, had lots of ideas for better use of his land and the resources that he depends on for a living. Richard first went to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for technical assistance in the implementation of a rotational grazing system. Richard worked with the NRCS field office to develop a conservation plan for his farming and ranching operation. Planning on 4,200 acres of land with a mixture of beef cattle, bison, and organic cropland, he soon realized that he needed financial assistance to achieve his goals. With guidance from the NRCS, he developed an EQIP contract, which evolved into a cooperative partnership not only with NRCS, but also with the US Fish & Wildlife Service, Ducks Unlimited, and the ND Natural Resources Trust. The conservation plan that Richard had developed with NRCS was a key ingredient in obtaining his financial assistance from the other three partners. All of the partners involved with Richard's plan have similar goals in conserving our natural resources. These partners helped Richard to install fences and water developments for his rotational grazing system. In addition to a grazing system, Richard is also converting cropland back to permanent cover. By working together, all of the partners are able to affect a much larger landscape.



## North Dakota Summary

### Overview

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that offers farmers and ranchers a tool to address their natural resource concerns while achieving the most environmental benefits through locally developed geographic priority areas and statewide resource concerns. For fiscal year 2001, 23 geographic priority areas and 4 statewide resource concerns were designated for North Dakota. EQIP funds are distributed in geographic priority areas and on statewide resource concerns. The priority areas and priority resource concerns are identified at the local (community or watershed) level, and are reviewed and supported by the State Technical Committee.

### Accomplishments

EQIP has proved to be an extremely sought after program in North Dakota. From 1997 to date, NRCS has received 3,000 requests for assistance. This amounts to \$28.4 million in conservation assistance needs. Because of the public's expressed need for assistance in 2001, NRCS targeted its workforce of natural resource professionals to provide \$1.64 million of technical assistance to private land operators. The implementation of conservation practices does not come without a cost to private landowners. Because of this, NRCS made \$3.4 million available towards practice implementation in 2001. Cost-sharing may pay up to 75 percent of the cost of certain conservation practices.

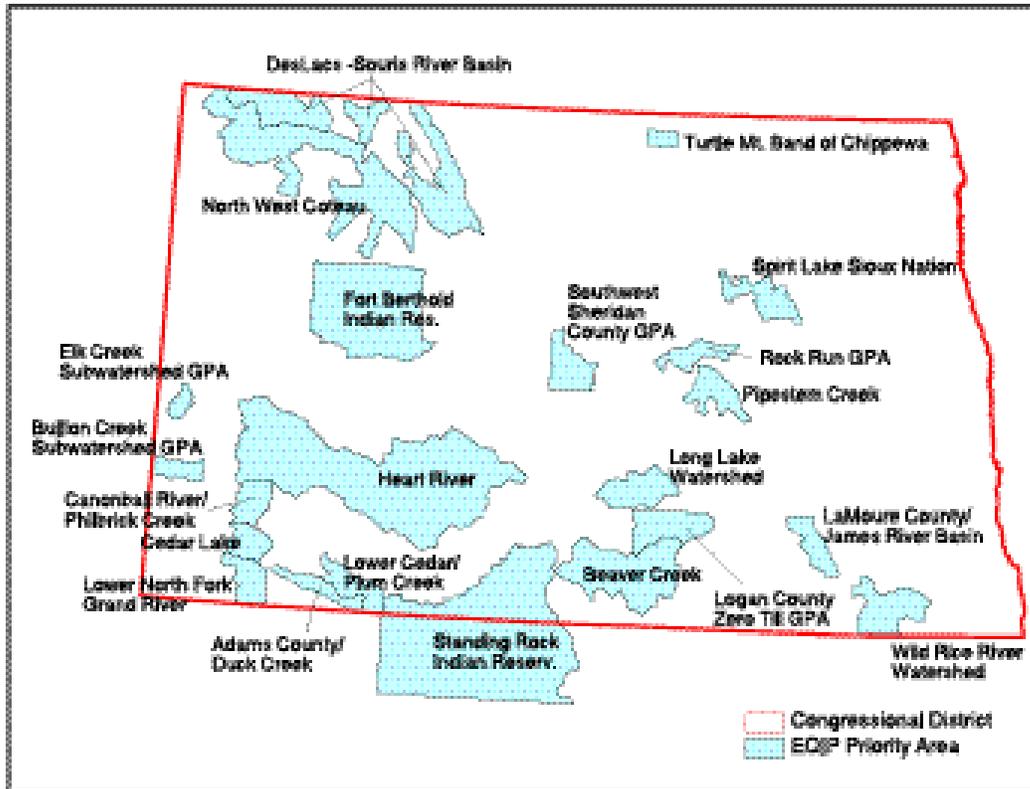
### Outlook

In 2001, a total of 470 applications were received with a cost-share request of \$4.6 million. The amount funded was \$3.4 million for 378 contracts. Because so many more contracts are requested than can be funded, many producers who don't receive EQIP funds are partnered with other State and local agencies/organizations to obtain cost-share dollars to complete which enhance economic, social, and environmental practices in their conservation plans. These figures indicate the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

### State Contact

Jennifer C. Heglund, Assistant State Conservationist - Programs,  
220 E. Rosser Ave. Bismarck, ND 58501 701-530-2095

## North Dakota EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



## North Dakota EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2001		Cumulative Total (97-2001)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$3,421,700	378	\$16,432,300	1988
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$3,421,700</b>	<b>378</b>	<b>\$16,432,300</b>	<b>1988</b>

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