



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

January 2002

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

New Village Farm is located in the southern half of Warren County and is owned and operated by Bob and Sharon Santini. The farm consists of nearly 2,000 acres of owned and leased land, where the predominant crops are corn and soybeans. The Santini's have been true leaders in the agricultural community and long-standing advocates of conservation farming.

This past year Mr. Santini worked with local NRCS and Warren County Soil Conservation District staff to plan and install an Agri-Chemical Handling Facility for the storage and mixing of the chemicals he uses on his fields. The facility provides containment of spillage from on-farm mixing, loading, and unloading of agri-chemicals in order to minimize pollution of the surrounding natural resources. The Santinis' agri-chemical handling facility allows for storage of the materials according to all applicable federal, state and local regulations.

Mr. Santini is pleased that as a result of financial assistance from the joint Environmental Quality Incentives Program / Conservation Cost-Share Program (EQIP/CCSP) through USDA and NJDA, he is able to help protect water quality. The farmer can be heard explaining to others, " We all need to be conscious of how we manage our businesses and what the consequences are."

Due to Bob Santini's outstanding efforts in practicing and promoting good conservation farming, he was awarded "Conservation Farmer of Year for 2001" by the Warren County Soil Conservation District at their annual dinner on December 1, 2001.

New Jersey Summary

Overview

Interest among the farm community in the EQIP program remains high. FY 2001 was the third year that NRCS leveraged state funding through EQIP. With over \$2 in State funding from the Conservation Cost Share Program (CCSP) for every Federal \$1 spent for EQIP, more New Jersey producers have been able to implement conservation practices than in past years. New Jersey has four priority areas and an outside priority area. Three educational assistance plans have been approved for FY 2001 relating to transition to organic farming, pasture management, and integrated crop management. EQIP financial assistance has been obligated for a total of \$758,772.

Accomplishments

In FY 2001 the State Technical Committee meetings provided for input from various partners to improve ways that environmental benefits are factored into EQIP funding decisions. NJ Department of Environmental Protection, Farm Service Agency, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, New Jersey's Farmland Preservation Program, Northeast Organic Farmers Association and other organizations all participated in meetings with the goal of best addressing the needs of the farming community as well as the environment. Eighty-four offers were approved, with 57 percent for livestock practices.

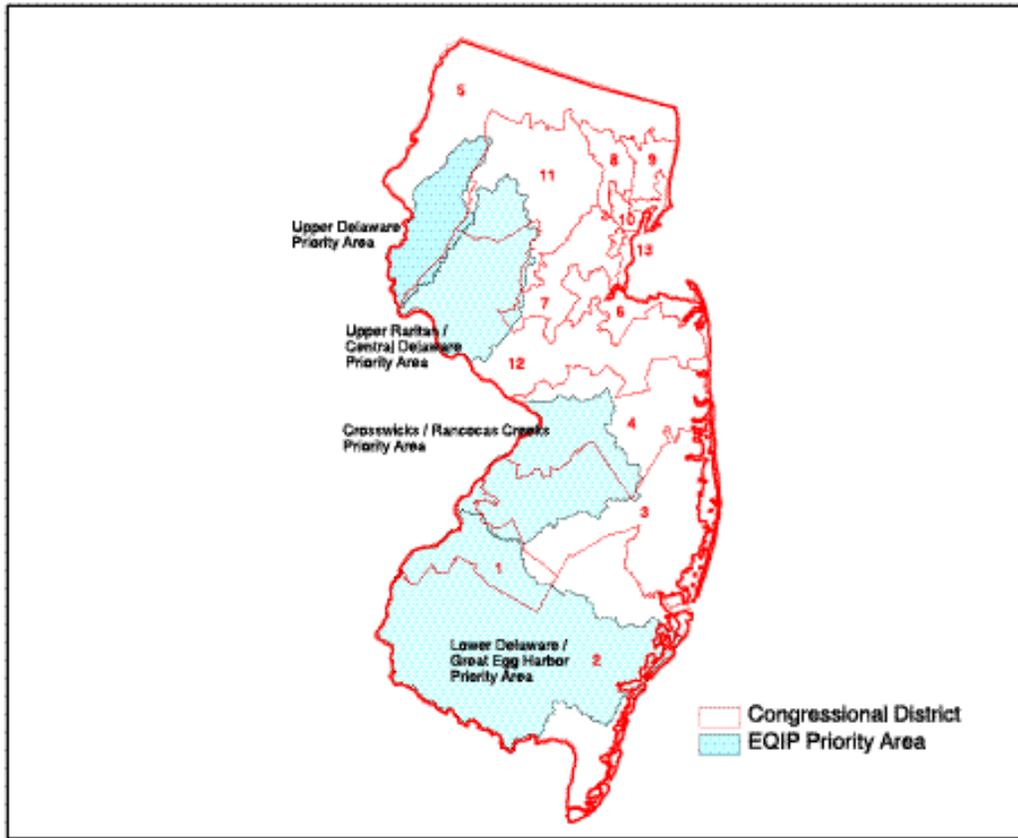
Outlook

Additional technical assistance for EQIP is critically needed, as the increasing interest in assistance through EQIP far outweighs NRCS staff time. Additional funding would provide increased opportunity to address the many critical agricultural natural resources conservation needs in New Jersey through the hiring of additional technical staff. Increased financial assistance is needed to help the farm community remain viable in a state that is too quickly losing farmland to development pressures.

EQIP Contact

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New Jersey EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



New Jersey 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	\$18,984	5	NA	
District 2	\$283,721	44		
District 3	\$20,596	4		
District 4	\$72,210	4		
District 5	\$256,543	20		
District 11	\$33,567	3		
District 12	\$73,151	8		
State Totals	\$758,772	88	\$	

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