

Customer Focus

In 1998, local work groups in the watersheds of the Vermillion River and the West Branch of the Black River identified nutrient enrichment as the cause of poor water quality and as their major resource concern. When the groups applied to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for technical and financial assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) there was already great interest in precision farming as a best management practice in the area.

Precision farming incorporates the Global Positioning System (GPS), Geographical Information Systems (GIS), soil testing, yield monitoring and variable rate application equipment to deliver precise amounts of fertilizer for optimum yields and improved water quality.

However due to the prohibitive cost of the practice, there was limited implementation of precision farming in the area. The producer's costs were \$18.00 per acre for soil sampling plus cost for application.

To provide incentive for the establishment of precision farming in the area, the local work groups requested that incentives up to \$6 per acre be provided to producers who implement nutrient management/ precision farming through EQIP.

Since the implementation of EQIP in these two priority areas, there has been a 60-percent increase in the use of precision farming on cropland in these watersheds. Fertilizer is now being applied at more appropriate rates, precisely where it is needed. The amount of fertilizer being spread in the area is estimated to be at 50-percent of former levels. The result is improved water quality with an increase in crop yields.

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Ohio Summary

Overview

In fiscal year 2001, Ohio continued to utilize the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to provide technical, educational and financial assistance to producers with serious natural resource concerns. This year over 473 applications for \$4.1 million in federal financial assistance were accepted. The Ohio allocation for financial assistance in FY-2001 was about \$2.5 million. This is a shortfall of about \$1.6 million to meet current requests.

Accomplishments

Ohio's State Technical Committee is a partnership of NRCS with federal, state and local organizations that work together to determine the state's priority resource concerns to make financial and conservation technical assistance available where it is most needed. Ohio's technical committee designated 14 Conservation Priority Areas to receive financial assistance in FY-2001. Approximately 70 percent of Ohio's funding was directed to the 14 Conservation Priority Areas and over \$370,000 was devoted to Limited Resource Farmers.

Outlook

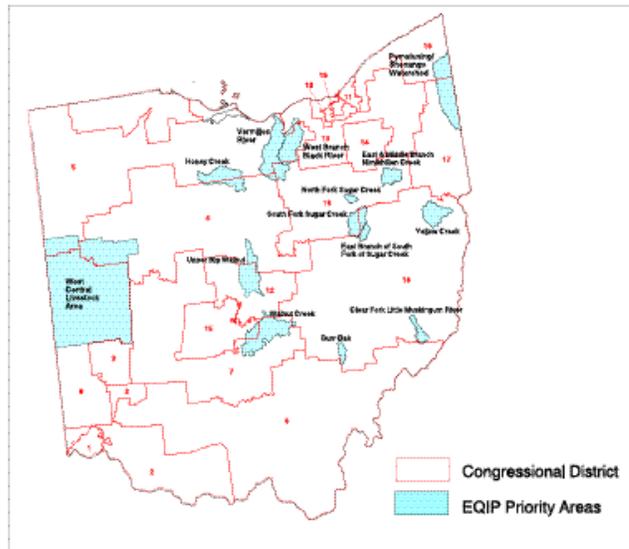
Additional funding would provide financial incentives for producers to more fully address critical natural resource concerns.

State Contacts

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Ohio EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Ohio 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	\$0	0	\$0	0
District 2	0	0	66,528	7
District 3	0	0	43,667	3
District 4	271,425	55	1,569,527	387
District 5	429,023	96	1,267,632	250
District 6	111,154	20	964,933	224
District 7	298,147	26	1,076,817	132
District 8	287,657	14	2,186,076	216
District 9	0	0	23,482	5
District 10	0	0	0	0
District 11	0	0	0	0
District 12	136,198	44	900,880	277
District 13	0	0	0	0
District 14	0	0	0	0
District 15	14,545	3	54,609	11
District 16	202,345	16	980,800	126
District 17	37,100	4	156,905	12
District 18	747,152	87	2,936,964	398
District 19	31,350	2	125,781	9
State Totals	\$2,566,456	367	\$12,354,601	2,057

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