

2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

David Owens of Marion County, South Carolina, never had a doubt in his mind about what he was going to be when he grew up. Raised on a farm, Owens learned about farming and conservation from his father, grandfather, and uncles. He attended Clemson University to increase his technical farming skills and received a degree in Agricultural Mechanization and Business (with a minor in Agronomy and Ag. Economics). Owens is a motivated young farmer who is carrying on the tradition of his forefathers and taking his conservation ethic a step further with new techniques and advanced technology.

Farming with his father and uncles, Owens manages corn, wheat, soybeans, and greenhouse tobacco. He also runs a 50 brood cow operation. Total acreage on the farm is just over 1200 acres. Steve Anderson, NRCS soil conservation technician, has worked closely with the Owens family to develop an EQIP plan, which included planting 16 acres of Bahia grass for the cattle. "Before planting grass, the acreage was nonproductive cropland," said Anderson. "Now the cattle have an excellent grazing source."

With older generations of farmers retiring or giving up farming, young, full-time farmers like Owens are becoming rare. But, Owens has proved that his motivation and common sense conservation tactics can lead to success. "Programs like EQIP have been invaluable to us and I'm just glad that we were able to work with NRCS to improve what we already have," concluded Owens.

South Carolina Summary

Overview

In South Carolina, strong interest and participation in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) continued through FY 2001. Applications requesting Federal cost-share funds totaling over \$4 million dollars were submitted by over 1,000 landowners. The South Carolina FY 2001 allocation for financial assistance was about \$1.6 million. This is a shortfall of about \$2.4 million to meet current client needs. NRCS staff and our partners developed and approved over 230 EQIP conservation plans and contracts, which obligated nearly 99 percent of allocated financial assistance funds.

Accomplishments

EQIP financial assistance has been distributed in South Carolina through 16 Priority Areas and 1 statewide resource concern (water quality). Over 6,000 clients were provided assistance associated with EQIP in South Carolina as reported in PRMS.

Outlook

If participation were a measure of success of this program, South Carolina would report tremendous success with EQIP. The total unmet need requests from clients are \$2.4 million in FY 2001. This figure indicates the need for continued program support to address significant resource concerns.

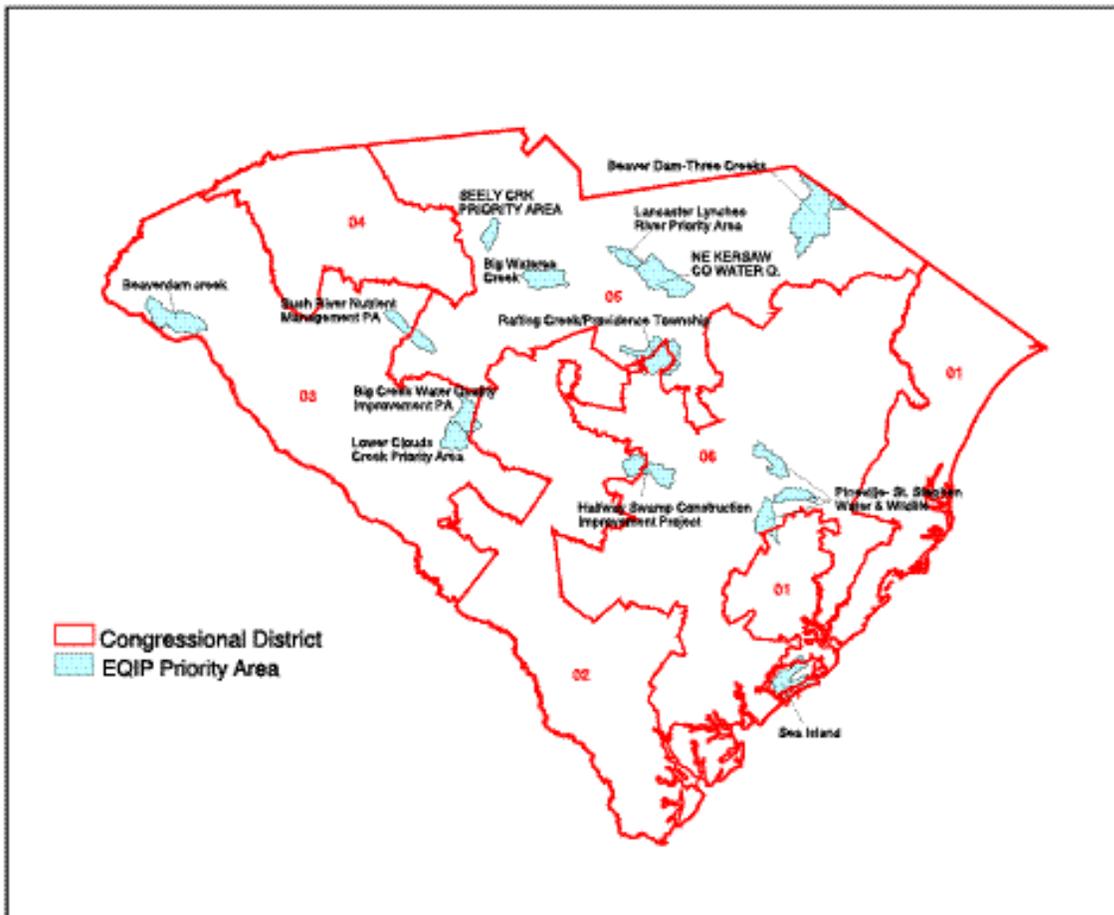
State Contact

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Landowner David Owens (left) discusses his conservation plan designed by Marion County NRCS Soil Conservation Technician Steve Anderson.

South Carolina EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



South Carolina 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	\$71,532	24	\$564,906	34
District 2	83,375	26	1,483,328	78
District 3	517,675	177	1,853,543	565
District 4	47,165	6	148,203	91
District 5	579,700	58	2,302,075	311
District 6	517,257	62	2,608,815	360
State Totals	\$1,816,704	353	\$8,960,870	1,439

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