



2001 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus

"This could still be a good farm", said Jeff Sulak, Hill County farmer near Hillsboro, Texas. He added "it's just been neglected for a few years". NRCS conservationist Andy Spencer couldn't agree more. Although the farm had been terraced in years past the current condition of this 221-acre farm was poor. The terraces had been farmed down and were broken. Grassed waterways had filled with silt and water was running outside of the grassed area causing the adjoining terraces to break. Jeff Sulak, a respected young farmer in the area had just purchased the farm.

Mr. Sulak had made application for the EQIP program in the Aquilla-Hackberry priority area. The local work group had weighted the EQIP application process to approve applications where the potential for pesticide, nutrient, and sediment runoff was high due to water quality problems in downstream Lake Aquilla.

Spencer helped Sulak to develop a conservation plan where grassed waterways, a grade stabilization structure, and filter strips would be established. Also, 6,807 feet of terraces would be built with cost-share and Sulak will bring 36,500 feet of terraces back to specifications with his farm equipment. The practices would be cost-shared at the 75% rate and the total cost-share assistance would be \$10,163.

The grassed waterway and grade stabilization structure have been completed. The terraces will be built next year. In addition to the cost-share practices, Sulak is also carrying out conservation tillage, nutrient management, pest management, and crop rotation to control erosion and pesticide and nutrient runoff. The EQIP program has been very successful in helping Hill County producers like Jeff Sulak improve the water quality in Lake Aquilla.

Texas Summary

Overview

Interest and participation in the EQIP program continues at a high level in Texas. Each year since 1997 requests for financial assistance have far exceeded the funds available. Fiscal year 2001 was no different in that over 30 million dollars in assistance was requested by 3,207 landowners; however only slightly over 12 million dollars was available to fund contracts for 1448 landowners. The resource concerns of Texas farmers and ranchers vary as much as the landscape itself. Major concerns include water quantity as affected by brush encroachment on rangeland and the need for more efficient irrigation systems; water quality of streams, rivers, and lakes; waste management systems for animal feeding operations; and soil erosion on cropland. Most of the land in this state is privately owned and Texas landowners are eager to conserve its natural resources. With the financial help of EQIP and technical assistance provided by NRCS, great strides are being made.

Accomplishments

In fiscal year 2001, Texas had 28 funded Geographic Priority Areas (GPAs). The GPAs accounted for 80 percent of the contract dollars in the state or \$9,655,456. The remaining \$2,519,535 were obligated in the four statewide resource concerns. A total of 1448 contracts were approved obligating \$12,174,991. Due to the success of this and previous years, seven of the GPAs have now effectively reached their goals and will disband allowing additional new GPAs to be funded beginning with FY 2002. In addition, 10 EQIP educational assistance proposals totaling \$62,068 were funded to promote the conservation effort across the state.

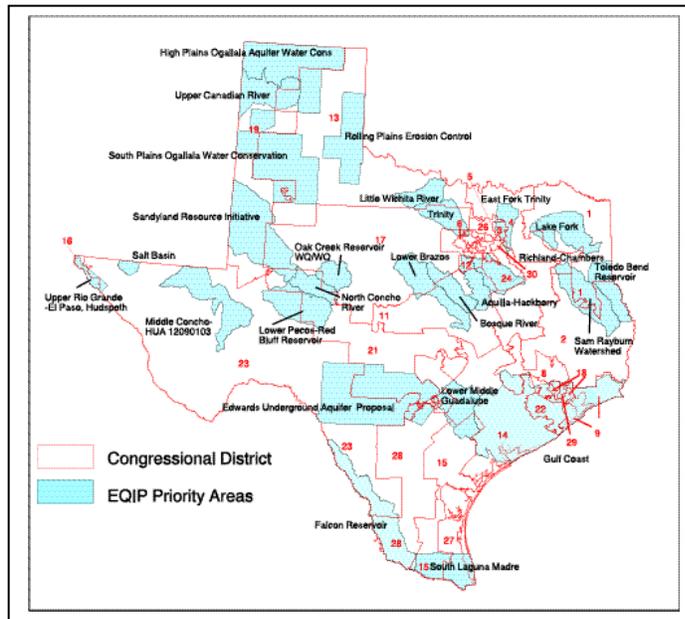
Outlook

Due to the continued demand each year, the need for the EQIP program remains strong. There are currently 26 GPA proposals awaiting funding and a current backlog of 12,734 unfunded applications needing an estimated 125 million dollars. Texas landowners have demonstrated the need for additional financial and technical assistance along with a willingness to do their part to conserve our natural resources.

State Contacts

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Texas EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Texas 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
1	\$585,901	98	\$3,651,794	690
2	\$186,571	21	\$1,320,125	182
3	\$838	1	\$34,284	13
4	\$168,704	36	\$974,834	214
5	\$116,766	28	\$1,564,827	316
6	\$215,725	17	\$436,184	45
7	\$0	0	\$46,516	433
8	\$113,802	12	\$487,882	74
9	\$227,429	11	\$1,149,077	86
10	\$0	0	\$0	0
11	\$617,864	73	\$3,117,541	528
13	\$1,548,814	189	\$8,165,895	1,171
14	\$658,880	75	\$4,722,276	727
15	\$433,817	101	\$2,772,243	553
16	\$112,619	15	\$202,812	24
17	\$1,810,554	247	\$7,761,620	1,011
19	\$1,406,391	133	\$5,596,736	612
20	\$37,302	13	\$304,000	64
21	\$1,536,256	133	\$4,545,109	462
22	\$6,045	1	\$72,005	5
23	\$1,777,127	126	\$8,407,282	582
24	\$51,871	2	\$382,364	76
27	\$41,192	1	\$780,825	121
28	\$474,411	115	\$2,564,451	538
State Totals	\$12,128,879	1,448	\$60,157,216	8,286

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