

July 31, 2007

## **EQIP 2007 Fire Recovery Initiative for Utah**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. *What is the EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) 2007 Fire Recovery Initiative for Utah?*  
This initiative is a quick response voluntary program to the devastating fires affecting tribal and private grazing lands in Utah that provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers who have control over the property.
2. *Are State and Federal lands eligible?*  
No, only private and tribal grazing lands.
3. *What practices are eligible?*  
Prescribed grazing (528) is eligible, specifically resting of burned grazingland.
4. *What must land owners do to receive financial assistance?*  
Grazing deferment will begin immediately through October 1, 2008 for all contracted acres.
5. *What financial assistance is available?*  
A one time payment of \$11/acre incentive payment with up to 2,500 acres per individual or entity is available. A maximum of \$27,500 per individual or entity is allowed.
6. *How will applications be evaluated?*  
Applications will be screened using the 2007 EQIP Fire Recovery Initiative Calculator that will give a High, Medium or Low rating, only High and Medium will be ranked. Applications will be ranked using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT), which will analyze the percentage of private or tribal grazingland acres that were burned and the percentage of burned grazingland acres that are being contracted for resting until October 1, 2008.
7. *When will applications be taken?*  
The sign up period is from August 1, 2007 to noon August 14, 2007. Any application materials submitted after that time will be considered for FY 2008.

8. *What application materials are needed?*  
A complete application must follow all guidelines in EQIP program policies. An application packet is available from your local NRCS District Conservationist or Planner, which includes: Bulletin UT300-07-17, Attachment A (Producer Acknowledgement of 2007 EQIP Fire Recovery Initiative), a Producer Application Checklist, a 2007 Fire Recovery Initiative Grazingland Assessment, a Fact Sheet, a NRCS-CPA-1200 (EQIP Application), a NRCS-CPA-1202, and a copy of the Conservation Practice Standards for Prescribed Grazing (528) and Rangeland Planting (550).
9. *What should landowners submit for financial assistance?*  
a Producer Application Checklist which outlines additional requirements, including: the Grazingland Assessment Worksheet, Beginning Farmer/Limited Resource Producer, Proof of Land Ownership, Leased Land agreement, Legal documentation of signatory, and vendor information.
10. *Where can I find out more?*  
Please visit [http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fire\\_maps.html](http://www.ut.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fire_maps.html) to find the most up to date information on this Initiative.
11. *What lands qualify?*  
Any burned land by wildfire is eligible.
12. *How do I find out if my land qualifies?*  
Contact you local USDA NRCS Field Office.
13. *What happens after the sign up period ends?*  
Producers wanting financial assistance for the FY2007 year must submit a complete application by noon (MDT) August 14, 2007. From August 15 to August 17, 2007 NRCS will evaluate and rank applications, successful applications will be “preapproved”. From August 18 to close of business September 14, 2007 NRCS and selected producers will work together to develop, sign and obligate contracts.
14. *Are there other practices that I can apply for under this Initiative?*  
At this time, only resting of tribal or private grazingland is an eligible practice. However, depending on available funds and demand for financial assistance, seeding practices (550) may be reimbursed. Contact your local NRCS Field Office to find out more.
15. *Can I receive financial assistance for all acres rested?*  
No, funds are available for acres that are burned. For example, if part of pasture has been burned, only the acres that have been burned will be paid at the \$11/acre. Temporary or electric fencing may be a management tool producers want to consider implementing to graze unaffected areas.