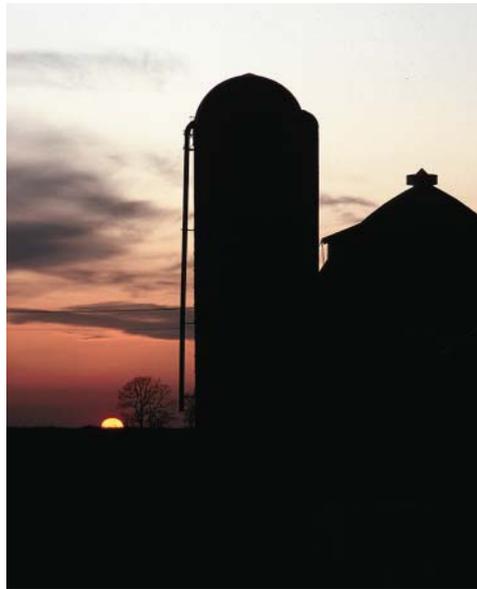


## Once Your Application is Approved...

- Review your conservation plan & contract—its practices, the schedule for implementation, etc. Please note:
  - You must apply a practice within the first year of the contract.
  - You must agree to follow NRCS standards and specifications for all contract items.
  - You must install all practices in the contract.
  - You must maintain all practices for their practice life span, which may range from 1 to 20 years, depending on the practice.
- Provide direct deposit information for payments or hardship waiver.
- If you understand and agree with everything in the contract, you and all other participants (including those not receiving payments) must sign contract.

## Once You Have A Contract...

- Apply practices based on the schedule.
- NRCS will frequently review your contract to ensure you understand the expectations and stay on schedule.
- Keep local NRCS staff informed of any problems or changes that may affect implementation, new developments in your operation, etc.
- Inform local NRCS staff when contractors will be working on your farm.
- Submit documentation for practices that have been applied to certify practices for payment.



For more information, or to apply for EQIP funding, contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center:



February 2012

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

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1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410  
or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).



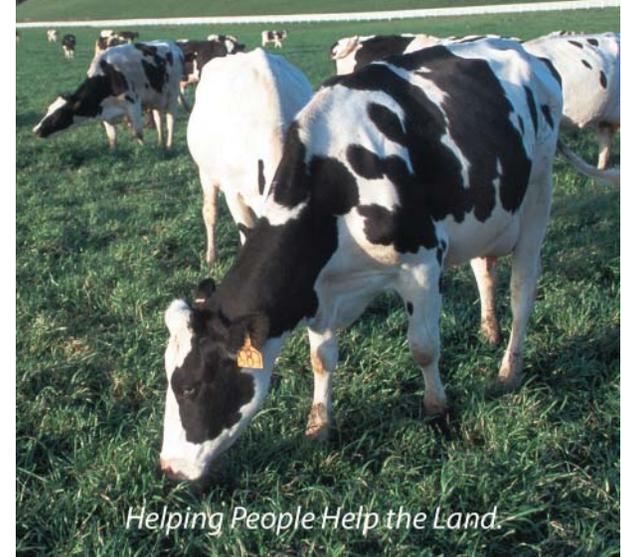
## EQIP Environmental Quality Incentives Program

A program designed to help farmers financially with conservation practices.



# CONSERVATION

Our Purpose.  
Our Passion.



*Helping People Help the Land.*

## EQIP Funding Can Help You...

*Adopt new farming practices to reduce energy costs and provide environmental benefits.*

- Install practices that improve soil quality and keep soil from washing or blowing away.
- Avoid over-application of fertilizers.
- Provide adequate storage for animal waste; utilize effectively.
- Dispose of dead animals in an environmentally-friendly manner.
- Manage woodlands for more efficient timber production.
- Increase and improve quality wildlife habitat.
- Improve water quality in both surface and groundwater.

*EQIP contracts provide funding which typically pay for the majority of implementation costs and/or provide incentive payments to offset new management techniques.*



## Applying for EQIP:

*To be considered for funding, the following items are needed:*

1. Submit a signed application at your local NRCS Field Office for either: General EQIP (cropland), Grazing Land, Confined Livestock, or Forestland
2. Secure identifying information in USDA's Service Center Information System. This includes your name, address, phone, and social security number
3. Complete certification forms about yourself and your land, including:
  - Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Conservation status
  - Adjusted Gross Income
  - Member's Information for entities and joint operations
  - Signature Authority to show who has the authority to sign on behalf of an entity or joint operation.
4. Prove you have control of the land:
  - provide copy of deed or lease or
  - provide other written authorization from the landowner

## Ranking Process

*Applications are ranked based on environmental benefits, including:*

Evidence of a natural resource concern (ex. erosion, inadequate manure storage, dead animal disposal, water quality)

- Develop a conservation plan that includes:
  - list of practices to be installed
  - schedule for installation
  - cost estimates & quantities
- The effects of your planned practices on:
  - improving water quality in impaired streams
  - reducing soil loss
  - maintaining wildlife habitat
  - creating habitat for pollinators
  - providing adequate, quality, and sustainable forage on grazing lands
  - effectively managing nutrients and animal waste

*Your ranking score will be the main factor in whether or not your application is approved for funding.*

