

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) At A Glance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary, conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to help you address significant resource problems on your land. Financial assistance is available to establish eligible conservation practices such as grazing management, manure management, and wildlife habitat management.

## Natural Resource Concerns



**Grazing Lands** - Assistance is available to plan and implement grazing systems with cross-fencing and watering systems, establish riparian buffers, and apply nutrients more efficiently.



**Cropland** - Assistance to establish crop rotations that improve soil quality and promote high residue crop production in a continuous no-till program and erosion control practices such as diversions, waterways, strip cropping and contouring.



**Animal Waste** – Assistance to construct animal waste storage and handling facilities for various types of livestock (dairy, swine, poultry).



**Poultry Litter Transfer** - Assistance to encourage the proper application of poultry litter on suitable agricultural lands in an environmentally responsible manner and according to a certified nutrient management plan.



**Forestry Concerns** – Assistance with establishment and re-establishment of forest trees and stabilization of logging roads, skid trails and landings on privately owned non-commercial forest land.



**Wildlife Habitat for At-Risk Species** – Assistance to establish habitat for wildlife species.



**Small Farm Initiative** – Assistance to landowners with 200 acres or less, no more than 100 acres of cropland or pastureland, and total household income of less than \$70,000. Farmers with pasture must follow a grazing plan. Assistance is directed toward infrastructure needs such as fencing, water systems and erosion control structures.



**Ground and Surface Water** – Assistance to improve irrigation efficiency and protect ground and surface water resources.

## The Assistance

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer. Contracts for confined livestock feeding operations require the development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan. EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of one year and a maximum term of ten years. Payments are limited to \$450,000 per individual.

## Practices for 2008 EQIP Resource Concerns

Note: There are other eligible practices in addition to these examples. Payments vary by individual practice and can be viewed at [www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip08docs.html](http://www.va.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip08docs.html)



Resource Concern	Examples of Practices	Remarks
Grazing Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riparian Buffers</li> <li>▪ Pasture &amp; Hay land Planting</li> <li>▪ Pipeline</li> <li>▪ Pumping Plant for Water Control</li> <li>▪ Prescribed Grazing</li> <li>▪ Livestock Shade Structure</li> <li>▪ Spring Development</li> </ul>	<p>Buffer must be at least 35' wide; livestock excluded</p> <p>All components of pre-scribed grazing plan must be in place for payments to be made.</p>
Cropland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conservation Crop Rotation (High Biomass, Continuous No-Fallow, and/or High Diversity crop rotations)</li> <li>▪ Residue and Tillage Management (Continuous No-till/Strip-Till)</li> <li>▪ Riparian Buffers</li> <li>▪ Waterways. terraces</li> </ul>	<p>Buffer must be at least 35' wide; livestock excluded</p>
Animal Waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste Storage Facility</li> <li>▪ Animal Mortality</li> <li>▪ Composting Facility</li> <li>▪ Roof Runoff Management</li> <li>▪ Manure Transfer</li> </ul>	<p>Cost-share not to exceed \$200,000 for all animal waste facilities</p> <p>Irrigation of stored manure</p>
Poultry Litter Transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste Utilization</li> </ul>	<p>Litter must be obtained from target counties</p>
Forestry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Pest Management</li> <li>▪ Tree/Shrub Establishment</li> <li>▪ Forest Trail and Landings</li> <li>▪ Forest Stand Improvement</li> </ul>	<p>For Invasive Species Only</p>
Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fencing – exclusion</li> <li>▪ Field Border</li> <li>▪ Riparian Buffer</li> <li>▪ Pasture &amp; Hay Planting</li> </ul>	<p>Establishment of Warm Season Grasses that benefit wildlife</p>
Small Farm Initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Various practices designed to build infrastructure</li> </ul>	
Ground and Surface Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Irrigation Storage Reservoir</li> <li>▪ Irrigation System (Micro or Sprinkler)</li> <li>▪ Agricultural Mixing Facility</li> <li>▪ Sinkhole &amp; Sinkhole Area Protection</li> </ul>	<p>Permanent installation of components where at least 80% efficiency will be achieved</p>