

# 2013 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) At A Glance

Do you want to improve your operation with:

- ✔ Nutrient Management and Animal Waste Handling?
- ✔ Grazing Systems, Watering Facilities, and Fencing?
- ✔ Cover Crops and Rotations?
- ✔ Tree Planting and Stream Fencing?

Applications are accepted continuously. Deadlines for batching periods are January 18, February 15, & March 15, 2013.



## Program Description



NRCS develops an EQIP plan of operation and contract with each producer. EQIP activities are then carried out according to that plan. Contracts for confined livestock feeding operations require the development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

EQIP contracts are generally one to three years up to a maximum term of 10 years. Contracts are limited to \$300,000 per individual. Practice installation will start during the first year of the contract.

Ten percent of all EQIP funds have been set aside to assist historically underserved clients. Landowners certify they belong to one of these groups. New and beginning, socially disadvantaged, and limited resource farmers can receive financial assistance payments up to 90 percent for installation of conservation practices. In addition, individuals may receive up to 30 percent in advance for purchasing materials or contracting. For more information, visit your local USDA Service Center.

## 2013 Resource Concerns

## Description

## Sample Practices

### Animals in Confinement



Assistance with animal waste storage and handling facilities for livestock (including dairy, swine, and poultry) and efficient application of organic nutrients.

A Virginia Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required when payment is for a waste facility. Funding is available to assist with the development of a CNMP.

- Waste Storage Facility
- Animal Mortality Facility
- Nutrient Management
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Fencing

### Grazing Lands



Assistance to plan and implement rotational grazing systems, exclude livestock from streams, establish riparian buffers, and apply nutrients more efficiently.

For prescribed grazing payments, all components of the prescribed grazing plan must be in place and livestock managed according to the plan.

- Riparian Buffers or 10-Ft. Setbacks
- Pasture & Hayland Planting
- Access Control & Fencing
- Prescribed Grazing
- Nutrient Management
- Water Troughs & Pipelines
- Heavy Use Area Protection

2013 Resource Concerns	Description	Sample Practices
<p><b>Cropland</b></p> 	<p>Assistance to improve soil quality with crop rotations, cover crops, and high residue crop production, using no-till with erosion control practices.</p> <p>Payments may only be made to applicants who have not adopted the practice on fields that will be in the contract.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Crop Rotation</li> <li>• Residue &amp; Tillage Management</li> <li>• Cover Crop</li> <li>• Grassed Waterways</li> <li>• Filter Strip</li> <li>• Field Border</li> <li>• Nutrient Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Forestland</b></p> 	<p>Assistance to establish or re-establish trees and stabilize logging roads, skid trails and landings on privately owned non-commercial forest land.</p> <p>Contracts for the Forestry concern are limited to 300 acres per participant.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Critical Area Planting</li> <li>• Riparian Forest Buffer</li> <li>• Forest Site Preparation</li> <li>• Tree/Shrub Establishment</li> <li>• Forest Stand Improvement</li> </ul>
<p><b>Organic Farming Initiative</b></p> 	<p>Assistance to current certified organic producers and those transitioning to organic farming. Addresses soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy conservation concerns.</p> <p>There is a \$20,000 per year (\$80,000 over six years) payment limit for applications within this special pool.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Crop Rotation</li> <li>• Nutrient Management (Organic)</li> <li>• Prescribed Grazing</li> <li>• Residue &amp; Tillage Management</li> <li>• Irrigation Water Management</li> </ul>
<p><b>Conservation Activity Plans</b></p> 	<p>A plan to address specific natural resource issues.</p> <p><i>The producer works with a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to complete the plan. NRCS cannot recommend TSPs but can offer a list of certified TSPs upon request.</i></p>	<p>Plans for managing nutrients, forest land, grazing land, pests, irrigation water, agricultural energy, drainage water, transition to organic production, fish and wildlife habitat, and pollinator habitat</p>
<p><b>Shellfish Aquaculture Pilot</b></p> 	<p>Pilot program to help shellfish growers improve the water quality that shellfish need to thrive through gear cycling/disposal and restoration of declining shellfish beds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gear Cycling/Disposal</li> <li>• Establishment of Rare &amp; Declining Habitat</li> </ul>