

Conservation Opportunities for:

- **Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher**
- **Beginning Farmer or Rancher**
- **Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher**

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state, and federal regulations.

WHIP is a voluntary program that assists landowners and other participants who want to develop or enhance aquatic or terrestrial wildlife habitat on private land. Participants can receive both technical and financial assistance to improve or develop terrestrial or aquatic habitat on their land. Most land is eligible for WHIP, which provides the opportunity to improve wildlife habitat on land that may not be eligible for other programs.

EQIP and WHIP allows **Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, Beginning Farmers or Ranchers, as well as Limited Resource Farmers or Ranchers** an increase in financial assistance. However, all contract participants must meet the requirements in order for the contract to receive additional financial assistance. Review the criteria to determine if you might be eligible. If you feel that you are eligible, you will be able to certify as such on your EQIP or WHIP application.

You will need to choose whether your application will be ranked under the ranking category specifically set aside for Socially Disadvantaged Farmers or Ranchers, Beginning Farmers or Ranchers, or Limited Resource Farmers or Ranchers or ranked under the resource concern that is being treated on your land.

A Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher is someone who:

Is an individual or entity who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. For an entity, at least 50 percent ownership in the farm business must be held by socially disadvantaged individuals.

A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

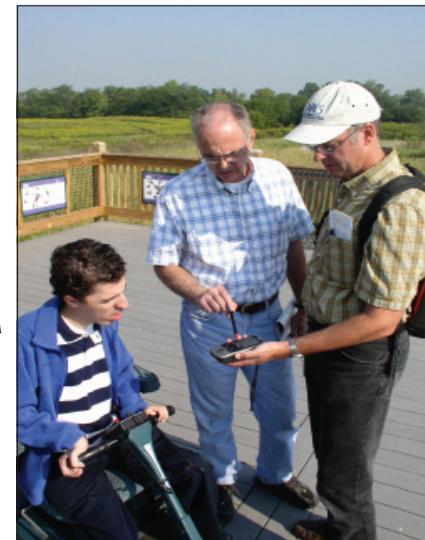
- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) conservation programs. Entities reflect a broad interpretation to include partnerships, couples, and legal entities.

A Beginning Farmer or Rancher means an individual or entity who:

Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of an entity, and who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

In the case of a contract with an individual, individually or with the immediate family, material and substantial participation requires that the individual provide substantial day-to-day labor and management of the farm or ranch, consistent with the practices in the county or state where the farm is located. In the case of a contract with an entity, all members must materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch. Material and substantial participation requires that each of the members provide some amount of the management or labor and management necessary for day-to-day activities, such as if each of the members did not provide these inputs, operation of the farm or ranch would be seriously impaired.



For more information on EQIP and WHIP, visit your local USDA Service Center or www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs



Producers with agricultural land, rangeland, or forestland with any resource concerns should apply at their local NRCS field office and work with them on a conservation plan.

A Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher is a participant:

With direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

A tool to determine eligibility is located at the following Web site:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/SLB_Farmer

Information about EQIP and WHIP is available on the Kansas NRCS Web site, www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ or is available at your local USDA Service Center from the NRCS or conservation district staff.



EQIP and WHIP are voluntary conservation programs for conservation-minded landowners who want to promote environmental quality and improve wildlife habitat.

“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). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

Conservation Opportunities

for:

***Socially Disadvantaged
Farmer or Rancher***

Beginning Farmer or Rancher

***Limited Resource
Farmer or Rancher***



Kansas

**Environmental Quality
Incentives Program (EQIP)
and
Wildlife Habitat
Incentives Program (WHIP)**

Helping People Help the Land