



# Organic Farming

The 2008 Farm Bill places additional emphasis on providing technical and financial assistance to producers who want to transition to organic farming as well as current certified organic producers. Financial and technical assistance from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will help producers plan and implement conservation practices to sustain their organic operations.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is available to help farmers and ranchers:

- Address soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy conservation concerns;
- Obtain financial and technical assistance to plan and implement basic conservation practices (\$80,000 payment limitation);
- Meet the requirements needed for National Organic Program certification;
- Maintain an existing organic certification; and
- Conserve and improve natural resources for a sustainable farming operation.

High-priority conservation practices to address soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy conservation concerns may include:

- Conservation crop rotations;
- Cover crops;
- Nutrient management (organic);
- Pest management/Integrated Pest Management;
- Prescribed grazing; and
- Forest harvest management.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers who already have applied basic conservation practices, but want to implement a higher level of conservation. Eligible producers participating in CSP could receive payments for additional conservation treatment on their operations.

For more information, visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



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