

Conservation Practices

- Access road
- Ag-fuel storage facility
- Animal trails & walkways
- Brush management
- Composting facility
- Comprehensive nutrient management planning
- Constructed wetland
- Contour farming
- Contour buffer strips
- Contour orchard and other fruit area
- Cover crop
- Critical area planting
- Deep tillage
- Dike
- Diversion
- Dry hydrant
- Early successional habitat
- Fence
- Field border
- Filter strip
- Firebreak
- Fish pond management
- Forage harvest management
- Forest stand improvement
- Forest site preparation
- Forest trails and landings
- Grade stabilization structure
- Grassed waterway
- Heavy use area protection
- Hedgerow planting
- Herbaceous wind barriers
- Invasive plant species control
- Irrigation regulating reservoir
- Irrigation storage reservoir
- Irrigation water conveyance (water quantity or quality)
- Irrigation water management
- Irrigation, microirrigation
- Land clearing
- Land smoothing
- Lined waterway or outlet
- Manure transfer
- Mulching (biodegradable)
- Nutrient management
- Obstruction removal
- Open channel
- Pasture and hay planting
- Pest management
- Pipeline (livestock watering)
- Pond (livestock watering)
- Pond sealing or lining
- Prescribed grazing
- Pumping plant
- Recreation trail and walkway
- Residue management (no-till or mulch-till)
- Restoration/management of rare & declining habitats
- Riparian forest buffer
- Riparian herbaceous buffer
- Riparian herbaceous cover
- Roof runoff structure
- Row arrangement
- Sediment basin (including as part of an animal waste system)
- Shallow water management for wildlife
- Shellfish aquaculture (pending approval of interim standard)
- Silage leachate collection and transfer
- Spring development
- Streambank and shoreline protection
- Stripcropping
- Structure for water control (cranberry)
- Subsurface drain
- Transition to organic production
- Tree/shrub pruning
- Underground outlet
- Waste facility cover
- Waste storage facility
- Waste utilization
- Waste water treatment strip
- Water & sediment control basin
- Watering facility
- Well
- Windbreak/shelterbelt

Offices to contact for help

Rhode Island NRCS Office

60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: 401.822.8848
Fax: 401.828.0433
E-mail: NRCSInfo@ri.usda.gov
Web site: www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov

Eastern Rhode Island Conservation District

2490 Main Road
Tiverton, RI 02878
Phone: 401.816.5667
E-mail: info@easternriconservation.org
Web site: www.easternriconservation.org

Northern Rhode Island Conservation District

2283 Hartford Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919
Phone: 401.934.0840
E-mail: gdemarco.nricd@verizon.net
Web site: www.nricd.org

Southern Rhode Island Conservation District

PO Box 1636
Kingston, RI 02881
Phone: 401.500.0422
E-mail: j.eric.scherer@gmail.com
Web site: www.sricd.org

For more information on the
Rhode Island EQIP program or to download application visit:
www.ri.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip.html

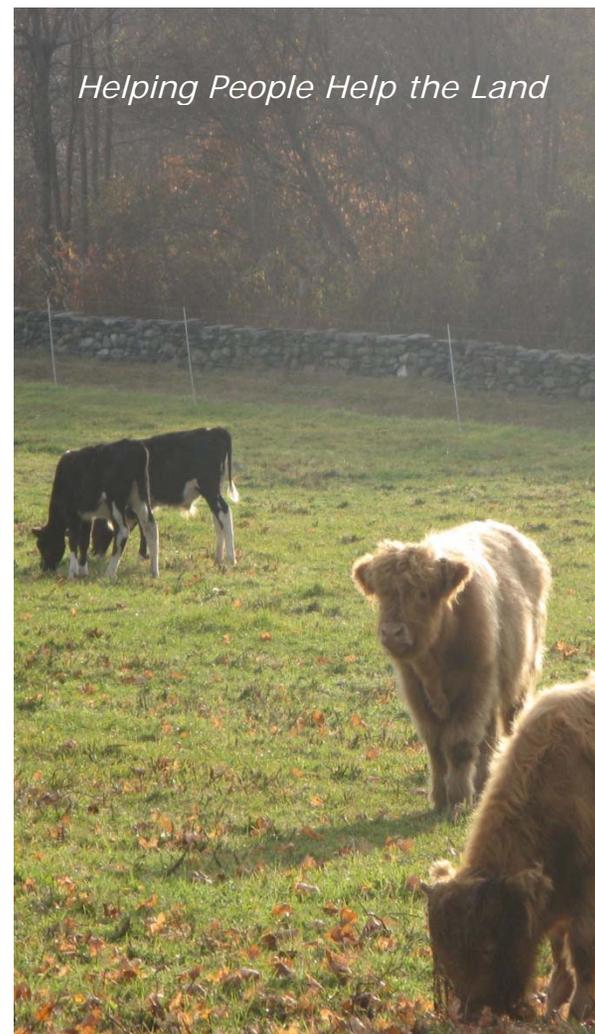
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex (including gender identity and expression), marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or 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). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

REV 4/12



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Rhode Island



What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers technical and financial assistance for private landowners to address natural resource concerns on their agricultural lands. The EQIP Program offers practice payments to address issues related to soil, water, air, plants, and livestock.

Who can participate?

All private landowners and operators engaged in agricultural or livestock production on eligible land may voluntarily participate in the program.

What land is eligible?

Eligible land includes cropland, pasture, hayland, forestland or other lands on which crops and/or livestock are produced. All of the lands are equally eligible. Land under a Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contract is not eligible during the term of the CRP contract.

Is there money available through this program?

EQIP offers Federal practice payments at set rates for approved conservation practices which are listed in the brochure. Limited resource producers, beginning farmers, and social disadvantaged farmers may qualify for a higher practice payment.

What are practice payments?

Practice payments are payments to encourage producers to adopt structural and/or management practices to address natural resource concerns on their private lands. These payments are re-evaluated each fiscal year based on data available.



Is there a limit on the amount of money I can receive?

Yes. The total limitation on EQIP payments is \$300,000 per individual or entity over the life of the 2008 Farm Bill, regardless of the number of farms or contracts. There can be more than one EQIP contract per tract of land.

Where does the money come from?

Funds for the program come from the Federal government's 2008 Farm Bill appropriations and are administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

How do I get started?



You should visit our NRCS office or contact your local Conservation District to sign up for EQIP. Once our office has received your application, you will be contacted by a staff member to schedule a site visit to review your objectives and conduct a property evaluation. Your resources will be inventoried and opportunities will be identified for potential improvements on your land to address natural resource concerns. Together NRCS and you will decide how to address these concerns where decisions will be recorded in a conservation plan. The conservation plan/record of decision is then utilized in the ranking process along with other applications to determine if it will be approved for contract development.

How does the ranking process work?

NRCS evaluates each applicant's record of decision using a statewide ranking procedure updated each year. The record of decision(s) is/are scored by identifying the natural resource concern(s), extent of treatment, and environmental benefits to be achieved, compared with the cost of the practices needed to be implemented to achieve those benefits. Additional consideration may be given to proposals that enhance compliance with environmental regulations, agricultural land protection, leveraged funds, agricultural production, and cost effectiveness. Records of decisions with the highest environmental benefit are forwarded for contract development. The process continues until all EQIP funds are obligated.

Will my application be funded?

If the ranking process indicates your application will be forwarded for contract development, NRCS will meet with you to review final documents and have you sign an EQIP contract containing the practices that were agreed upon during the planning process.

How does the contract work?



The contract will contain funding information per practice and a schedule of which year the practices will be implemented. The contract will last a minimum of 2 years up to a maximum of 10 years, or at least 1 year past installation of the last practice. You determined the contract length with the assistance of your conservation planner. All practices implemented with EQIP funding must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice. Your contract will indicate the lifespan of each practice listed. It is important that you stay on track with your contract. Modifications may only be made due to specific circumstances and failure to implement practices as scheduled may result in termination or cancellation of the contract.

What is new in EQIP?

All eligible livestock operators are eligible to receive practice payments for implementing components in their contract regardless of the operation's size. A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is required of all livestock producers who receive funding for Waste Storage Structures or Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAs).

Participants can receive practice payments for installed practices as early as the first year of the contract.

At least one practice must be completed in the first twelve months of the contract. Failure to do so could result in termination or cancellation of your contract and liquidated damages assessed.

Four target areas of importance have been identified in the 2008 Farm Bill. These target areas include pollinator habitat, air quality, organic practices, and forestry.