

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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Background

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to persons involved in livestock and agricultural production. EQIP focuses on priority environmental concerns, including water quality improvement and nutrient management.

Contracts

EQIP offers up to 10-year contracts that provide financial incentives to install conservation practices. Applications are accepted throughout the year, then ranked and approved according to environmental points.

Plans of Operation

All EQIP activities must be carried out according to a conservation plan. Plans are site-specific for each farm and developed by producers with help from NRCS and the Conservation Districts.

Practice Payments

EQIP pays up to 75 percent of the costs of eligible conservation practices including waste storage structures, mortality composters, and poultry house windbreaks; and incentive payments for management practices such as nutrient management and pest management.

Eligibility

Participation is open to all agricultural producers including large confined livestock operations.

Funding

EQIP funding is provided state wide to address significant resource concerns. The highest priority for funding is to address excess nutrients associated with livestock operations and to assist farmers comply with the DNMC mandated nutrient management plans.

Total EQIP payments are limited to \$450,000 per individual or entity for the length of the current Farm Bill – 2002 through 2007. Additional funding of contracts may be available through the conservation districts.

Signup Assistance

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) administers EQIP with guidance from the Delaware State Technical Committee and assistance from the local Conservation Districts.

For more information, visit or contact your County USDA Service Center:

Kent USDA Service Center
800 Bay Rd., Suite 2
Dover, DE 19901-4667
(302) 741-2600

New Castle USDA Service Center
2430 Old County Road
Newark, DE 19702
(302) 832-3100

Sussex USDA Service Center
21315 Berlin Road, Unit 3
Georgetown, DE 19947
(302) 856-3990

**EQIP...
sign up
now!**

Ranking Deadlines

December 22, 2006
January 26, 2007

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or call (202) 720-7327 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal employment opportunity employer.