

Field Office Fact Sheet

The Greenhouse Gas (GHG) program is to provide additional support to GHG projects awarded under the National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). Financial assistance is through EQIP, therefore all EQIP program rules apply.

1. NRCS field personnel will provide producer with the Applied Ecological Sciences (AES) fact sheet and information about the CIG-GHG project and be prepared to answer questions about the program.

Quick Facts about the CIG Project:

- The CIG project covers 3 states Washington, Idaho and Oregon.
- Applied Ecological Services (AES) received a 3 year National Conservation Innovative Grant (CIG) to develop a large-scale agricultural carbon project in partnership with Shepherd's Grain members and surrounding farmers in the Palouse and Columbia Plateau region.
- Producers provide access to their land for AES to sample soils, inventory farming practices and management.
- The project seeks to demonstrate the value of improved agricultural practices that increase soil health and provide a roadmap for developing large-scale, high-quality, and low-cost soil carbon transactions.
- The benefits of this CIG project are to provide knowledge and understanding to producers about soil health and soil carbon levels in their fields and opportunities to monetize and market carbon credits.
- To enhance the CIG project producers that have not adopted high residue practices (either 329 or 345) can participate in EQIP to install the management practice or;
- Producers that have adopted 329 and 345 may use EQIP to apply any of the additional approved conservation practices. These conservation practices provide a high level of treatment to sequester carbon and increase soil health.
Note: Producer involvement with AES is not a requirement to enter into EQIP.

- Only 6 practices are offered: Residue Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed, Residue Management, Seasonal, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till, Mulching, Cover Crop, or Conservation Crop Rotation.
2. NRCS will encourage the producer to contact AES before submitting application. However, agreement with AES is not required when submitting an EQIP application. **Application process is the same as any EQIP program or initiative; NOTE: Application cutoff date is March 15, 2013.**
 3. At the time of application:
 - Applicant must identify those tracts and fields they wish to enroll in the program.
 - Applicant must work with NRCS to complete the RUSLE calculations for the enrolled fields. Existing RUSLE calculations in the producer's case file may be used if they were completed within 5 years.
 - If no RUSLE calculations exist or calculations are over 5 years then NRCS will recalculate RUSLE on identified fields to ensure either 329 or 345 meet quality criteria (QC).
 4. NRCS will then screen applications to ensure 329 or 345 criteria are met and the majority of the fields are within the designated counties.