

# Montana Organic EQIP Special Initiative

## Natural Resources Conservation Service

### Fact Sheet

November 2012

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#### Overview

Fiscal year (FY) 2013 marks the fifth year of USDA's Organic Initiative and funding is available this year for Montana producers to plan and implement conservation practices that are consistent with organic production. For example, organic producers may use the funding to plant cover crops, establish integrated pest management plans, or implement nutrient management systems consistent with organic certification standards.

#### Sign-Up

Applications are accepted throughout the year. Applications received by December 21, 2012, will be considered for 2013 funding.

#### Program Eligibility – Organic Funding

- Applicants must be pursuing an organic certification or in compliance with a certification..
- Applicants must be in compliance with highly erodible land and wetland conservation.
- Applicants must certify that the average adjusted gross off-farm income is less than \$1,000,000.
- Program participants are required to develop and carry out an organic system.

#### Payment Limitations

Financial assistance is limited to \$20,000 per year and \$80,000 during the six-year period between 2009 and 2014 per individual or entity under the organic funding provisions.

#### EQIP Assistance

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is used to provide financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices to address soil, water, air, plant, animal, and energy resources. A new organic provision targets organic producers and producers transitioning to organic production for conservation practices related to organic production.

#### Practices for Organic Production

- 104 Nutrient Management Plan
- 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan
- 118 Irrigation Water Management Plan
- 138 Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition
- 314 Brush Management
- 315 Herbaceous Weed Control
- 316 Animal Mortality Facility
- 317 Composting Facility
- 328 Conservation Crop Rotation
- 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed
- 340 Cover Crop
- 342 Critical Area Planting
- 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till
- 355 Water Well Testing
- 362 Diversion
- 378 Pond
- 380 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
- 382 Fence
- 386 Field Border
- 390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover
- 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393 Filter Strip
- 410 Grade Stabilization Structure
- 412 Grassed Waterway
- 430 Irrigation Pipeline
- 441 Irrigation System, Micro-irrigation
- 442 Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 443 Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- 449 Irrigation Water Management
- 484 Mulching
- 511 Forage Harvest Management
- 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
- 516 Pipeline
- 528 Prescribed Grazing
- 533 Pumping Plant
- 550 Range Planting



561 Heavy Use Area Protection  
574 Spring Development  
575 Animal Trails and Walkways  
578 Stream Crossing  
587 Structure for Water Control  
590 Nutrient Management  
595 Integrated Pest Management  
612 Tree/Shrub Establishment  
614 Watering Facility  
638 Water and Sediment Control Basin  
642 Water Well  
650 Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation  
798 Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops

### **More Information**

For more information or to apply for funding, visit <http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov> or contact your local USDA Service Center.

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