



2010 Annual Report

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Organic Farming Initiative

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

Vision

Productive Lands -
Healthy Environment

Mission

Helping People Help the Land

“Support for organic agriculture is a priority of the 2008 Farm Bill and NRCS in Colorado.”

Organics Program Manager

Fiscal Year 2010 Organic Farming Initiative Program Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Contracted	24
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$1 Million
Acres under Contract	9,953

The Program

The 2008 Farm Bill (The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008) provided funding to specifically help organic farmer and agricultural producers transition to organic farming.

In Colorado, \$1 million has been provided to encourage more organic agriculture production as a result of the following national statistics:

- Organic food sales remain the fastest growing sector in the food industry, swelling by 18 percent in 2007.
- Organic food sales more than tripled, to \$1.7 billion in 2007 from \$393 million in 2002, according to new data released by USDA's Agriculture Census.

The Assistance

Successful applicants will receive funding to implement a minimum of six priority conservation practices designed to improve natural resource conditions.

Not only do these practices offer significant environmental benefits, but they are also important to growers.

The required minimum core conservation practices are:

- Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Nutrient Management

- Pest Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Forage Harvest Management

Farmers who want to apply for financial assistance may receive up to \$20,000 per year and are limited to \$80,000 over a six-year period.

The Qualifications

1. Must be an agricultural operation that produces at least \$1,000 in agricultural products in two of the last five years or has IRS Schedule F form showing profit or loss from a farm operation
2. Must own or have control of the land (by lease or rental agreement) for length of contract
3. Must be actively engaged in farm operation
4. May be an individual, entity, or joint operation
5. Must be registered in the USDA Service Center Information Database (SCIMS)
6. Must be certified as organic according to the National Organic Program or be in the process of transitioning to organic production.

For More Information

Visit our web site at www.co.nrcs.usda.gov.