

THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN EQIP AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS MAY RECEIVE TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

EQIP PROVIDES CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE TO FARMERS AND RANCHERS

AUTHORIZED BY THE 2002 FARM BILL, EQIP MEETS ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

De Baca County: Reaching for a Healthy Range and Community



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides assistance to farmers and ranchers who face threats to soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Major brush treatment was completed in De Baca County the summer of 2003 on 11,657 acres of rangeland. The \$770,000 project was co-sponsored by the De Baca Soil and Water Conservation District, through a grant from the State Water Board, and USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Mesquite control was needed to produce more diversified grasses and forbs for wildlife and livestock in De Baca County. This control required a carefully managed project and identification of acres to be treated through field surveys. The mesquite needed to be in the right growth stage, soil temperatures need to be right, and NRCS staff needed to make sure there was no insect damage before treatment. At a time when New Mexico is crying for water, the treatment of areas covered with invasive brush is essential. Land cleared of mesquite will replenish springs and waterways, and produce healthier grasslands that in turn will help communities to prosper.



EQIP'S TWO MAJOR GOALS ARE TO ENHANCE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION AND OPTIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS