

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Livestock



EQIP for Livestock

Raising any kind of livestock has an impact on the environment, including the natural resources we all share. Whether you graze sheep, run a dairy operation, or raise poultry, best management practices will limit the impact your operation has on our soil, water, air and other natural resources.

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial resources for livestock producers to implement new conservation practices. Financial assistance is available for practices that can be utilized by both livestock grazing operations and confined animal systems.

Confined Livestock Systems

Confined livestock systems require that producers closely manage manure and animal mortality. Staff from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service along with certified Technical Service Providers work with producers to evaluate their animal feeding operations and identify natural resource concerns.

Managing manure in a confined livestock operation requires the ability to store and then apply manure to crop land in an environmentally responsible way. To do this, NRCS provides financial assistance for livestock operations to develop a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).

A CNMP is a management plan for the animal feeding operation and the associated crop land. A plan typically includes soil and manure testing to better manage manure and crop nutrients.

The plan helps farmers determine where, when and how much manure can be applied to each acre of farm land.

Based on the CNMP, the producer can choose to apply for financial assistance to implement practices that help manage manure storage and application. Practices can include waste storage facilities, roof runoff structures, waste treatment practices and waste separation facilities. For larger livestock operations, disposing of carcasses can be a concern. EQIP can provide financial assistance for animal mortality facilities including composting.



EQIP is available for both confined and grazing livestock operations.

Grazing Systems

Grazing operations have natural resource concerns that are very different from confined animal operations. A prescribed grazing plan helps farmers get the most from their pasture land without degrading the plant, soil and water resources. A prescribed grazing plan helps the farmer determine the optimum number of livestock for the farm's acreage. A

EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides conservation financial assistance for working lands. Rather than take land out of production, EQIP helps farmers maintain or improve production while conserving natural resources.

EQIP assistance is available for all types of agricultural operations, including field crops, specialty crops, organic, confined livestock and grazing, and private non-industrial forest land.

prescribed grazing plan typically includes a grazing design that divides pasture land into smaller paddocks. Livestock are moved between paddocks so that paddocks are allowed to rest and recover between grazing. The size of paddocks and the frequency the livestock are rotated depend on the number of animals and



EQIP can provide financial assistance for waste storage facilities as part of a Comprehensive Nutrient management Plan.

growing conditions. Prescribed grazing reduces soil erosion and reduces the degradation of pasture land.

A prescribed grazing system requires fencing and the availability of water wherever the livestock are grazing. Financial assistance through EQIP is available for fencing and watering systems that are part of a prescribed grazing plan. Financial assistance is available to improve pasture land by diversifying warm and cool season grasses. To protect water resources, EQIP can provide financial assistance for practices such as stream crossings or fencing to keep livestock from further damaging streambanks.

When & Where to Apply

Applications for NRCS conservation programs are accepted on a continuous basis at local fields offices. Producers who already receive email correspondence from USDA can also apply online utilizing the Conservation Client Gateway.

Common EQIP Practices for Livestock

- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan
 - Roof Runoff Structure
 - Waste Storage Facility
 - Waste Transfer
 - Waste Separation Facility
 - Animal Mortality Facility
- Prescribed Grazing
 - Grazing Management Plan
 - Watering Facility
 - Livestock Pipeline
 - Stream Crossing
 - Fencing
 - Access Control
 - Trails and Walkways



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