

IOWA

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

National On-Farm Energy Initiative (NOFEI)

FY2013

List of Eligible Practices

January, 2013

PROGRAM

EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program

COST TYPE IS Payment Rate – The payment rate is the amount of financial assistance (\$/unit) available through EQIP.

HU = Historically Underserved: Includes, Beginning Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Tribal Farmers. The payment rate is higher for HU producers on most practices. To determine if you are an HU producer go to:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/people/outreach/slbfr>

INITIATIVE – Initiatives are special projects that have a higher payment rate. If an applicant meets the criteria for one of the initiatives offered in Iowa, they will receive the initiative payment rate. Following are the initiatives that will be offered in Iowa:

- a) For National Initiatives Iowa follows guidance from National Bulletin NB300-13-3. National Initiatives are:
- Energy Initiative

For FY 2013 EQIP Energy Initiative practice limitations are:

- Cover Crop Limitations: At least 40% of seeding mixture must be legumes. Cover Crop cannot be harvested for grain or seed.
- Farmstead Energy Improvement Practice Code 374 Limitations: Energy Audit Required Prior to Entering into EQIP Contract for 374 Farmstead Energy Improvement practice.
- Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till (345) - STIR (Soil Tillage Intensity Ratio) is estimated using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2

(RUSLE2) which estimates soil loss from rill and inter-rill erosion caused by rainfall on cropland, for several alternative combinations of crop system and management practices. It also considers specified soil types, rainfall patterns, and topography. Limitations: The maximum number of years payment can be made for is 3.

- **Residue and Tillage Management, No-till or Strip Till (329) -** Soil disturbance percentage is determined by measuring the amount of the row width that is disturbed by soil preparation and planting equipment. For example, for a 30” row, up to 9” can be disturbed by drilling equipment and still qualify as No-till for EQIP. STIR (Soil Tillage Intensity Ratio) is estimated using the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation 2 (RUSLE2) which estimates soil loss from rill and inter-rill erosion caused by rainfall on cropland, for several alternative combinations of crop system and management practices. It also considers specified soil types, rainfall patterns, and topography. Limitations: This practice is payable only to producers who have not previously used the practice for a full rotation, example: If the applicant has only no-tilled the soybean year of a corn-soybean rotation they are eligible, but if the applicant had no-tilled both corn and soybeans anywhere in there operation they are not eligible. Applicants who previously received financial assistance from any government program for applying this practice, are not eligible for EQIP financial assistance for no-till or strip-till. When no- till is scheduled for more than one year, the scheduled years must run consecutively. The maximum number of years payment can be made for is 3.
- **Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till (346) -** Limitations: This practice is payable only to producers who have never used the practice. When ridge till is scheduled for more than one year, the scheduled years must run consecutively. The maximum number of years payment can be made for is 3.
- **WINDBREAK / SHELTERBELT ESTABLISHMENT Practice Code 380 -** Limitations: Windbreak/Shelterbelt must provide energy improvements for a heated livestock building (cannot be heated only by the livestock themselves).

Management conservation practices with a one year lifespan may be eligible for up to 3 years of payments. This does not include the 100 practice codes for Conservation Activity Plans.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Units	Practice Lifespan
122	Agriculture Energy Management Plan, Headquarters-Written	no	1
124	Agriculture Energy Management Plan, Landscape - Written	no	1
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	ac	1
340	Cover Crop	ac	1
374	FARMSTEAD ENERGY IMPROVEMENT	no	10
449	Irrigation Water Management	ac	1
533	Pumping Plant	no	15
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	ac	1
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	ac	1
346	Residue and Tillage Management, Ridge Till	ac	1
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	ft	15