



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Conservation Activity Plans - 2012 Connecticut Fact Sheet



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Connecticut

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Helping People Help the Land

What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for persons who are engaged in livestock, forestry, or agricultural production, including organic production.

Which Conservation Practices are Eligible?

Under a new provision of the 2008 Farm Bill, EQIP offers financial assistance for producers interested in obtaining the services of certified professionals who can develop resource-specific Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) for their eligible agricultural land.

Who is Eligible?

Applicants must have an interest in an agricultural operation and be compliant with the conservation provisions of the 2008 Farm Bill, with current crop and producer records on file with the USDA Farm Service Agency. They must own or control the land.

Land is not eligible for a CAP if it is currently enrolled in another USDA Farm Bill program (such as Wetland Reserve Program or Conservation Reserve Program).

What CAP Options will Connecticut Offer in 2012?

- **Agricultural Energy Management Plan** - An analysis of current farm infrastructure and management with recommendations about how to reduce energy consumption on the farm. A plan can be developed for each farm enterprise – a livestock production system, field crop system, and specialized non-livestock operations such as greenhouses, cold storage, or maple syrup production.
- **Forest Management Plan** - A plan to develop Connecticut-approved Forest Stewardship Plans for woodlots and non-industrial private forest land that are 10 acres or greater. This plan will be developed specifically for your land and will help you quantify the economic and ecological values of your woodland, as well as determine future courses of action. The Forest Management Plan must address soil erosion, water quality, wildlife, and other resource concerns.
- **Technical Service Providers** - Landowners will choose a certified, registered Technical Service Provider (TSP) from an approved registry.

How Do CAP Contracts Work?

EQIP-CAP contracts are written with a minimum term that ends one year after the payment is certified for the contracted plan. Contracts are legally binding documents. **The plan must be completed within 12 months of contract signing** or the contract will be in a non-compliance status subject to termination.

What are the Payment Rates and Terms?

Program payment rates in Connecticut are 75% of the typical cost of plan preparation by an approved TSP. If the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged, or limited resource producer (all historically underserved categories), the rates are 90%. Payments are made after the plan is submitted to NRCS for review. Contracts are subject to payment limitations. No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 during any 6-year period. Organic farms have a limitation of \$80,000 during any 6-year period with an annual limit of \$20,000.

When Are CAP Applications Submitted?

CAP applications may be submitted anytime during the year. CAP requests will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis (depending on funding availability) as the applications are received and are certified as eligible, without regard to ranking.

Any reserved funds remaining by the final selection period that are not used for these applications will be used for regular EQIP applications.

- No more than one CAP will be scheduled per FSA tract; however, different types may be scheduled per tract if on separate land units within the tract.
- Payment limitations, adjusted gross income (AGI), and producer eligibility **must be** verified before the application status is changed to eligible.
- Practices related to the CAP may be eligible for EQIP/WHIP funding once the CAP is completed.

2012 Payment Rates

Conservation Activity Plan	Payment Rate	Historically Underserved Rate
Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AEMP)		
Livestock <240 AU	1,500	1,800
Livestock 240-840 AU	2,625	3,150
Livestock >840 AU	3,375	4,050
Greenhouse <65,000 SF	1,875	2,250
Greenhouse 65,000 – 150,000 SF	3,000	3,600
Greenhouse >150,000 SF	3,750	4,500
Irrigated Field Crops <20 AC	1,027	1,233
Irrigated Field Crops 20-200 AC	1,215	1,458
Irrigated Field Crops >200 AC	1,590	1,908
Non-Irrigated Field Crops <20 AC	802	963
Non-Irrigated Field Crops 20-200 AC	990	1,188
Non-Irrigated Field Crops >200 AC	1,365	1,638
Maple Syrup <1,500 taps	1,500	1,800
Maple Syrup 1,500-4,000 taps	2,200	2,640
Maple Syrup >4,000 taps	3,000	3,600
Non-Livestock HQ <\$9,999	1,294	1,553
Non-Livestock HQ \$10,000 <=\$24,999	1,482	1,778
Non-Livestock HQ \$25,000 <+\$49,000	1,857	2,228
Non-Livestock HQ >\$50,000	2,982	3,378
Forest Management Plan (FMP)		
Forest Stewardship Plan 10-35 acres	1,107	1,328
Forest Stewardship Plan 36-100 acres	1,459	1,751
Forest Stewardship Plan 101-175 acres	1,829	2,195
Forest Stewardship Plan 176-250 acres	2,183	2,620
Forest Stewardship Plan 251-400 acres	2,845	3,414
Forest Stewardship Plan 401-550 acres	3,492	4,190
Forest Stewardship Plan 551-750 acres	3,977	4,773
Forest Stewardship Plan 751-1,000 acres	4,604	5,525
Forest Stewardship Plan >1,000 acres	5,507	6,609

Who Do I Contact for More Information?

Connecticut Offices		
Danielson Field Office Raymond Covino, District Conservationist (860) 779-0557, Ext. 102	Norwich Field Office Javier Cruz, District Conservationist (860) 887-3604, Ext. 300	Windsor Field Office James Hyde, District Conservationist (860) 688-7725, Ext. 118
Hamden Field Office Diane Blais, District Conservationist (203) 287-8038, Ext. 1	Torrington Field Office Kathleen Johnson, District Conservationist (860) 626-8258, Ext. 200	Tolland State Office Joyce Purcell, ASTC-Programs (860) 871-4028