USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit land owners and the environment.

Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Benefits

Eligible program participants receive financial assistance to implement conservation practices or activities like conservation planning that address natural resource concerns on their land. Partial reimbursements are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented. Contracts can last up to ten years in duration.

Eligibility

Agricultural producers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, tribal or Corporation property, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.
Socially disadvantaged, beginning or limited resource farmers, Indian tribes, and veterans may be eligible for an increased payment rate.

Applicants must:
- Control or own eligible land
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements
- Have an NRCS EQIP plan of operations

Additional restrictions and program requirements apply.

More Information
For more information contact an NRCS office or visit us online at: www.nrcs.usda.gov/farmbill

How to apply
Visit your local USDA Service Center to apply or visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted

NRCS will help eligible producers develop an EQIP plan of operations, which will become the basis of the EQIP contract.

EQIP applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

What’s New in EQIP
- The former Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) was folded into EQIP.
- Payment limitations are set at $450,000 with no ability to waive.

Contact NRCS in Alaska
Northern Hub, Fairbanks
(907) 479-3159
Delta Junction
(907) 895-4241
Southern Hub, Kenai
(907) 283-8732
Homer
(907) 235-8177
Juneau
(907) 586-7220
Central Hub, Wasilla
(907) 373-6492
State Office, Palmer
(907) 761-7760
www.ak.nrcs.usda.gov

NRCS works with landowners of small or large properties.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.