



Applying for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



What is EQIP?

The EQIP is a voluntary USDA program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers and ranchers and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement, structural, vegetative, and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

NRCS works with producers to:

1. Identify the appropriate conservation practice or measures needed to address identified natural resource concerns.
2. Implement conservation practices and activities according to an EQIP plan of operations.

For more information, contact your local NRCS field office found in USDA Service Centers or go to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/sd/programs/financial/eqip/>

Protection of our natural resources:

The EQIP addresses natural resource concerns associated with soil, water, plant, animal, air, and related resources on agricultural land and forestland.

What a participant needs to be considered for funding.

1. *Work with the local NRCS Field Office to develop a Conservation Plan* on the land with resource concerns to be addressed. EQIP applications will be assessed and then ranked within all available funding pools through the Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART).
2. *Complete Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application.* Your local NRCS field office will assist you in completing the application.
3. *Complete the Direct Deposit Sign-up Form (Standard Form 1199A).* This form is also provided by your local NRCS field office.
4. *Work with the local Farm Service Agency (FSA) to update the appropriate eligibility requirements.*
5. *Provide signature authority if applicable.* One of the following is acceptable.
 - Copy of the CCC-901 or CCC-902E (from FSA) for entities (joint ventures, corporations, limited liability corporations, limited liability partnerships, trust, etc.).
 - Copy of the corporate charter, bylaws, court order of appointment, etc., identifying who has authority to sign documents for all United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs.
 - Power of Attorney (form FSA-211, dated December 17, 2008 or after), when documents are signed on behalf of another.
6. *Obtain Evidence of Land Control.* Obtain the FSA-156EZ and Producer Farm Data Report to identify the operator and/or landowner(s). If you are not the landowner, one of the following must be provided to establish control:
 - Lease or other agreement showing land description and length of control.
 - Control of land will be verified throughout the contract during annual contract reviews and at time of payment or modification.
7. *Obtain Landowner Concurrence to apply structural or vegetative conservation practices or activities:*
 - Form NRCS-CPA-1247, "Landowner Concurrence for Structural or Vegetative Conservation Activities" or other written landowner concurrence. The form is available at your local service center.

Payments:

Payment schedules are based on actual average costs of many conservation practices. Contracts may be up to a maximum of 10 years in length. Total direct or indirect financial assistance payments to a participant are limited to \$450,000 during the period between 2019 to 2023.

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