

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Conservation Incentive Contracts



Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that offers farmers, ranchers, and nonindustrial private forest landowners financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices and activities on working agricultural and forestry landscapes.

What Are EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts?

The 2018 Farm Bill established EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts which provide additional opportunities for eligible producers to further the adoption, management and maintenance of conservation practices and activities through the application of incentive practices.

Incentive contracts are an option that blend EQIP and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) by providing producers in Arizona, California, Colorado and Oregon with financial assistance to adopt both conservation practices and enhancements on working landscapes. Producers may use incentive contracts as a “steppingstone” from correcting resource issues on specific land units through EQIP to achieving sustainable stewardship on their entire operation through CSP.

While Conservation Incentive Contracts are available in select states for fiscal year 2021, NRCS will roll out the program nationwide in fiscal year 2022.

Key Incentive Contract Features

Incentive contracts:

- Require producers to address at least one priority resource concern during the contract period.
- Have an initial length of five years.
- Have a payment limitation of \$200,000 for the life of the 2018 Farm Bill which expires in 2023.

Other details include:

- Subject to the availability of funds, conservation practice payments are made upon completion and certification by NRCS that the practice meets NRCS standards and specifications. Enhancement annual payments are made after October 1 for enhancements completed in the prior fiscal year - before September 30.
- NRCS offers higher payment rates and advance payments to historically underserved (HU) producers who implement conservation practices in an EQIP Conservation Incentive Contract. HU producers include Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, and Veterans. Note: higher payment rates and advance payments apply only to conservation practices and are not authorized for enhancements.

Who Is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or lease agricultural land may be eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on many types of operations, including, but not limited to:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Livestock operations

Benefits

- Access to enhancements to treat resource concerns and improve conservation performance, which previously was only available through CSP.
- Opportunity to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale, which may encourage future interest in applying for CSP on their entire operation.
- A new opportunity for targeted conservation.



Get Started with USDA

USDA provides technical assistance at no cost to agricultural and forestry producers from more than 2,300 USDA Service Centers across the nation. Our Service Centers are currently open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. Visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find the contact information for your local FSA or NRCS office. [Check the status of your local USDA Service Center](#), then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

Visit NRCS [programs web page](#) to learn more about USDA's financial and technical conservation assistance.



Conservation Incentive Contracts Practices and Enhancements

Cropland Practices and Enhancements

472	Access Control	815	Groundwater Recharge Basin or Trench	430	Irrigation Pipeline
311	Alley Cropping	561	Heavy Use Area Protection	436	Irrigation Reservoir
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	422	Hedgerow Planting	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application	603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	430	Irrigation Pipeline
327	Conservation Cover	447	Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery	436	Irrigation Reservoir
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
656	Constructed Wetland	428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	449	Irrigation Water Management
332	Contour Buffer Strips	388	Irrigation Field Ditch	453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment
330	Contour Farming	464	Irrigation Land Leveling	466	Land Smoothing
331	Contour Orchard and Other Perennial Crops	430	Irrigation Pipeline	484	Mulching
334	Controlled Traffic Farming	436	Irrigation Reservoir	379	Multi-Story Cropping
340	Cover Crop	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	590	Nutrient Management
342	Critical Area Planting	443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	500	Obstruction Removal
588	Cross Wind Ridges	449	Irrigation Water Management	817	On Farm Recharge
589C	Cross Wind Trap Strips	453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment	582	Open Channel
402	Dam	466	Land Smoothing	512	Pasture and Hay Planting
348	Dam, Diversion	484	Mulching	595	Pest Management Conservation System
324	Deep Tillage	379	Multi-Story Cropping	378	Pond
356	Dike	590	Nutrient Management	740	Pond Sealing and Lining, Soil Cement
362	Diversion	500	Obstruction Removal	520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment
554	Drainage Water Management	817	On Farm Recharge	521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	582	Open Channel	443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface

Cropland Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

382	Fence	512	Pasture and Hay Planting	449	Irrigation Water Management
386	Field Border	595	Pest Management Conservation System	462	Precision Land Forming
393	Filter Strip	378	Pond	338	Prescribed Burning
511	Forage Harvest Management	740	Pond Sealing and Lining, Soil Cement	528	Prescribed Grazing
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	533	Pumping Plant
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
382	Fence	462	Precision Land Forming	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced-Till
386	Field Border	338	Prescribed Burning	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
393	Filter Strip	447	Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery	391	Riparian Forest Buffer
511	Forage Harvest Management	320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	462	Precision Land Forming
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
412	Grassed Waterway	388	Irrigation Field Ditch	557	Row Arrangement
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	464	Irrigation Land Leveling	610	Saline and Sodic Soil Management
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	601	Vegetative Barrier	350	Sediment Basin
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	646	Shallow Water Development and Management
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	636	Water Harvesting Catchment	381	Silvopasture
601	Vegetative Barrier	658	Wetland Creation	808	Soil Carbon Amendment
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	659	Wetland Enhancement	572	Spoil Disposal
636	Water Harvesting Catchment	657	Wetland Restoration	442	Sprinkler System
658	Wetland Creation	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	570	Stormwater Runoff Control
659	Wetland Enhancement	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	578	Stream Crossing
657	Wetland Restoration	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	601	Vegetative Barrier	585	Stripcropping
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	587	Structure for Water Control
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	636	Water Harvesting Catchment	649	Structures for Wildlife
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	658	Wetland Creation	606	Subsurface Drain
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	659	Wetland Enhancement	607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	657	Wetland Restoration	600	Terrace
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation

Forestry Practices and Enhancements

472	Access Control	740	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Cement	640	Waterspreading
560	Access Road	338	Prescribed Burning	658	Wetland Creation
314	Brush Management	528	Prescribed Grazing	659	Wetland Enhancement
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	533	Pumping Plant	657	Wetland Restoration
327	Conservation Cover	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
656	Constructed Wetland	391	Riparian Forest Buffer	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
342	Critical Area Planting	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
362	Diversion	654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	650	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation
432	Dry Hydrant	381	Silvopasture	384	Woody Residue Treatment
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	574	Spring Development	640	Waterspreading
382	Fence	578	Stream Crossing	658	Wetland Creation
393	Filter Strip	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	659	Wetland Enhancement
394	Firebreak	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	657	Wetland Restoration
666	Forest Stand Improvement	587	Structure for Water Control	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
472	Access Control	649	Structures for Wildlife	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
655	Forest Trails and Landings	740	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Cement	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
383	Fuel Break	338	Prescribed Burning	650	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	528	Prescribed Grazing	384	Woody Residue Treatment
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	533	Pumping Plant	640	Waterspreading
815	Groundwater Recharge Basin or Trench	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	658	Wetland Creation
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	575	Trails and Walkways	659	Wetland Enhancement
422	Hedgerow Planting	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	657	Wetland Restoration
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
430	Irrigation Pipeline	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
436	Irrigation Reservoir	620	Underground Outlet	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	650	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	601	Vegetative Barrier	384	Woody Residue Treatment
516	Livestock Pipeline	638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	640	Waterspreading
484	Mulching	636	Water Harvesting Catchment	658	Wetland Creation
379	Multi-Story Cropping	642	Water Well	659	Wetland Enhancement
500	Obstruction Removal	575	Trails and Walkways	657	Wetland Restoration

Forestry Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

378	Pond	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
521	Liner	614	Watering Facility	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
				650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
				384	Woody Residue Treatment

Pastureland Practices and Enhancements

472	Access Control	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	610	Saline and Sodic Soil Management
560	Access Road	443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	381	Silvopasture
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	449	Irrigation Water Management	808	Soil Carbon Amendment
314	Brush Management	460	Land Clearing	572	Spoil Disposal
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	466	Land Smoothing	574	Spring Development
327	Conservation Cover	468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	442	Sprinkler System
656	Constructed Wetland	516	Livestock Pipeline	578	Stream Crossing
340	Cover Crop	576	Livestock Shelter Structure	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
342	Critical Area Planting	484	Mulching	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
348	Dam, Diversion	464	Irrigation Land Leveling	587	Structure for Water Control
324	Deep Tillage	430	Irrigation Pipeline	606	Subsurface Drain
362	Diversion	436	Irrigation Reservoir	607	Surface Drain, Field Ditch
554	Drainage Water Management	441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	608	Surface Drain, Main or Lateral
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	575	Trails and Walkways
592	Feed Management	449	Irrigation Water Management	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
382	Fence	460	Land Clearing	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
386	Field Border	466	Land Smoothing	620	Underground Outlet
393	Filter Strip	468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
394	Firebreak	516	Livestock Pipeline	636	Water Harvesting Catchment
511	Forage Harvest Management	576	Livestock Shelter Structure	642	Water Well
666	Forest Stand Improvement	484	Mulching	614	Watering Facility
383	Fuel Break	464	Irrigation Land Leveling	640	Waterspreading
412	Grassed Waterway	430	Irrigation Pipeline	610	Saline and Sodic Soil Management
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	512	Pasture and Hay Planting	381	Silvopasture
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	378	Pond	658	Wetland Creation
422	Hedgerow Planting	740	Pond Sealing and Lining, Soil Cement	659	Wetland Enhancement

Pastureland Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	657	Wetland Restoration
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
447	Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery	462	Precision Land Forming	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	338	Prescribed Burning	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	528	Prescribed Grazing	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
388	Irrigation Field Ditch	533	Pumping Plant	384	Woody Residue Treatment
464	Irrigation Land Leveling	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	620	Underground Outlet
430	Irrigation Pipeline	391	Riparian Forest Buffer	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover

Rangeland Practices and Enhancements

472	Access Control	578	Stream Crossing
560	Access Road	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
314	Brush Management	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	606	Subsurface Drain
327	Conservation Cover	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
656	Constructed Wetland	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
340	Cover Crop	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
342	Critical Area Planting	620	Underground Outlet
348	Dam, Diversion	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
362	Diversion	636	Water Harvesting Catchment
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	642	Water Well
382	Fence	614	Watering Facility
386	Field Border	640	Waterspreading
393	Filter Strip	658	Wetland Creation
394	Firebreak	659	Wetland Enhancement
666	Forest Stand Improvement	657	Wetland Restoration
655	Forest Trails and Landings	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
383	Fuel Break	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	650	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	384	Woody Residue Treatment
430	Irrigation Pipeline	578	Stream Crossing
436	Irrigation Reservoir	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection

Rangeland Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

460	Land Clearing	606	Subsurface Drain
516	Livestock Pipeline	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
576	Livestock Shelter Structure	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
484	Mulching	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
378	Pond	620	Underground Outlet
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	636	Water Harvesting Catchment
338	Prescribed Burning	642	Water Well
528	Prescribed Grazing	614	Watering Facility
533	Pumping Plant	640	Waterspreading
550	Range Planting	658	Wetland Creation
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	659	Wetland Enhancement
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	657	Wetland Restoration
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	380	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Establishment
381	Silvopasture	650	Windbreak-Shelterbelt Renovation
808	Soil Carbon Amendment	384	Woody Residue Treatment
572	Spoil Disposal	578	Stream Crossing
574	Spring Development	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management

Tribal Lands Practices and Enhancements

472	Access Control	589C	Cross Wind Trap Strips	578	Stream Crossing
560	Access Road	402	Dam	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
311	Alley Cropping	348	Dam, Diversion	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products	324	Deep tillage	587	Structure for Water Control
450	Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application	362	Diversion	606	Subsurface Drain
314	Brush Management	647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgmt	609	Surface Roughening
584	Channel Bed Stabilization	382	Fence	575	Trails and Walkways
327	Conservation Cover	386	Field Border	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	393	Filter Strip	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
656	Constructed Wetland	394	Firebreak	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
332	Contour Buffer Strips	399	Fishpond Management	620	Underground Outlet

Tribal Lands Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

340	Cover Crop	511	Forage Harvest Management	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
342	Critical Area Planting	666	Forest Stand Improvement	635	Vegetated Treatment Area
588	Cross Wind Ridges	655	Forest Trails and Landings	642	Water Well
				614	Watering Facility
383	Fuel Break	566	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping	640	Waterspreading
412	Grassed Waterway	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	658	Wetland Creation
548	Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	659	Wetland Enhancement
815	Groundwater Recharge Basin or Trench	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	657	Wetland Restoration
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	391	Riparian Forest Buffer	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
422	Hedgerow Planting	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment	654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers	557	Row Arrangement	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
447	Irrigation and Drainage Tailwater Recovery	610	Saline and Sodic Soil Management	384	Woody Residue Treatment
320	Irrigation Canal or Lateral	350	Sediment Basin	578	Stream Crossing
428	Irrigation Ditch Lining	646	Shallow Water Development and Management	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
388	Irrigation Field Ditch	381	Silvopasture	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
464	Irrigation Land Leveling	808	Soil Carbon Amendment	587	Structure for Water Control
430	Irrigation Pipeline	572	Spoil Disposal	606	Subsurface Drain
436	Irrigation Reservoir	574	Spring Development	609	Surface Roughening
441	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	442	Sprinkler System	575	Trails and Walkways
443	Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface	578	Stream Crossing	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
449	Irrigation Water Management	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
460	Land Clearing	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment	587	Structure for Water Control	620	Underground Outlet
466	Land Smoothing	606	Subsurface Drain	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
516	Livestock Pipeline	609	Surface Roughening	635	Vegetated Treatment Area
484	Mulching	575	Trails and Walkways	642	Water Well
379	Multi-Story Cropping	566	Recreation Land Grading and Shaping	614	Watering Facility
590	Nutrient Management	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	640	Waterspreading
500	Obstruction Removal	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	658	Wetland Creation

Tribal Lands Practices and Enhancements (cont.)

817	On Farm Recharge	643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	659	Wetland Enhancement
582	Open Channel	391	Riparian Forest Buffer	657	Wetland Restoration
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
378	Pond	654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
740	Pond Sealing and Lining, Soil Cement	557	Row Arrangement	380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
520	Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Soil Treatment	610	Saline and Sodic Soil Management	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
521	Pond Sealing or Lining, Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner	350	Sediment Basin	384	Woody Residue Treatment
462	Precision Land Forming	646	Shallow Water Development and Management	578	Stream Crossing
338	Prescribed Burning	381	Silvopasture	395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
528	Prescribed Grazing	808	Soil Carbon Amendment	580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
533	Pumping Plant	572	Spoil Disposal	587	Structure for Water Control
550	Range Planting	574	Spring Development	606	Subsurface Drain
562	Recreation Area Improvement	442	Sprinkler System	609	Surface Roughening
575	Trails and Walkways	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation		
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	384	Woody Residue Treatment		
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning				
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation				
620	Underground Outlet				
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management				
635	Vegetated Treatment Area				
642	Water Well				
614	Watering Facility				
640	Waterspreading				
658	Wetland Creation				
659	Wetland Enhancement				
657	Wetland Restoration				
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management				
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting				
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment				

