

# Native Forages Initiative

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program



### Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Climate Smart Agriculture – Native Forages Initiative is a targeted initiative for producers interested in addressing resource concerns associated with managing moisture and drought susceptibility reducing greenhouse gas emissions and enhancing carbon sequestration by converting non-native forages to native forages for haying or grazing, or converting cropland to native forages for haying or grazing.

### Benefits

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural producers with one-on-one help and financial assistance to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Together, NRCS and producers invest in solutions that conserve natural resources for the future while improving agricultural operations. The Native Forages Initiative will provide focused technical and financial assistance for the establishment of native forages through either renovating existing non-native forage for haying or grazing, or converting cropland to native forage for haying or grazing.

### Program at a Glance

The EQIP Climate Smart Agriculture – Native Forages Initiative will utilize an expedited contracting process called ACT NOW to immediately approve and obligate a ranked application in the designated ranking pool when the application meets or exceeds the state-determined ranking score without waiting until the NRCS field office ranks all applications in the ranking pool.

### Who is Eligible

Farmers, ranchers and landowners who own or rent agricultural land are eligible. EQIP Native Forages Initiative assistance can be used on all types of agricultural operations, including:

- ◆ Conventional and organic
- ◆ Historically under-served farmers
- ◆ Livestock operations
- ◆ Crop and hay operations

### How to Apply

**Deadline: May 31, 2024**

Visit your local USDA-NRCS Field Service Center. Locate yours at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov).



## NATIVE FORAGES INITIATIVE

### Benefits of Native Forages

- ◆ Increase Tolerance Drought
- ◆ High Yields
- ◆ Wildlife Friendly
- ◆ Extends Grazing Season
- ◆ Reduces Fertilizer Input
- ◆ High Forage Quality
- ◆ Fill the Summer Forage Gap
- ◆ Rest Cool Season Forages



Non-native Cool Season Forages



Native Warm Season Forages

