



# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

## Overview

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides technical and financial assistance to producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved forest health, improved habitat for salmon, moose and other wildlife species, improved soil health and more.

## Benefits

Through EQIP, NRCS provides agricultural participants 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.

## Program at a Glance

NRCS may visit your property to inventory your natural resources and identify opportunities for conservation improvements. Then you will decide how best to address your natural resource concerns. These decisions will be part of your EQIP application and will be recorded in a Conservation Plan. NRCS offers over 100 unique practices designed for working farms and forests.

## Who is Eligible?

There are three tiers of eligibility for NRCS financial assistance: producer/participant eligibility, land eligibility, and resource concern eligibility.

The best way to determine your eligibility is to speak with an NRCS Conservation Planner about your specific situation.

If you're a new customer applying for USDA programs for the first time, you need to establish a farm record with the USDA Farm Service Agency first before applying for financial assistance.

### **Producer Eligibility:**

- ◆ Must have a social security number or employer identification number issued by the IRS (entities require a Taxpayer Identification Number).
- ◆ Must show control of the land (lease, deed or other agreement) for the length of the NRCS contract
- ◆ Must have an adjusted gross income of less than \$900,000; however this requirement does not apply to Federally-recognized Tribes and Alaska Native regional or village corporations.
- ◆ If the producer is an entity, must have signature authority to make management decisions on the land.

### **Land Eligibility:**

- ◆ Land must have an agricultural production use such as cropland, rangeland, grassland, pasture or non-industrial private forest land. Lands used for subsistence are also considered agricultural.
- ◆ Land must be in compliance with Highly Erodible Land and wetland conservation provisions

### **Resource Concern Eligibility:**

- ◆ There must be a valid natural resource problem on the land to receive NRCS financial assistance for the project. An NRCS conservation planner will help you determine specific natural resource concerns on your property.

## How to Apply

Applications for EQIP financial assistance are accepted throughout the year. If your application is selected, you will enter into a contract with NRCS to receive financial assistance for the cost of implementing conservation practices. Payment rates for conservation practices are reviewed and set each fiscal year.

Apply at your local USDA Service Center. Find your nearest Service Center at [farmers.gov/servicelocator](https://farmers.gov/servicelocator).