United States Department of Agriculture

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE • TEXAS

Helping People Help the Land

FACT SHEET

High Tunnel System Initiative

Overview

High tunnels for crops are quickly becoming part of the Texas agricultural production landscape. Through NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program, or EQIP, Texas has provided upwards of $2 million in financial assistance to help eligible producers build high tunnels across the state. High tunnels are an enclosed polyethylene, polycarbonate, plastic, or fabric covered structure that is used to cover and protect crops from sun, wind, excessive rainfall, or cold and can extend a growing season in an environmentally safe manner.

Purpose

High tunnels help:

- Improve plant health and vigor
- Maintain or improve soil health
- Extend the growing season
- Improve plant quality and soil quality
- Reduce nutrient and pesticide transportation
- Improve air quality through reduced transportation inputs
- Reduce energy use by providing consumers with a local source of fresh produce

Supporting conservation practices

- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- Critical Area Planting
- Diversion Integrated Pest Management
- Irrigation Water Management
- Mulching
- Roof Runoff Structure
- Nutrient Management
- Underground Outlet
- Heavy Use Protection

Who can apply

EQIP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to individuals, legal entities, Native American Tribes, or joint operations engaged in agricultural production. NRCS accepts and processes EQIP applications on a continuous basis. Producers must submit a complete program application and other documentation to support eligibility to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.

For More Information:

National site - High Tunnel System Initiative

Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

101 South Main Street | Temple, Texas 76501 | 254.742.9800 | www.tx.nrcs.usda.gov

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