

National and State Priorities

The following national priorities, consistent with statutory resources concerns that include soil, water, wildlife, air quality, and related natural resource concerns, may be used in EQIP implementation:

1. Reductions of nonpoint source pollution, such as nutrients, sediment, pesticides, or excess salinity in impaired watersheds consistent with total maximum daily loads (TMDL) where available; the reduction of surface and groundwater contamination; and the reduction of contamination from agricultural sources, such as animal feeding operations
2. Conservation of ground and surface water resources
3. Reduction of emissions, such as particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, and ozone precursors and depleters that contribute to air quality impairment violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards
4. Reduction in soil erosion and sedimentation from unacceptable levels on agricultural land
5. Promotion of at-risk species habitat conservation including development and improvement of wildlife habitat
6. Energy conservation to help save fuel, improve efficiency of water use, maintain production, and protect soil and water resources by more efficiently using fertilizers and pesticides and
7. Biological carbon storage and sequestration

In addition, Nebraska has identified the following priorities:

1. Degraded Plant Condition
 - Undesirable plant productivity and health
 - Inadequate structure and composition
 - Excessive plant pest pressure
 - Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation
2. Livestock Production Limitation
 - Inadequate water
 - Inadequate feed and forage
 - Inadequate shelter
3. Fish and Wildlife
 - Inadequate Habitat
 - Inadequate cover/shelter
 - Inadequate food
 - Inadequate habitat continuity (space)
 - Inadequate water

What's New in EQIP?

The former Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program was folded into EQIP

Advance payment opportunities now exist for veteran agricultural producers

Advance payments for socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans were raised from 30 percent to 50 percent

Payment limitations are set at \$450,000 with no ability to waive

4. Excess/Insufficient Water
 - Inefficient use of irrigation water
 - Inefficient moisture management
 - Ponding, flooding, drifted snow
5. Water Quality Degradation
 - Excessive sediment in surface water
 - Salts in surface and ground water
 - Pesticides & Nutrients in surface and ground water
6. Soil Erosion
 - Sheet and rill erosion
 - Wind erosion
 - Classic and Ephemeral gully erosion
7. Soil Quality Degradation
 - Organic matter depletion
 - Compaction
 - Concentration of salts or other chemicals
 - Subsidence: Loss of volume and depth of organic soils
8. Inefficient Energy Use
 - Equipment and Facilities
 - Farming/Ranching practices and field operations
9. Air Quality Impacts
 - Emissions of Particulate Matter (dust & smoke)
 - Emissions of Greenhouse Gases
 - Emissions of Ozone Precursors
 - Objectionable Odors