

TOP 10 EQIP Tips

Here are top ten EQIP tips for producers, which will help in being successful with the EQIP program.

1. **Be actively involved** in the development of your conservation plan; it is designed to address your natural resource concerns and goals.
2. **Carefully review** the conservation plan created by NRCS staff before signing the contract. Be certain you understand what is required of you and others.
3. Read the **Contract Appendix** to fully understand the legal implications of the contract.
4. Realize your EQIP contract is a **legally binding agreement** between you, as a participant, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. By signing the contract, you agree to perform specific tasks in return for a federal payment(s).
5. **Do NOT start any practice** included in your plan until the contract is finalized. The contract is considered final when federal dollars are obligated and assigned to the contract.
6. You **MUST** start or apply at least one conservation practice **within the first 12 months** after your contract is finalized.
7. Ensure conservation practices are implemented **within timeframes** established in the contract.
8. Understand that ALL installed conservation **practices must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications**. This is **ESSENTIAL** in order for producers to receive any payment for practice installation.
9. **Maintain ALL funded conservation practice(s)** in your plan for their intent and full lifespan.

Inform NRCS field office immediately if circumstances arise those require any change to the contract, plan, or practice implementation schedule.