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.