USDA United States Department of Agriculture

# NATURAL DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE THROUGH EQIP

While not designed to be an emergency response program, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) can play a vital role in assisting producers recover from natural disasters like floods, hurricanes, wildfires and drought. Through EQIP, NRCS provides financial assistance to repair and prevent the excessive soil erosion caused or impacted by natural disasters. These practices include activities like stream bank restoration, grassed waterways and buffers. NRCS-funded conservation practices protect your land from erosion, support disaster recovery and repair, and can help mitigate loss from future natural disasters.

## Eligible Practices

Basically, any practice that is needed to address an approved resource may be eligible. This could include new practices or repairing a failed practice, like flood-damaged fencing, from a previous EQIP contract. In some cases, a new contract won't be needed. You may be able to add a practice to your existing EQIP contract through a modification.

## Special Program Funding

NRCS funding is available at the local level to assist with disaster recovery either through special EQIP signups or annual EQIP funding.

## Program Flexibility

NRCS does have flexibility to waive certain program policies to help producers respond to natural disasters. The most common waivers include:

1. Allowing costs that would otherwise be prohibited, to support practice implementation; such as allowing transportation costs associated with emergency animal mortality management.
2. Allowing producers with applications to install practices prior to contracting.

*Restore your property after a natural disaster with NRCS' EQIP funding.*

## Financial Assistance

Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and beginning farmers/veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate and may receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their EQIP contract.

## For More Information

Contact your local NRCS office or go to **www.pr.nrcs.usda.gov**.

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