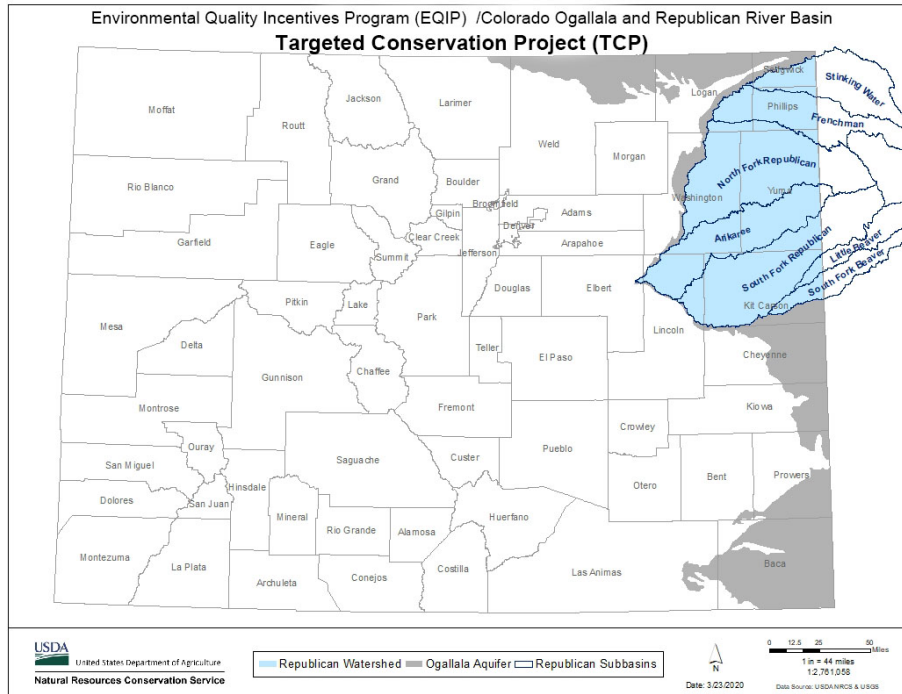




The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers accomplish their goals to have healthy productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air and an adequate energy supply.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Colorado Ogallala and Republican River Basin
Targeted Conservation Project (TCP)



The Program

The NRCS partnered with the Republican River Water Conservation District and the Colorado Master Irrigator Project Advisory Committee to develop the EQIP Ogallala and Republican River Basin TCP.

The goals of the CO Master Irrigator program were adopted to utilize EQIP funding to facilitate the implementation of conservation practices to improve energy use efficiency, water conservation and soil health to increase profitability and conserve the aquifer.

The Ogallala and Republican River Basin EQIP TCP activities are carried out according to a plan of operations developed with the agricultural producer.

EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of two years and a maximum term of 10 years. At the present time the management incentive practice payments are eligible for payment up to 5 years in the Ogallala and Republican River Basin TCP.

The EQIP payment limitation is \$450,000 per individual.

The participants who have completed the CO Master Irrigator Curriculum will be eligible for a 20% increase in their EQIP application ranking score. The increased ranking points will be available to farm and ranch entities who have sponsored employees to complete the CO Master Irrigator Curriculum.

Priority Practices

Conservation practices were prioritized for irrigated cropland and conversion to non-irrigated cropland.

The priority practices for irrigated cropland were selected to increase the adoption of advanced irrigation water management and land management practices to save energy and improve soil health.

Irrigated Cropland	*Payment Rate
Irrigation Water Management (IWM) - ADVANCED	\$11/ac
IWM Soil Moisture Sensors w/ Data Loggers 1st year	\$1109/Sensor
Reduced Management - No-Till/Strip Till	\$16/ac
Nutrient Management - Precision Application	\$30/ac
Pest Management - ADVANCED	\$19/ac
Cover Crop - Multi Species	\$52/ac
Pumping Plant - Variable Frequency Drive	\$57/Hp
Sprinkler System - Renovation	\$5/ft
Sprinkler System - Center Pivot 0-60 acres	\$1117/ac
Sprinkler System - Center Pivot 61 - 100 acres	\$667/ac
Sprinkler System - Center Pivot 101+ acres	\$544/ac
Ag Energy Management Plan - Small 1 Enterprise	\$1721/plan
Ag Energy Management Plan -Large 4 Enterprise	\$6085/plan

* Actual payment rates may vary due to rounding.

The priority practices for conversion to non-irrigated cropland were selected to reduce the pumping demands on the aquifer and improve soil health.

Conversion to non- irrigated Cropland	*Payment Rate
Crop Rotation - Irrigated to Dryland Conversion	\$121/ac
Residue Management - No-Till/Strip Till	\$16/ac
Nutrient Management - Precision Application	\$30/ac
Pest Management - ADVANCED	\$19/ac
Cover Crop - Multi Species	\$52/ac
Well Decommissioning - Greater than 300 ft. deep	\$3/ft.

* Actual payment rates may vary due to rounding.

Special emphasis will be placed on conservation practices to encourage the conversion of irrigated cropland to perennial vegetation. EQIP offers financial assistance for supporting practices such as fencing and watering facilities to enable the land to be managed for livestock production.

For more information visit the programs page at: www.co.nrcs.usda.gov