EQIP-CIC

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• EQIP CIC (Conservation Incentive Contracts)
  
  • Pilot in 4 States (CO, CA, AZ, OR)

  • CO received $ 9 million FA

  • Application Cut Off – July 21st
• EQIP CIC – Pilot for FY 2021
  • Assist with the impacts of drought and build resiliency
  • Mitigate impacts from Climate Change
  • Prevent and Recover from Wildfire
EQIP CIC – Purpose

To incentivize additional conservation around locally-established resource priorities:

• States identify High Priority Area(s) (HPA)
• States identify Priority Resource Concern(s) (PRC) associated with HPA
• States identify relevant land uses and the set of incentive practices that will address the PRC(s) in the HPA(s).

Producers agree to address at least one PRC

Steppingstone for producers from EQIP to CSP:

• Allows producers to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale
EQIP CIC High Priority Areas (HPAs)

• States determine HPA’s

• High Priority Areas:
  • Must encompass every region within the State
  • May encompass an entire State or overlap with other high priority areas
    • Although every acres of the State must be covered by a HPA, not every acre may be eligible for the program based on the selected land uses and priority resource concerns to be addressed
EQIP CIC – Pilot Payments

• Payments for adopting practices (Practices):
  • Structural, Vegetative, and Management practices (EQIP Classic practices)
  • Paid after certification

• Payments for managing and improving the incentive practices (Enhancements):
  • Paid after certification
  • May not occur every year if enhancement is a one-time activity
  • Enhancements may begin in any year of the contract and must be planned in each subsequent year of the contract, as practicable
EQIP CIC – Pilot Payments

- EQIP CIC Payment Limitation:
  - $200K Payment Limitation, separate from EQIP ‘Classic’
- EQIP CIC Contract Limitation:
  - Person or legal entity = $200K Contract Limit
  - Joint Operations (bus type 2 or 3) = $400K Contract Limit
- Historically Underserved
  - In a contract, all items will be designated as "HU," but only practices (not enhancements) will receive a higher rate.
  - Advance payment option will only be available for practices (not enhancements).
EQIP CIC Priority Resource Concerns (PRCs)  

- Priority Resource Concern Criteria:  
  - States may identify **up to** 3 PRCs for each land use within a given high priority area  
    - Note: Not all land uses need to be included  
  - The same PRCs may be used for more than one land use within the same high priority area  
  - For each PRC, States will identify the incentive practices (practices and enhancements) that will be available  
  - Conservation plans must target at least one PRC
Priority Resource Concerns should be selected at the **Resource Concern Category** Level.
EQIP CIC High Priority Areas (HPAs)

- Soil Health and Resilience
- Improved Water Efficiency and Water Conservation
- Grazing land Resilience to Drought
- Forest land Resiliency and Resistance to Drought
- Ogallala Ground Water Conservation Project
- Tribal Conservation Projects
<table>
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<tr>
<th>High Priority Area (HPA)</th>
<th>Priority Resource Concerns (PRCs)</th>
<th>Eligible Land Uses</th>
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| **Soil Health and Resilience** | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Soil Quality Limitation  
3. Wind and Water Erosion | - Cropland  
- Pastureland |
| **Improved Water Efficiency** | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Weather Resilience  
3. Source Water Depletion | - Cropland – “irrigated” modifier  
- Pastureland – “irrigated” modifier |
| **Grazing land Resilience to Drought** | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Weather Resilience  
3. Terrestrial Habitat | - Rangeland – “grazed” modifier  
- Pastureland – “grazed” modifier  
- Forest land – “grazed” modifier |
| **Forest Land Resiliency and Resistance to Drought** | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Fire Management  
3. Terrestrial Habitat | - Forest land |
| **Ogallala Ground Water Conservation Project**  
(The focus of this HPA is the conversion of cropland to non-irrigated agricultural systems) | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Soil Quality Limitation  
3. Source Water Depletion | - Cropland |
| **Tribal Conservation Projects**  
(To participate in this fund pool, the applicant must be a tribal entity.) | 1. Degraded Plant Condition  
2. Soil Quality Limitation  
3. Source Water Depletion | - Cropland  
- Rangeland  
- Pastureland  
- Forest land |
Contract Scheduling

• EQIP-CIC contracts can have either enhancements only, or a combination of practices and enhancements. Contracts can NOT have only practices.

• Reminder: A practice or enhancement must be scheduled for completion in the first 12 months of the contract.

• Practices and Enhancements may be scheduled in any year of the contract

• Contract length is 5 years
• Waiting Final Guidance from NHQ
  • *Info shared today is subject to change*
• USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.