

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Conservation Incentive Contracts



Overview

[The Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that offers farmers, ranchers, and nonindustrial private forest landowners financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices and activities on working agricultural and forestry landscapes.

What Are EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts?

Incentive contracts are an option available through EQIP that offers producers financial assistance to adopt conservation management practices on working landscapes. Producers may use incentive contracts as a “steppingstone” from correcting resource issues on specific land units through EQIP to achieving sustainable stewardship on their entire operation.

Conservation Incentive Contracts are available nationwide and help producers address priority resource concerns, like sequestering carbon and improving water quality in high-priority areas.

Incentive contracts now offers new conservation evaluation and monitoring activities (CEMA) to help report outcomes of practices.

Key Incentive Contract Features

Incentive contracts:

- Require producers to address at least one priority resource concern during the contract period.
- Have an initial length of five years.
- Have a payment limitation of \$200,000 for the life of the 2018 Farm Bill which expires in 2023.

Other details include:

- Offers two types of payments:
 - Implementation payments, which are paid after certification of practice.
 - Annual payments, which include management practices that will serve as annual payments and are paid as soon as practicable, after October 1 of each fiscal year.
- NRCS offers higher payment rates and advance payments to historically underserved (HU) producers who implement conservation practices in an EQIP Conservation Incentive Contract. HU producers include Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, and Veterans.

Get Started with NRCS

Visit the [NRCS - NJ programs web page](#) to learn more about USDA’s financial and technical conservation assistance.

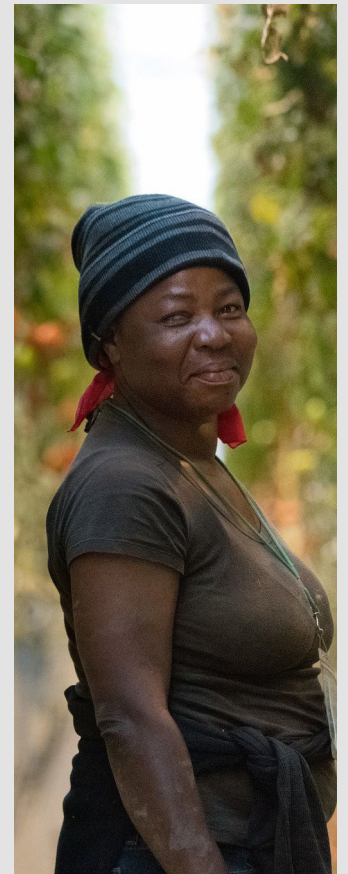
How to Apply

NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round, however producers and landowners should apply NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round, however producers and landowners should apply by **March 31** to be considered for this year’s funding. To apply, producers should contact their local [USDA Service Center](#).

Who Is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners who own or lease agricultural land may be eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on many types of operations, including, but not limited to:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Forestry and wildlife
- Livestock operations



NJ FY2022 EQIP-CIC Eligible Practices

| CODE | ASSET | UNITS | LIFESPAN |
|------|---|-------|----------|
| 328 | Conservation Crop Rotation | Ac | 1 |
| 329 | Residue and Tillage Management, No Till | Ac | 1 |
| 333 | Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products | Ac | 1 |
| 338 | Prescribed Burning | Ac | 1 |
| 340 | Cover Crop | Ac | 1 |
| 345 | Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till | Ac | 1 |
| 368 | Emergency Animal Mortality Management | No | 1 |
| 400 | Bivalve Aquaculture Gear and Biofouling Control | Ac | 1 |
| 449 | Irrigation Water Management | Ac | 1 |
| 450 | Anionic Polyacrylamide (PAM) Application | Ac | 1 |
| 484 | Mulching | Ac | 1 |
| 511 | Forage Harvest Management | Ac | 1 |
| 528 | Prescribed Grazing | Ac | 1 |
| 548 | Grazing Land Mechanical Treatment | Ac | 1 |
| 554 | Drainage Water Management | Ac | 1 |
| 590 | Nutrient Management | Ac | 1 |
| 592 | Feed Management | AU | 1 |
| 595 | Pest Management Conservation System | Ac | 1 |
| 633 | Waste Recycling | No | 1 |
| 644 | Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management | Ac | 1 |
| 645 | Upland Wildlife Habitat Management | Ac | 1 |
| 647 | Early Successional Habitat Development-Mgt | Ac | 1 |
| 808 | Soil Carbon Amendment | Ac | 1 |
| 810 | Annual Forages for Grazing Systems | Ac | 1 |
| 207 | Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Containments Activity | No | 1 |
| 216 | Soil Health Testing | No | 1 |
| 217 | Soil and Source Testing For Nutrient Management | No | 1 |
| 218 | Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment | No | 1 |
| 228 | Agricultural Energy Assessment | No | 1 |

