Conservation Programs

FY2022 Programs Update
EQIP, CSP, ACEP

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EQIP
Climate Smart Ag and Forestry
FY22 Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Mitigation Practice List

Soil Health

327 Conservation Cover (Acres)
328 Conservation Crop Rotation (Acres)
329 Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Acres)
332 Contour Buffer Strips (Acres)
340 Cover Crop (Acres)
345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Acres)
386 Field Border (Acres)
393 Filter Strips (Acres)
412 Grasessed Waterways (Acres)
484 Mulching (Acres)
585 Strip cropping (Acres)
601 Vegetative Barriers (Feet)
603 Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Feet)
FY22 Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Mitigation Practice List

Nitrogen Management
590 Nutrient Management (Acres)

Livestock Partnership
366 Anaerobic Digester (Number)
632 Waste Separation Facility (Number)

Grazing and Pasture
512 Pasture and Hay Planting (Acres)
528 Prescribed Grazing (Acres)
550 Range Planting (Acres)
311 Alley Cropping (Acres)
379 Multi-Story Cropping (Acres)
FY22 Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Mitigation Practice List

Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat

380  Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (Feet)
381  Silvopasture (Acres)
390  Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Acres)
391  Riparian Forest Buffer (Acres)
422  Hedgerow Planting (Feet)
612  Tree/Shrub Establishment (Acres)
645  Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Acres)
650  Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Feet)

Restoration of Disturbed Lands

453  Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (Acres)
543  Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land (Acres)
544  Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Acres)

Rice

449  Irrigation Water Management (Acres)
FY2022 Beginning Farmer Rancher and Socially Disadvantaged producers receive additional ranking points when the application includes at least one of the CSAF practices.

• The application contains one or less core practices
• The application contains two core practices
• The application contains three or more core practices
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).

➢ Steppingstone for producers from EQIP to CSP:
  • Allows producers to implement elements of CSP on a smaller scale
EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts

- Incorporation of CSP-like program policy
  - Producers must address at least one priority resource concern
  - Provides annual payments for certain incentive practices and enhancements to attain increased levels of conservation
  - Provides practice payments to implement an incentive practice
  - **Contract length**: All CIC contracts will be 5 years
EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts

Payments are made of two components:

1. **Incentive practice payments** for adopting and installing practices
2. **Annual payments** for managing, maintaining, and improving incentive practices during the contract period

Aggregate payment limitation:

- **May not exceed $200k** total payments to person or legal entity
- Joint Operations (bus type 2 or 3) have a **contract limit not to exceed $400K**
- Payment Limitation may not be waived
EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts

High Priority Areas:

- Represent areas of significant concern
- Must encompass every region within the State
- May encompass an entire State or overlap with other high priority areas
  - Set of High Priority Areas must cover the whole state
High Priority Area Example

HPA 1
Land use: Forest

HPA 2
Land use: Forest

HPA 3 - covers areas outside of HPA 1 and 2
Land Use: Crop
EQIP CIC – High Priority Area
STATEWIDE IN FY2022
EQIP CIC – Nebraska FY2022

• **Goal:** Help producers address priority resource concerns on part of their operation as a “steppingstone” to achieving sustainable stewardship on their entire operation

• **Outcomes:**
  • Reduce greenhouse gas emissions
  • Enhance carbon sequestration
  • Due to positive experiences under EQIP CIC, some participants go on to pursue further conservation benefits on their entire operation through applying for CSP

• **Land Use:** Crop, Pasture, Range, Forest

• **Priority Resource Concern:** “Soil Quality Limitations”, “Degraded Plant condition”, “Water Quality and Quantity”
EQIP CIC – Incentive Practices

- Focus is on Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry and Drought Mitigation Practices
- 32 eligible management practices (1 year lifespan)
- 5 CEMAs
  - CEMAs are not required to be scheduled
  - Encouraged if applicable to the operation
- Management practices can be scheduled 5 years if practical for the operation
Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMA): These activities include assessment, monitoring, recordkeeping for a special purpose, requirements, or assessing the effectiveness of conservation practices and activities.

Example CEMA’s:
- 216- Soil Health Testing
- 217- Soil health and Source Testing For Nutrient Management
# EQIP CIC – Incentive Practices

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<td>Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment</td>
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EQIP CIC – Incentive Practices

• Goal: Select practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and/or enhance carbon sequestration

• Example Management Practices:
  • 340- Cover Crop
  • 328- Conservation Crop Rotation
  • 329- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till

• Example CEMA’s:
  • 216- Soil Health Testing
  • 217- Soil health and Source Testing For Nutrient Management
EQIP CIC – Nebraska FY2022 Incentive Practices

- 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- 329 – Residue and Tillage Management, No Till
- 338 - Prescribed Burning
- 340 – Cover Crop
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 511 – Forage Harvest Management
- 528 – Prescribed Grazing
- 590 – Nutrient Management
- 595 – Pest Management Conservation System
- 645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development and Management
- 808 – Soil Carbon Amendment
- 216- Soil Health Testing

- Year 1-328, 329, 216, 340
- Year 2-328, 329
- Year 3-328, 329, 340
- Year 4-328, 329
- Year 5-328, 329, 216, 340
EQIP CIC- Allocation

• States will reserve 5% of the general EQIP allocation or $200,000, whichever is greater for FY2022
  • States have the option to set aside more than the minimum amount, up to 20%, if they choose

• States will have the flexibility to roll unused funds back to the EQIP general fund
EQIP CIC – Next Steps

• Develop ranking tools - DONE
  ➢ December/January

• Train staff - DONE
  ➢ December/January

• Advertise and announce signup - DONE
  ➢ News release on January 20, 2022
  ➢ Application cutoff date March 11, 2022

• Rank and approve applications
  ➢ March/April

• Obligate contracts
  ➢ Target date July 1, 2022
Environmental Quality Incentives Program
Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Nebraska

• Total Active EQIP Contracts – March 2022
  o Total Active Contracts = 2,508
  o Total Contract Acres = 1.1 million
  o Obligated funds = $80.0 million
EQIP Fund Pools
FY2022
2022 Mandatory Distribution

- Source Water Protection = 10%
- Wildlife Initiative = 10%
- Historically Underserved = 10%
- EQIP-CIC = 5%
- Livestock = 50%
FY2022 STATEWIDE FUND POOLS

- Advanced Cover Crop Initiative
- NE Great Plains Grassland Initiative
- Working Lands for Wildlife - Sandhills
- Seasonal High Tunnel
- Organic
- Energy
- Conservation Activity Plans
- Animal Feeding Operations
- Tribal
- Disaster
FY2022 General EQIP Allocation = $25.5 million

- Historically Underserved (10%) = $2.55 million
- Source Water Protection (10%) = $2.55 million
- Wildlife (10% combined with NE-GPGI) = $1.35 million
- NE Great Plains Grassland Initiative = $1.2 million
- EQIP – CIC (5%) = $1.3 million
- Advanced Cover Crop Initiative = $300,000
- Animal Feeding Operations = $1.0 Million
- Disaster = $1.0 Million
- Conservation Activity Plans = $200,000
- Sandhills Working Lands for Wildlife = $100,000
- High Tunnels = $100,000
- Organic = $100,000
- Tribal = $100,000
- Energy = $25,000
FY2022 PARTNERSHIP FUND POOLS

- **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)**
  - 3 Projects - Bazile, Big Sandy, Turkey
  - Allocation = $1.7 million

- **Water Smart (Bureau of Reclamation)**
  - 2 Projects – URNRD = $250,000
  - MRNRD = $524,000

- **Forest Service (Joint Chiefs)**
  - 1 Project – UNWRD, MNRD, ULRD
  - Allocation = $500,000
Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Nebraska

- FY2022 EQIP application deadline (all fund pools with possible exceptions for disaster, RCPP, and NWQI) = November 19, 2021
- Advanced Cover Crop Initiative = February 18, 2022
Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

• Total Active CSP Contracts – February 2022
  o Contracts = 1809
  o Contract Acres = 2,856,086
  o Obligated funds = $ 121,873,424
Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

• FY2022 Allocations
  o CSP Classic = $8.6 Million
  o CSP Renewal = $6.6 Million
  o CSP-Grassland Conservation Initiative = $50,000

• FY2022 Applications
  • Classic = 1137

• FY2022 Contracts
  o Renewal = 66
  o GCI = 14
• FY2022 CSP Classic Signup
  o Unfunded FY22 Renewals eligible to compete in Classic
  o Applicants are being contacted to provide information about their operation. Information used to prioritize applications.
  o Ranking deadline May 6.
Conservation Stewardship Program - Nebraska

• FY2022 CSP Classic **application** deadline was November 19, 2021

• FY2022 CSP Classic Fund Pools
  o 23 fund pools to align with DC administrative boundaries
Nebraska CSP
6 Fund Pool Areas – FY2021
Nebraska CSP
23 Fund Pools – FY2022
FY2022 ACEP - Nebraska

• Applications received
  o WRE Eligible Applications = 18, Acres = 2,872.50
  o WREP Eligible Application = 2, Acres = 138.0 acres
  o ALE Applications = 1, Acres = 3,350
FY2022 ACEP-WRE - Nebraska

Fiscal Year Initial Allocation of Funds

- ACEP-WRE - $2.1 Million
- ACEP-WRE-WREP - $1.14 Million
- ACEP-ALE - $451,308
- ACEP-WRE/WRP Stewardship Funds - $860,000

- These funds are for maintenance and repairs of existing WRE and WRP easements.
FY2022 ACEP-WRE - Nebraska

Moving forward on:

3 WRE Applications for 835 Acres

- $1.6 million estimated acquisition costs.
- $380,000 estimated restoration costs.
FY2022 ACEP-WRE - Nebraska

Moving forward on:

2 WRE-WREP Applications for 138 Acres

- $320,000 estimated acquisition costs.
- $98,000 estimated restoration costs.
FY2022 ACEP-FPE - Nebraska

Emergency Watershed Protection Program – Floodplain Easements (EWPP-FPE)

- Applications = 21, Acres = 5,590
- Estimated Requested funding: $20,313,085
- 10 have cancelled or found ineligible
- Offers accepted = 8, 2 Pending, Acres = 1,320
- Estimated Funding needed: $4,924,444
FY2022 ACEP-ALE - Nebraska

• Moving forward on:
  1 ALE Application on 3350 acres
  - Making field visit in early March
  - Estimated $564,000 federal share
    - Will have to request more funds after field visit and if site is found to be eligible.
FY2022 ACEP - Nebraska

• Applications taken year-round.
• FY2022 application cut-off October 15, 2021.
• This was for WRE, WRE-WREP and ALE.
• Using appraisals again in FY2022 to determine acquisition costs.
Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARC's) for FY 2022
Nebraska Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)
NOT to EXCEED RATE = $9,535 for Irrigated Cropland
NOT TO EXCEED RATE = $5,000 for all other land uses
Nebraska Agricultural Conservation Easement Program - Wetlands Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE)
Reduction of Fair Market Value (FMV) to determine GARC's

10% - West, North, Southwest
15% - Central
20% - Northeast, Southeast
Missouri River

Percent value reduction in rights retained by the landowner.
Data Source: Completed yellowbook appraisals.

11/05/2021
LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS

• Meetings completed in February/March 2022
• Reports due by April 15, 2022

• local work group agenda items:
  o Priority Resource Concerns
  o Fund Pools - Ranking Tools – Screening Tools
  o Practice Payment Schedule
  o Local issues
## FY2022 LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRD</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Central Platte</td>
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<td>March 10</td>
<td>9:30 a.m. via TEAMS</td>
<td>Joe Krolikowski</td>
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<td>Lewis &amp; Clark</td>
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<td>10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Becca Jessen</td>
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<td>Kelli Evans</td>
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<td>NRCS Field Office</td>
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<td>Jim Mathine</td>
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## FY2022 LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS

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<td>March 10, 12:30-2:30 MT</td>
<td>Georgette Jordenning</td>
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<td>Blair USDA Service Center</td>
<td>March 3, 10-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Andy Bohnenkamp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1060 Wilber Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Blair, NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Work Group</td>
<td>NRD/Office Address</td>
<td>Meeting Date/Time</td>
<td>Contact Person</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>South Platte</strong></td>
<td>South Platte NRD</td>
<td>March 23, 10 a.m. MT</td>
<td>Kristin Dickinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>551 Parkland Drive</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sidney, NE</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tri-Basin</strong></td>
<td>Tri-Basin NRD Office</td>
<td>March 31, 9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Cammie Kerner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1723 North Burlington Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holdrege, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Twin Platte</strong></td>
<td>North Platte USDA Service Center</td>
<td>March 30, 1:30 p.m. CT</td>
<td>Carol Eakins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1202 S. Cottonwood, Suite 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Platte, NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Big Blue</strong></td>
<td>Upper Big Blue NRD</td>
<td>March 15, 10:30-11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Josh Bowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>319 E. 25th Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>York, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Elkhorn</strong></td>
<td>Upper Elkhorn NRD</td>
<td>March 24, 10 a.m. - noon</td>
<td>Brandon Peterson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>310 N. Harrison Street</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>O’Neill, NE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Loup</strong></td>
<td>Upper Loup NRD</td>
<td>March 23, 10 a.m.</td>
<td>Kevin Hood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>39252 Hwy 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Thedford, NE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Niobrara White</strong></td>
<td>On-line via on-demand video stream</td>
<td>March 1-March 11, Link available HERE under “events”</td>
<td>Robin Foulk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Upper Republican</strong></td>
<td>Upper Republican NRD</td>
<td>March 16, 1:30 p.m. MT</td>
<td>Andy Keep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>511 East 5th Street</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imperial, NE</td>
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QUESTIONS?