

High Tunnel System (Hoop House)

Purpose

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to fruit and vegetable agricultural producers through contracts up to a maximum term of ten years in length. These contracts provide financial assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices, including high tunnel systems, that address natural resource concerns and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air, conserve energy, and related resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. The goal of the initiative is to assist producers in extending their growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner.

High tunnels, sometimes called hoop houses, are steel-framed, polyethylene-covered structures that extend the growing season for fruit and vegetables, increasing yields and profitability. The Initiative may assist producers in addressing a resource concern by improving water, plant, and soil quality, while also reducing nutrient and pesticide transportation.

Eligible applicants include individuals, legal entities, Indian Tribes, and joint operations engaged in fruit and vegetable agricultural production.

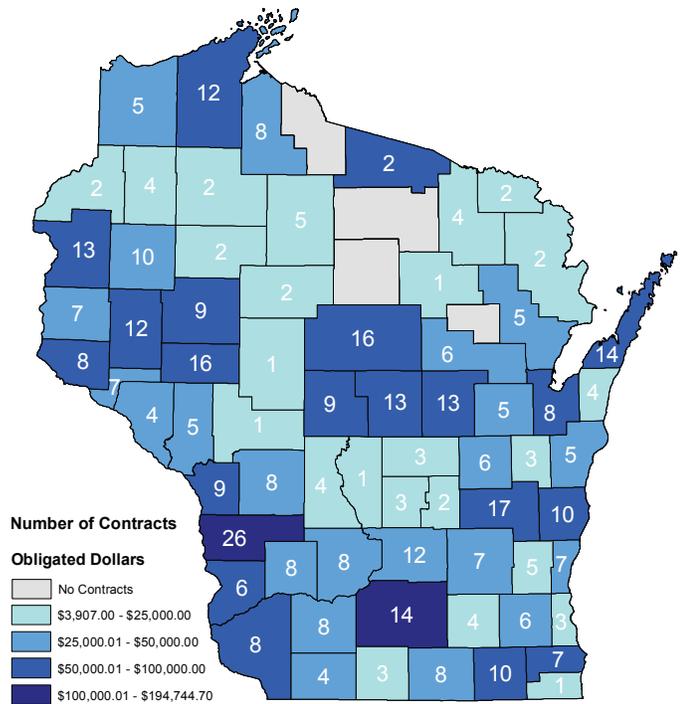
Requirements

Eligible producers interested in assistance may file an EQIP application at any time. Applicants must be an agricultural producer and have control of eligible land for the term of the proposed contract period; eligible land must be cropland. They must be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions and within appropriate payment limitation requirements, as specified in the Farm Bill. Current year USDA Adjusted Gross Income requirements apply and other eligibility requirements may apply.

Contact your local service center for more information on high tunnel systems: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?agency=nrsc>

Signup Results

Fiscal Year	Contracts (No.)	EQIP Dollars (\$)
2010	102	530,152
2011	75	374,372
2012	76	424,197
2013	83	506,614
2014	42	271,315
2015	65	525,842
2016	22	170,674
Total	465	2,803,166



Number of Environmental Quality Incentives Program high tunnel system contracts for FY10 through FY15.

