



Farm  
Production  
and  
Conservation

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

USDA-NRCS, Iowa  
210 Walnut Street  
Room 693  
Des Moines, Iowa, ZIP 50309

**Early Start Waiver for EQIP Application Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Applicant Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Practice(s) requested for early start:** \_\_\_\_\_

Policy in Title 440-CPM, Part 530.23B, states "State Conservationists (STC), at their discretion, may grant an early start waiver based on an evaluation of the specific circumstances for which the applicant is requesting the waiver and a determination that the applicant did not start the conservation practice or activity prior to approval of the waiver."

Due to the devastating effects of the derecho wind storms on August 10, 2020 and the need for timely installation of practices, the STC grants this waiver for EQIP applications under the following conditions:

- A waiver request letter was provided to the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and was addressed to the STC. The waiver request letter identified the practice(s) to be installed.
- The practice(s) allowed under this waiver are: (340) Cover crop – one-time payment for newly adopted acres; or re-establishment of the following which was originally installed with NRCS assistance (325) High Tunnel System, (367) Roofs and Covers, (558) Roof Runoff Structure.
- The request was based on the time sensitive need to establish the practice(s).
- The practice(s) will be applied according to NRCS standards and specifications.
- The practice(s) will be applied on land that is located within the approved 42 county derecho disaster area in Iowa: Adair, Audubon, Benton, Black Hawk, Boone, Buchanan, Calhoun, Carroll, Cass, Cedar, Clarke, Clinton, Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Greene, Grundy, Guthrie, Hamilton, Hardin, Iowa, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Keokuk, Linn, Louisa, Madison, Mahaska, Marion, Marshall, Muscatine, Polk, Poweshiek, Sac, Scott, Story, Tama, Warren, Washington, and Webster

This waiver is contingent upon the understanding that the applicant has not started the identified practices before the date this waiver is granted. Also, the applicant is advised that he/she will be ineligible to receive any EQIP payments in connection with these practices if any of the following occurs:

- **The contract is not approved.**
- **The practice(s) are not completed in a manner that meets NRCS standards and specifications.**
- **The requested practice(s) are not included in the approved conservation plan for EQIP funding.**

This waiver will expire on August 31, 2021. **If the applicant's contract is not approved by this date, he/she will not be reimbursed for any expenses associated with implementing the practice.**

The applicant should contact his/her local NRCS office to verify practice criteria or other information before starting the conservation practice(s). This waiver is applicable only to the starting date for the practices listed above and does not constitute approval of either the EQIP contract or any other conservation practices. All other practice requirements must be met.

I have determined the applicant is eligible and concur with issuing this early start waiver.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Area Program Specialist

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acting State Conservationist