United States Department of Agriculture

INDIANA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

January 2021

Overview

Private citizens own over 90 percent of the land in Indiana which includes nearly 15 million acres of farmland and about 4 million acres of forestland, making stewardship absolutely critical to the health of our environment. Each day, farmers and forest landowners are making decisions about natural resource use and management that impacts soil and water quality. With the Natural Resources Conservation Service's help, many are creating more productive lands while maintaining healthy ecosystems.

Benefits

Eligible program participants receive financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns on their land. EQIP dollars can be used for wildlife enhancement, livestock watering facilities, pastureland improvement, manure management, soil health practices (e.g., cover crops or no till), water quality practices, forestry management, etc. Payments are made to participants after conservation practices and activities identified in an EQIP plan of operations are implemented.

Who is Eligible

Farmers and owners of non-industrial private forestland and Indian tribes are eligible to apply for EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farmlands.

Historically Underserved

Socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers, Indian tribes and veterans are eligible for an increased payment rate and may receive advance payment of up to 50 percent to purchase materials and services needed to implement conservation practices included in their EQIP contract.

Applicants must:

- Control or own eligible land.
- Comply with adjusted gross income limitation.
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations.

Additional restrictions and program requirements may apply.

How to Apply

NRCS will help eligible producers develop a conservation plan, which will become the basis of the EQIP application. Landowners may apply at any time by contacting their local District Conservationist at https://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app.

EQIP applications will be ranked based on a number of factors, including the environmental benefits and cost effectiveness of the proposal.

For More Information

Visit the Indiana NRCS EQIP website: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/in/programs/financial/eqip/.

Additional Information can be found at: https://www.farmers.gov/