

NEWS RELEASE



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Dollars Available in Popular Conservation Program

INDIANAPOLIS, February 27, 2007—When it comes to doing soil and water conservation work on farms in Indiana, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) makes big contributions. And, even though there are cutbacks in the federal budget this year, the dollars in this conservation program have remained strong.

“We are tightening our belts in many ways,” says Xavier Montoya, Acting State Conservationist for Natural Resources Conservation Service. “But the money to do conservation work on farmland is just as good as it was last year. Farm Bill conservation dollars grew considerably with the 2002 Farm Bill. More conservation work has been done since 2002 than ever before. Participation in EQIP is strictly voluntary. We like to say that it promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals on working farm land.”

EQIP is the main Farm Bill program that supports soil and water conservation on cropland and pasture land. In 2006, NRCS delivered \$10.9 million dollars to farmers through EQIP contracts, and provided the technical assistance to support planning, design, and installation of conservation practices and systems.

“For 2007, we have \$10.9 million to offer again through EQIP. We have applications in hand and have allocated something over half of the dollars to EQIP contracts, but have about \$3-\$4 million still available. We take applications continuously for EQIP so producers can apply anytime. For 2007 funding, we will consider applications we receive by April 16.”

Farmers can find out more and sign up by contacting NRCS at the nearest USDA Service Center.

Program and sign-up information is also available on-line at:
<http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/2007eqip/eqip2007.html>

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