

NEWS RELEASE



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EQIP Available for Livestock Producers with Emergencies

INDIANAPOLIS, December 13, 2006—Owners of confined feeding operations with immediate environmental emergencies can now turn to a USDA conservation program for financial assistance to correct the situation. The Natural Resources Conservation Service has allocated a portion of the funding from this year's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to deal with failures and impending failures in manure storage facilities, mass animal mortality situations, and for livestock producers who only apply for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans.

NRCS is accepting these applications now. Applications that are determined eligible will be funded on a first-come first-served basis:

- as long as **these** EQIP financial assistance funds are available,
- funded independent of other EQIP applications, and
- without need to wait for a funding selection period.

“We can see opportunity to help producers with confined livestock systems that we haven't been able to reach before. This will have an immediate positive impact on the local environment, and cumulative positive effects in the state,” said Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist for Natural Resources Conservation Service. “So we have given our local District Conservationists specific guidance on how to work with producers whose systems are leaking, have some failed structural components or in danger of imminent failure, or have experienced mass animal mortality.”

“The other thing we are including in this effort is development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) for confined feeding operations. A CNMP covers all aspects of an animal feeding operation including manure tests, storage, handling, and application on fields along with commercial fertilizers.” says Hardisty. “The CNMP may give producers the plan they need to comply with state and other guidelines as well.”

Applicants currently under an Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) Enforcement action are not eligible for EQIP.

Confined feeding operators can find out more by contacting the local USDA Service Center.

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