



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## *What is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program?*

The Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that promotes agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist landowners install or implement conservation practices on their land that protect soil and water quality.

## *The Plan*

Farmers will develop a conservation plan, if they don't already have one, for the acreage affected by the EQIP practices. Conservation practices must meet NRCS technical standards.

NRCS evaluates and ranks each application, with higher priorities given to the practices that address local resource concerns, and provide the most environmental benefit.

## *The Professionals*

NRCS has skilled professional staff available to help you plan and design conservation improvements for your farm.

Technical Assistance is free. Contact the NRCS office to discuss what conservation practices will work best for you.



## *EQIP Financial Assistance*

Agricultural producers on agricultural land are eligible. Projects are selected based on environmental value. EQIP offers flat rate payments for 85 conservation practices to help all types of farmers

### *How to Apply*

Landowners may apply by contacting the NRCS office in the county in which the land is located.

EQIP applications will be accepted at any time throughout the year. Cutoff dates will be scheduled to allow for ranking, and selection of applications for funding. NRCS, with advice from the State Technical Committee, local working groups, or both, as appropriate, will rank and select applications received up to the cutoff date.

### *Wisconsin Priorities*

The 2008 Farm Bill offers assistance for all types of agriculture, including:

- Specialty crops
- Organic farming
- Forestry
- Socially disadvantaged farmers\*

\*higher payment rates available



## *Some of the Eligible Practices*

- Grassed waterways
- Cover crops
- Nutrient management plans
- Grazing plans
- Cattle crossings
- Buffer strips
- Contour strip cropping
- Watering systems
- Stream fencing
- Critical area plantings
- Terraces
- Manure management systems including storage structures and barnyard runoff protection

*Check out the list of 85 eligible practices and payments on the web at [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/programs)*



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