

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM



SUMMARY

NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides funds and technical support to farmers and landowners to implement conservation practices.

- Created by the Farm Bill in 1996; Revisions in 2018 Farm Bill added new incentive options
- Administered by Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA
- Annual program funding (2021): \$1.8 Billion (PA: \$18 M)
- Total funding 2009-2018: \$13.8 Billion nationwide
- Funding Source: Federal - Farm Bill

ELIGIBILITY

Who is Eligible?

Agricultural producers, private forestland owners, Indian Tribes, and water management entities may apply for funding on owned or leased lands. Land must be used for agriculture, forestry, or have water resources.

Eligible Costs

Popular EQIP practices include cover crops, nutrient management, forest stand improvement, prescribed grazing, irrigation efficiency improvement, and water quality improvement practices.

Up to 75% of costs associated with conservation practices including: planning, design, equipment, labor, loss of income, training and others.

In some cases, 90% of project costs may be reimbursed, and up to a 50% advanced payment may be issued.



Last Update: March 2021

FEATURES

NRCS's most popular assistance program for one-on-one technical support and BMP funding assistance.

Develops a conservation plan for your land and sets a contract for 1-10 years to complete work.

New focus on Soil Health Management Plan.

Includes funds for development of forest stewardship plans.

HELPFUL TIPS

Different EQIP options based on project and owner demographics. Your NRCS District Conservationist can assist in the best fit.

The grant/contract process can be time intensive.

Payments are based on unit costs for approved conservation practices rather than percentage cost-share rates.

HOW TO APPLY

Lancaster County NRCS: Heather Grove, 717-874-2530; heather.grove@pa.usda.gov

York County NRCS: Eric Samus, 717-894-3001; eric.samus@pa.usda.gov

Annual Deadline: First Come First Serve, to cut off date in March 20 (2021)

Link to application: [Application and Instructions](#)