Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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What is EQIP?

• Helping People Help the Land.

• Provides financial incentives to producers/landowners to voluntarily adopt, install, or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices for resolving resource concerns on their operation.

• Provides technical assistance to producers to effectively adopt conservation practices and resolve resource concerns.

• Available for land uses Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF), Crop, Pasture, Farmsteads

• Available in all counties, and States.
Funding

• **EQIP is the main funding program**
  • Has smaller fund pools within it (WTCAC, Local Work Group, Beginning Farmer, Socially Disadvantaged)
  • Special initiative opportunities include Monarch, Climate Smart, Organic, Energy

• **Other Programs related to EQIP**
  • RCPP - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
  • GLRI - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

• **Some Fund Pools are available statewide, and others are limited to certain geographic areas.**
  • Local NRCS staff will help guide you

• **Special rates are available for historically underserved producers such as: socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers**
EQIP Application Process

• Applications are accepted all year and batched at least once yearly.... November 4th is first batching date!!!

• Applicants apply with their local NRCS office. NRCS staff will assist with applicant and land eligibility.
  • During application process, NRCS staff will complete a site visit and work on planning documents with you. Do NOT start practices prior to receiving a contract.

• Applications are prioritized and ranked
  • EQIP is a competitive funding process

• Applications do not guarantee a contract
Eligibility

Local NRCS staff will help you work through eligibility

- **Eligible Applicants**
  - Agricultural producers (landowners or renters)
  - Indian Tribes
  - Owners of non-industrial private forestland
  - Those with interest in agriculture or forestland

- **Eligible Land**
  - Agricultural or Forested privately owned land
  - Publicly owned land that is part of an agriculture or forest operation
  - Indian land
  - Rented non-industrial private forest or agricultural land

- **Resource Concern Eligibility**
  - At least one resource concern must be identified and addressed with an eligible conservation practice or activity
Applications

- Local NRCS office
- FSA paperwork
  - 2023 AGI for individuals & entities. Tribes exempt
  - AD-1026 HEL and Wetland Compliance
  - 902 – Farm Operating Plan
  - Rental Agreement
Steps to Assistance

1. Planning
   - Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2. Application
   - With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3. Eligibility
   - Find out if you’re eligible for NRCS’ variety of financial assistance programs.

4. Ranking
   - NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5. Implementing
   - Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

• Approximately 130 different practices:
• Common practices:
  • Pasture: pasture and hay land planting, fencing, pipeline and watering facilities, prescribed grazing, and animal trails
  • Crop: cover crops, nutrient management, grassed waterways, diversions, no-till, high tunnel, Wildlife habitat plantings
  • Forest: forest stand improvement, brush management, woody residue treatment, and herbaceous weed control
  • Farmstead/Garden: underground outlet, roof gutters, waste storage, composting facility, high-tunnel
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Code</th>
<th>Practice Name</th>
<th>Plan Type</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102</td>
<td>Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)</td>
<td>CPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>106</td>
<td>Forest Management Plan</td>
<td>CPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>116</td>
<td>Soil Health Management Plan</td>
<td>CPA</td>
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<td>138</td>
<td>Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition</td>
<td>CPA</td>
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<tr>
<td>199</td>
<td>Conservation Plan</td>
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<td>101</td>
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<td>120</td>
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<td>Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design and Implementation Activity</td>
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<td>148</td>
<td>Pollinator Habitat Design and Implementation Activity</td>
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<td>157</td>
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<td>158</td>
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<td>161</td>
<td>Pest Management Conservation System Design and Implementation Activity</td>
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<td>162</td>
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<td>207</td>
<td>Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity</td>
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<td>216</td>
<td>Soil Health Testing</td>
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<td>217</td>
<td>Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management</td>
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<td>218</td>
<td>Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment</td>
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<tr>
<td>228</td>
<td>Agricultural Energy Assessment</td>
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</table>
Agricultural Energy Assessment
CEMA 228

-Baseline assessment of all energy use of systems, equipment, and facilities for agricultural operations.

Enterprise refers to the different businesses within the operation to be assessed:

• cropland (Field Crop or Fruit/Vegetable)
• livestock production (Dairy, Swine, Poultry, Beef, Buffalo),
• irrigation (Field Crops or Fruit/Vegetable),
• greenhouse
• `maple syrup production.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
<th>Payment Rate HU</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>181</td>
<td>Small size, 1 Enterprise</td>
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</table>

Enterprise refers to the different businesses within the operation; cropland (Field Crop or Fruit/Vegetable), livestock production (Dairy, Swine, Poultry, Beef), irrigation (Field Crops or Fruit/Vegetable), greenhouse or maple syrup production.

**Small**: ≤300 Acres; ≤300 AU; up to 2 irrigation pumps; ≤ 20,000 sq. ft. of heated greenhouse, or a maple syrup enterprise.

**Medium**: 301 to 2,500 ac.; 301 to 1000 AU; 3 to 6 Irrigation Pumps; 20,001 to 40,000 sq. ft. heated greenhouse

**Large**: >2,500 ac.; >1000 AU; 7 or more Irrigation Pumps; >40,001 sq. ft. heated greenhouse

If one operation is MEDIUM or LARGE, select that scenario, with the appropriate number of additional enterprises.
Associated practices that come out of Energy Assessment plans

ENERGY EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL OPERATION 374
25 practices scenarios – Fans, Water heaters, variable speed drives, plate cooler, evaporator, reverse osmosis

ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING ENVELOPE 672
-Sealant, Insulation –attic and walls, Insulated Roll-up Door

ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING SYSTEM 670
4 practice scenarios
High Tunnel System 325

- Plant productivity and health
- Eligible land – cropland, gardens, hay land, orchard.
- Crops must be grown in the natural soil profile.
- Raised beds shall not exceed 12 inches in depth
- Minimum 6-mil greenhouse grade, UV-resistant material
- Crop rotation
- Irrigation Systems, Micro-Irrigation
- Subsurface Drain
- Nutrient management
- Integrated pest management
- Critical area planting
- Mulching
- Roof runoff structure
- Diversion
- Underground outlets
- Heavy use protection
- Cover crop

### Table: High Tunnel System 325

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>Limit</th>
<th>Payment Rate</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13 Seasonal High Tunnel</td>
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<td>70 Small High Tunnel, Snow and Wind</td>
<td>Sq. Ft</td>
<td>$7.23</td>
<td>$8.67</td>
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</table>

Limitations: Payment is not made until structure is completed and plastic is installed. This practice is now available in the following fund pools: Beginning Farmer, Local Work Groups, Socially Disadvantaged, Organic, and WTCAC.

**Scenario 70** – Use for high tunnels less than or equal to 600 sqft. This scenario is eligible only on PLUs using the Urban land use modifier, and requires prior consultation and approval from State Agronomist.
Find your Local Service Center

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!

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