



Cranberries and Conservation

Environmental Quality
Incentives Program (EQIP)
contracts include:

- 2,100 acres of nutrient management practices
- 1,800 acres of pest management practices
- 710 acres of irrigation water management
- 12 tailwater recovery systems
- 677 acres of high uniformity irrigation systems
- 8.6 miles of buried irrigation mainline



Conservation Accomplishments

In 2004, few if any of Wisconsin's 250 cranberry growers followed structured nutrient management plans. By 2009, over 55 percent of the cranberry-producing acreage in the state, 10,000 acres out of approximately 18,000 acres, have implemented nutrient management plans.

Cranberry growers continue to adopt conservation practices to meet the unique needs of their speciality crop. Conservation systems are spreading throughout Wisconsin cranberry marshes as a result of the cooperative agreement between the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Wisconsin State Cranberry Growers Association (WSCGA). In 2009, nine new EQIP contracts were signed with Wisconsin cranberry growers, bringing the total to 51 contracts totaling more than \$1.97 million allocated for resource conservation during the six-year 2004-2009 period.





Helping People Help the Land

The WSCGA launched its own conservation program in 2007 to supplement conservation work left unfunded through EQIP and continues to offer the cost-share program through 2009. The program is called the Whole Farm Planning Program (WFPIP) and 67 contracts have been signed so far, including nine soil moisture monitoring projects, for a total of \$376,472. Over 7,500 acres have been contracted for nutrient management and over 1,000 acres were contracted for irrigation water management. The WFPIP program also funded 109 acres of high uniformity irrigation systems along with 12,000 feet of new buried mainline. Approximately 900 additional acres of nutrient management, 500 acres of pest management and 2,000 acres of irrigation water management were implemented without cost-share from either program.

NRCS, in cooperation with the WSCGA, expects to add new practices to the cost-share list in future years. The new practices that could potentially be offered will focus on energy and water conservation.

