Other things you should know:

- EQIP contracts can last from two to 10 years.
- Payments are limited to $300,000 per participant for the life of the 2008 Farm Bill.
- There is no minimum acreage requirement, however, projects that address significant resource concerns are more likely to receive funding.
- You will be reimbursed after the practices have been installed according to NRCS specifications.
- Additional financing may be available through the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA), or private lending agencies.

What's new in EQIP?

1. Under the 2008 Farm Bill, NRCS is now offering new and innovative conservation practices emphasizing:
   - clean air and energy
   - forest land management
   - organic farming
   - pollinator and wildlife habitat
2. The 2008 Farm Bill provides greater assistance to beginning, socially disadvantaged and limited-resource farmers.

   Farmers in the above categories may be eligible for higher payment rates and receive up to 30 percent of their payments in advance for purchasing materials or contracting.

Contact us

Dover Field Office
Serving Kent County
800 Bay Rd., Dover, DE 19901
302-741-2600 ext. 3

Georgetown Field Office
Serving Sussex County
21315 Berlin Rd., Unit 3, Georgetown, DE 19947
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USDA NRCS
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Delaware

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

2008 Farm Bill

Helping People Help the Land

What is the Environmental Quality Incentives Program?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary federal conservation program that provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers and forest land owners who want to improve and protect soil, water, air, plants and animals on their land.

What's in it for you?

Through EQIP, you can receive financial and technical assistance to plan and install conservation practices designed to benefit the natural resources you depend on as an agricultural or forestry producer.

When you apply to EQIP, you'll begin by working with an NRCS conservation professional to develop a conservation plan that identifies natural resource concerns and conservation practices that best address specific conditions on your land.

EQIP funding can help pay for implementing your planning decisions.

These are just a few of the conservation practices eligible for EQIP funding:

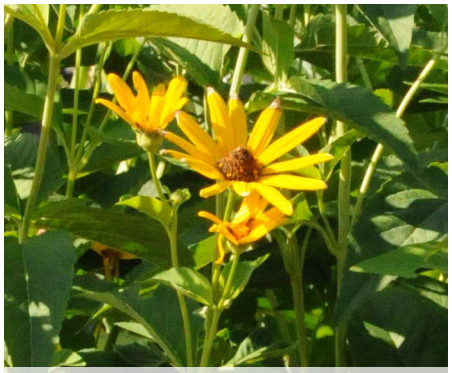
waste storage/nutrient management

forest management

hoop houses

pest management

cover crops



bee pollinators

In Delaware, there are over 50 different conservation practices eligible for funding through EQIP.
Visit our website, or call your local NRCS office for a full list of eligible conservation practices and payment rates.

Are you eligible for EQIP?

EQIP participants must:

- be an individual, entity or joint operation.
- produce or sell an annual minimum of $1,000 of agricultural products. Forest land is exempt from this requirement.
- have documented control of the land for the term of the contract.
- have an average adjusted gross income of $1 million dollars or less annually.
- have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being enrolled.

Land enrolled in EQIP must:

- be in agricultural, livestock or forest production, or capable of growing trees.
- be privately owned. Publicly owned lands are eligible only if the land is leased or rented to an eligible agricultural producer.
- not receive other USDA program payments for the same conservation practice.

How to apply:

Contact your local NRCS field office to begin the application process.

- **Creating a conservation plan is one of the first steps in applying for EQIP.**
  - Developing a plan will qualify you to apply for USDA financial assistance to install the recommended practices.
  - There is no charge for conservation planning.
- **You'll need to file several forms to determine if you're eligible for federal programs.**
  - Forms are available on our website.
- **Applications may be submitted anytime.**
  - Applications will be evaluated periodically in a competitive ranking process as funding becomes available. Ranking criteria for each program is available on our website.