

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
California European Grapevine Moth Initiative – Fiscal Year 2012**Program Description:**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program designed to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides financial and technical assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to address soil, water, and air quality, wildlife habitat, surface and groundwater conservation, energy conservation, and related natural resource concerns. NRCS California is offering assistance through EQIP to California farmers to combat the European Grapevine Moth (EGVM). In the third year of the program, NRCS is offering Integrated Pest Management (IPM) tools to prevent isolated pest finds from becoming a widespread infestation. Eligible counties in California for this initiative include: Nevada, Solano, Sonoma, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Napa.

Eligible farmers are those located within 500 meters of a recorded trapping of EGVM. Treatment options available for financial assistance under this program are the use of chemicals compatible with the IPM system approved for EGVM. Financial assistance can be offered to implement Integrated Pest Management practices for up to 3 years.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) established EVGM treatment timeframes and start dates by county. Due to temperature differences between the areas, there will be some overlap of treatment timing. The first generation treatment timeline is April 7 to June 22 and the second generation timeline is June 17 to August 21.

CDFA EGVM Treatment Start-Dates by County:

<u>County</u>	<u>1st Generation Start-Date</u>	<u>2nd Generation Start-Date</u>
Napa	April 16	June 30
Nevada	June 1	July 28
Santa Clara	April 7	June 21
Santa Cruz	April 27	July 31
Solano	April 14	June 17
Sonoma	April 27	July 10

Additional information on EGVM is available from:

- APHIS at: http://www.aphis.usda.gov/plant_health/plant_pest_info/eg_moth/index.shtml
- CDFA at: <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/egvm/index.html>.

Where to Apply:

For application assistance or for more information regarding the California European Grapevine Moth Initiative contact your local NRCS field office, which can be obtained at the NRCS California web site: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

Program Application:

To be eligible for the California European Grapevine Moth Initiative a complete application must be submitted to the local NRCS office by close-of-business (COB) **May 4, 2012**. Program applications are accepted on a continuous basis. A complete application submitted to the local NRCS office by close-of-business (COB) **May 4, 2012** will be evaluated for funding in a ranking evaluation period between **May 5, 2012** and **May 18, 2012**.

Applications submitted after the **May 5, 2012** date will be evaluated in the next ranking and funding period. Incomplete applications may be re-submitted for the next ranking and funding period. For application assistance, including a downloadable application, or for more information regarding the California programs county and statewide initiatives contact your closest NRCS office, which can be obtained at the NRCS California web site: <http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>.

To be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be a producer. To be considered a producer, the applicant must be—
 - a. A person, legal entity, Indian Tribe, or joint operation with signature authority and
 - b. Engaged in agricultural production or forestry management or have an interest in the agricultural or forestry operation associated with the land being offered for enrollment in EQIP.
 - Interest in the farming operation means one of the following:
 - i. Owner or renter of the land in the farming operation;
 - ii. An interest in the agricultural products, commodities, or livestock produced by the farming operation; or
 - iii. A member of a joint operation that either owns or rents land in the farming operation or has an interest in the agricultural products, commodities, or livestock produced by the farming operation.
2. Have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract period.
3. Be in compliance with the provisions for protecting the interests of tenants and sharecroppers, including the provisions for sharing EQIP payments on a fair and equitable basis.
4. Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance.
5. Be within appropriate payment limitation requirements, as specified in the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

Exception: Federally-recognized Indian Tribes are exempt from payment limitation requirements. The \$300,000 contract limitation remains applicable to Indian Tribes, but there is no limit on payments so an Indian Tribe could have

multiple \$300,000 contracts. Individual tribal members must be within appropriate payment limitations.

6. Be in compliance with adjusted gross income requirements.

Exception: Federally-recognized Indian Tribes are exempt from adjusted gross income requirements

To be eligible for EQIP, the land being offered for application into the program must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Be agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or other land on which agricultural products, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.
 - i. Agricultural products include but are not limited to the following:

Grains or row crops; Tobacco; Seed crops; Vegetables or fruits; Hay, forage, or pasture; Orchards or vineyards; Flowers or bulbs; Ornamentals; Plant materials, including those grown in greenhouses or seasonal high tunnels; Trees; Other agricultural commodities; Other crops used for subsistence.
 - ii. Livestock production is defined as farm or ranch operations involving the production, growing, raising, or reproducing of livestock or livestock products, including but not limited to, the following:

Alpacas; Beef cattle; Bison; Dairy cattle; Fish or other animals raised through aquacultural methods; Horses; Llamas; Rattles; Poultry; Sheep or goats; Swine; Turkeys; All other livestock or fowl produced as part of agricultural operations on farms or ranches identified by the State Conservationist, considering the advice of the State Technical Committee.
 - iii. Nonindustrial private forest land is rural land that—

Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees.
Is owned by any nonindustrial private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity.
 - iv. Permanently submerged lands may be eligible only if all of the following apply:

The EQIP practice(s) to be implemented is land-based
The Farm Service Agency establishes farm records, common land unit (CLU information, and completes HEL/WC determinations for the submerged land area
The proposed EQIP practice(s) addresses an identified natural resource concern.

Note: By statute and regulation (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-1; and §1466.8), EQIP may only be used to implement practices or support activities on eligible land. As such, areas of water in which no land-based conservation practice(s) will be implemented are not eligible.
2. Be privately owned or Indian land. Publicly owned land may be eligible if—
 - i. The land is a working component of the participant's agricultural and operations.
 - ii. The participant has control of the land for the term of the contract.
 - iii. The conservation practices to be implemented on the public land are necessary and will contribute to an improvement in the identified resource concern.

3. Have permission of the landowner to install a structural practice on land not owned by the applicant.
4. Have an identified resource concern that may be addressed.
5. Have irrigated two out of the last five years to install a water conservation or irrigation related practice.

To be eligible for program funds, applicants must be established in Service Center Information System (SCIMS), have the following certifications completed and filed at the USDA service center: Form AD-1026, “Highly Erodible Land Conservation and Wetland Conservation Certification;” Form CCC-926, “Average Adjusted Gross Income Statement;” and Form CCC-901, “Member’s Information (for legal entity and joint operations only), and meet EQIP program eligibility requirements.

A Complete Application Must Include:

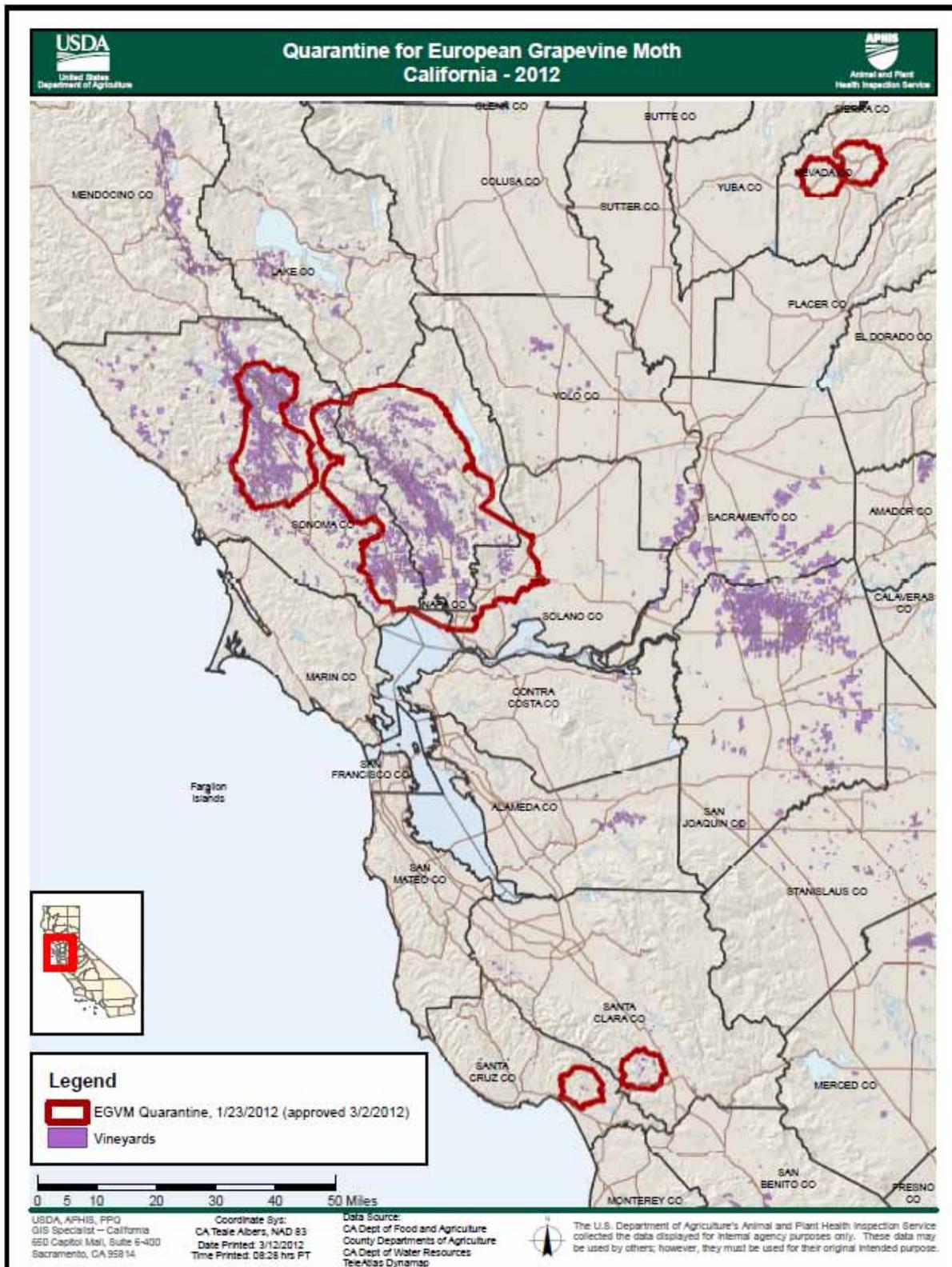
- **Form NRCS-CPA-1200 Application** - Signed and dated by all program participants or authorized persons.

The designated conservationist will review applications for completeness and consistency with individual or business information maintained in SCIMS. Applications will be serviced and funded on the basis of the sign-up and evaluation cutoff dates, the ranking criteria, the availability of program funds, and other requirements, as specified for the program.

- **Form AD-1026:** Highly Erodible Land Conservation - Wetland Conservation Certification.
- **Form CCC-931:** Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) Certification.
- **Form SF-1199A:** Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form.
- **Form CA-LTP-5:** Producer Certification of Irrigation History - if applicable.
- **Form CCC-901:** Entity Member Information - if applicable.
- **Form FSA-211:** Power of Attorney – if applicable (Entity applicants must submit this form).
- **Landowner Agreement to Install Structural Practices**– if applicable.
- **Signature authority:** Self-certification of signature authority as indicated on Form CCC-901 or documents such as articles of incorporation, charter, bylaws, partnership agreements, trust agreements, wills and similar legal evidence – if applicable (Entities must submit this form).
- **DUNS Number:** All entities/ organizations are required to obtain a DUNS number when submitting a conservation program application.
- **Proof of Identity:** Authorized persons may be required to show valid state driver’s license, passport or other personal identification as well as Social Security or EIN numbers, address and other information.

Note: Confidential and private information: Many of the program application forms or documentation requires the applicant to provide sensitive, contact, financial or other confidential information. Disclosure of this data is voluntary, but failure to provide the required information in a timely manner may result in the deferral of an application or denial of a benefit payment. By law and policy, confidential, private and sensitive information is protected by USDA and employees and agency partners are subject to penalty and disciplinary action for inappropriate or mismanagement of private data.

Project Area for the California European Grapevine Moth Initiative:



Approved Practice List:

The following is the complete list of conservation practices available for financial assistance through the California European Grapevine Moth Initiative (Table 1). Available Integrated Pest Management (IPM) options per county are dependent on established priorities, but generally include University of California, IPM Single Pest or Year-Round Program, Substitution of Soft Chemicals and/or Pheromone Mating Disruption.

Table 1. Eligible Conservation Practices and Payment Rates

Practice Code	Practice Name	Practice Scenario*	Payment/Acre**
595	Integrated Pest Management	Key Pest System: Treatment of a Single Pest under the UC IPM Program	\$68.62
595	Integrated Pest Management	Comprehensive System: Treatment of All Significant Pests under the UC IPM Year-Round Program	\$100.66

* Scenarios labeled ‘Year Round’ require a comprehensive program for grapes; other scenarios require following the Pest Management Guidelines for EGVM only. See UC IPM web site for more information on these systems at: <http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/selectnewpest.grapes.html>.

** An applicant who is a member of a socially disadvantaged group, limited resource farmer/rancher, or beginning farmer/rancher may be eligible for higher payment rates.

Applications for the California European Grapevine Moth Initiative will be evaluated based on the following application screening and local, state and national ranking criteria.

Application Screening Criteria:

Screening Criteria	Priority
Grapes (any part of a field) within 500 meters of established moth sightings.	High Priority
Grapes greater than 500 meters of established moth sightings.	Low Priority

I. National Ranking Criteria (25 percent of total ranking score)

Ranking Questions	Points
1. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Quality – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
1a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to animal feeding operations, or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
1b. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a designated impaired water body?	10
1c. Reduce sediment, nutrients or pesticides from agricultural operations located within a field that adjoins a water body?	5
2. Clean and Abundant Water: Water Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
2a. Increase groundwater recharge in identified groundwater depletion areas (http://water.usgs.gov/ogw/rasa/html/TOC.html)?	15
2b. Conserve water from irrigation system improvements and result in estimated water savings of at least 5% and saved water will be available for other beneficial uses?	10
2c. Conserve water in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	5
3. Clean Air: Treatment of Air Quality from Agricultural Sources – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
3a. Meet regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	15
3b. Reduce green house gases such as methane, nitrous oxide, and volatile organic compounds (VOC)?	15
3c. Increase carbon sequestration?	5
4. High Quality, Productive Soils Erosion Reduction – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
4a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil “T”)?	15

5. Healthy Plant and Animal Communities Wildlife Habitat Conservation – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
5a. Benefit threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern as identified in a State wildlife plan?	15
5b. Retain wildlife and plant benefits on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)?	15
6. High Quality, Productive Soils, Healthy Plant and Animal Communities: Special Environmental Efforts/Initiatives – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
6a. Eradicate or control noxious or invasive species?	10
6b. Increase, improve or establish pollinator habitat?	10
6c. Implement precision agricultural methods?	10
6d. Properly dispose of animal carcasses?	5
6e. Implement an Integrated Pest Management plan?	5
7. Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy Production – Will the proposed project assist the producer to:	
7a. Reduce energy consumption on the agricultural operation?	15
7b. Increase on-farm energy efficiency with more efficient equipment?	10
7c. Assist in producing energy from renewable resources (solar, wind, biofuel, etc)?	10
8. Business Lines – Conservation Implementation Additional Ranking Considerations - Will the proposed project result in:	
8a. Implementation of all planned conservation practices within three years of contract obligation?	10
8b. Improvement of existing conservation practices or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is accepted, or will complete an existing conservation system?	10
9. Does the applicant meet the following conditions:	
9a. If the applicant has an existing contract, has it been, and is it now, on schedule and in full compliance?	5
9b. Did the applicant successfully complete any past contract(s) in full compliance?	5
9c. Is this the applicant’s first application?	5

II. State Ranking Criteria (50 percent of total ranking score)

Moth Sightings		Points
1	Grapes within 500 meters of established moth sightings.	90

III. Local Ranking Criteria (25 percent of total ranking score)

Proposed Conservation Treatments		Points
1	Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is Comprehensive System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.	90
2	Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is Comprehensive System, and the practice is planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.	70
3	Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is Key System, and the practice is planned for three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.	50
4	Proposed conservation treatment is conservation practice 595 – Integrated Pest Management, practice scenario is Key System, and the practice is planned for less than three consecutive years. Treatment start-date follows CDFA guidelines.	25