

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

APPLICATIONS DUE BY: October 21, 2016

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

What is EQIP?

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers that promotes environmental quality in agricultural production. EQIP offers financial and technical assistance to participants to install or implement structural and management practices on agricultural land.

National, state, and local priorities are used to guide which producers will be selected to receive EQIP assistance. A ranking system evaluates the environmental benefit of each application as it relates to the conservation practices and priorities.

All practices installed with program assistance must be installed

according to NRCS standards and specifications. Participants are expected to maintain all practices throughout the life of the practices as established by NRCS. Annual status reviews are conducted to ensure proper implementation and contract compliance.

As with all NRCS programs, EQIP is a voluntary program that is intended to yield high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchland.



We're on the Web!

www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov

Examples of Conservation Practices by Resource Concerns

Water Quantity

- Convert inefficient irrigation systems; such as seep irrigation to drip tape irrigation systems, and overhead sprinklers to micro-irrigation. For nurseries; conversion from sprinklers to ebb-flow benches or capillary mats
- Retrofit inefficient spray jet systems (i.e. replace PE tubing and emitters)
- Establish tail-water recovery systems
- Incentive for Irrigation Water Management

Water Quality

- Implement nutrient management plan with recordkeeping and soil testing
- Implement integrated pest management plan with

recordkeeping

Animal & Plant Health

- Installation of cross fence, water troughs, pumping plants, and pipeline to facilitate rotational grazing
- Control of invasive species (e.g. TSA, cogongrass)

Soil Erosion

- Install grade-stabilization structures
- Structures for water control (e.g. pipes with flashboard risers)

Wildlife Habitat

- Prescribed burning
- Brush management

Others

- There are many other conservation practices.



United States Department of Agriculture

IN COOPERATION WITH

Manatee River, Charlotte,
Sarasota, Hardee, and Peace River Soil
& Water Conservation Districts

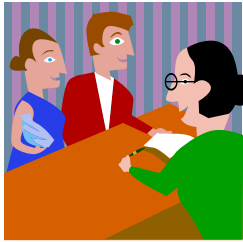
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Israel Vega, District Conservationist
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• Hardee & DeSoto Counties
Dan Schabillon, District Conservationist
316 N. 7th Ave
Wauchula, FL 33873
Office: (863)773-4764 x 105
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Are You Eligible for EQIP?

1. Is your land currently being used to produce an agricultural commodity or livestock?
 2. Do you own or have proof that you have control of the land for the length of the proposed contract?
 3. Have you updated, or will you establish, your farm records with the Farm Service Agency?
 4. Are you willing to install or implement conservation practices according to NRCS standards and specifications to address your resource concerns (see front page)?
 5. Do you have an average adjusted gross income of \$900,000 or less for the preceding 3 years? (If your AGI is > \$900,000 you may still be eligible, contact your local FSA office for information.)
 6. Are you able to finance the cost of the practice(s) until the EQIP cost-share reimbursement payment is authorized?
 7. If your project is funded, will you allow the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to be informed about the location of the project and the practices to be installed to determine their possible effects on threatened or endangered plant or animal species?
 8. If you are planning to install an animal waste storage or treatment facility, are you willing to develop and implement a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP).
 9. If you are planning to install an irrigation practice, have you irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years?
 10. Are you aware of 'Cost Recovery' &/or 'Liquidated Damages' if a contract is terminated (See 1202 Appendix)?
- If the answers are all "yes", you may be eligible for EQIP financial assistance.



Submit Your Application Today! APPLICATIONS DUE BY: October 21, 2016

All application material must be submitted to your local NRCS field office by the end of the sign-up period. Here is what you will need to do to submit a complete application.

1. Visit your local NRCS field office to complete the following application forms:
 - NRCS-CPA-1200 Conservation Program Application
 - NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix
2. If you own the land, you must provide proof of land ownership, such as a deed or tax statement.
3. If the land is leased, you must provide a letter from the owner giving you permission to install vegetative and structural practices & provide a lease copy that gives you control of the land for at least the proposed length of the contract.

4. You must establish or update your farm/business records with the Farm Service Agency. This includes the completion of the following forms:
 - AD-2047 Customer Data Worksheet Request for SCIMS
 - AD-1026 Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Certification
 - CCC-941 Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification
 - Entities require additional documentation above and beyond individuals.

To access many of these forms, contact your local NRCS field office or visit our programs website at www.fl.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/fleqip.html.

Farm Service Agency—Manatee, Sarasota, Hardee, DeSoto counties co-located with Wauchula NRCS Phone: (863)773-4764 ext 2 - Acting Executive Director—Steve Berk.

Farm Service Agency—Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties Phone: (239) 997-7331 ext 2 Executive Director—Michael Nordlund.

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