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TREE FARM BULLETIN



2014 Farm Bill - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

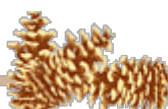
Who Can Apply

Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be agricultural producer (person, legal entity, or joint operation who has an interest in the agricultural operation, or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management).
- Control or own eligible land.
- Comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) for less than \$900,000. Note: Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or Alaska Native corporations are exempt from the AGI payment limitations.
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations that addresses at least one natural resource concern.

Additional program requirements may apply.



How EQIP Works

Financial Assistance Payments Are Made On Completed Practices

Financial assistance payments through EQIP are made to eligible producers, to implement approved conservation practices on eligible land or to help producers develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) to address specific land use issues. Payments are made on completed practices or activities identified in an EQIP contract that meet NRCS standards. Payment rates are set each fiscal year and are attached to the EQIP contract when it is approved. Payment rates for each conservation practice can be found at each NRCS State Programs website.

Historically Underserved Producers May Be Eligible For Higher Payment Rates

Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, Indian Tribes and veteran farmer or ranchers) who self-certify on Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application are eligible for a higher practice payment rate to support implementation of contracted conservation practices and activities.

Self-certified socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher, beginning farmers/ranchers, and veteran farmer/rancher producers may elect to be evaluated in special EQIP funding pools. More information can be found on the State Programs website or from your local NRCS office.

Payment and Contract Limitations

Payments received by producers through EQIP contracts after February 7, 2014 may not exceed \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts entered into during the period 2014 to 2018. Federally recognized Indian Tribes are not subject to payment or EQIP contract limitations. Federally recognized Indian Tribes are not subject to payment or EQIP contract limitations.

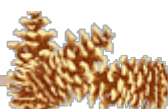
Applications submitted after these dates will be evaluated and considered for funding during later funding opportunities. **Producers must submit a complete program application, establish “farm records”, and other documentation to support eligibility** to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.

How To Apply For EQIP

Complete EQIP Application At Your Local NRCS Field Office

To apply for EQIP, visit your local NRCS field office, in your [local USDA Service Center](#). Step-by-step assistance can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>.

If you would like to be considered for funding in 2017, your application must be completed and submitted to your local NRCS office by close of business on December 16th, 2016.



1) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or, do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

2) COMMUNITY CORNER

If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would like us to help you promote your event, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

The New Mexico Tree Farm Program is in the process of switching website addresses. Our current website is at <http://www.nmfamilyforests.org/> and will be discontinued at the close of this year (2016). Our new website is at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/new-mexico> and is already active. Current feature include: contact information, resources, newsletters, bulletins and our calendar of events. Take a few minutes and check out our new website (provided to us by the American Tree Farm System).

4) NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 3rd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, December 14, 2016. We will be meeting at the USDA building on 6200 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, NM. Come out and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

