



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

EQIP is a federal program that addresses existing resource concerns by providing agricultural producers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement improvements, or what NRCS calls conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Program Manager:

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Common Practices:

- **Crop:** Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), High tunnels
- **Livestock:** Pipeline and tank, Heavy use area protection for feeding, Cross-fence for rotational grazing, Exclusion fence around sensitive areas
- **Forestry and Wildlife:** Brush management (to control invasive species), Forest stand improvement, Conservation cover (pollinators and/or warm season grasses), Tree establishment
- **CAP Plans (Conservation Activity Plans):** Forestry Management Plans, Irrigation Water Management Plan, Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Grazing Management Plan.

Requirements:

Have a farm number and records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) is required for some practices and/or operators, Agriculture Water Quality Plan (AWQP) is encouraged

Timeframe:

Rolling application process all year with ranking and approvals in the winter, contracts are typically 1-3 years long depending on the practices

Funding Available:

\$450,000 payment cap 2019-2023 per legal entity or participant. Payments are made on a flat rate per practice and are based on 75% of the estimated cost.

NEXT STEPS

1. Secure a farm number from the FSA if you do not already have one. They will need a copy of your deed. Complete cost share eligibility forms.
2. Submit an EQIP application at your local NRCS or Conservation District office and complete an Ag Water Quality Plan.
3. You will be contacted to schedule a field visit to determine farm operation/land management needs.
4. Align needs with available practices and develop a conservation plan to complete application.

ITEMS TO REMEMBER

Do not implement practices until you are notified that you have been approved and you have received designs/implementation requirement information.



WHERE TO START: A LOCAL GUIDE TO AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION PLANNING IN CENTRAL KY

A joint collaboration with regional representatives from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Local Conservation District Offices, and UK Cooperative Extension Service. Compiled by Bluegrass Greensource.

Kentucky State Cost Share Program (KY SCS)

KY SCS helps landowners address existing soil erosion, water quality and other environmental problems associated with their farming or woodland operation to protect the soil and water resources of Kentucky and to implement agriculture water quality plans.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Program Manager:

Kentucky Division of Conservation & Local Conservation Districts

Common Practices:

Pipeline and tank, Heavy use area protection, Fencing to exclude livestock from sensitive areas, Cross fencing to promote rotational grazing

Requirements:

Farm Number and Agriculture Water Quality Plan

Timeframe:

Rolling application process all year with ranking and approvals in the winter. Approved applicants will have 2 years from the date of approval to complete practices.

Funding Available:

Projects are reimbursed 75% of the actual cost of installing the project up to a cap of \$20,000.

NEXT STEPS

1. Secure a farm number from the FSA if you do not already have one. They will need a copy of your deed.
2. Complete Agriculture Water Quality Plan
3. Determine farm operation/land management needs
4. Align needs with available practices
5. Complete State Cost Share application with local conservation district
6. You will be contacted to schedule a farm visit to complete your application

ITEMS TO REMEMBER

- Contact your Local Conservation District Office for assistance with your Agriculture Water Quality Plan and SCS application
- You should discuss any resource concerns you have with technical staff as there may be assistance available
- Do not begin installation until your project is approved and designs are received



Local Cost Share Programs

A locally administered program developed to assist landowners by providing Cost Share towards various projects to improve soil and water conservation issues. The programs and Cost Share amounts are created and offered by the Board of Directors and vary by county.

PROGRAM BREAKDOWN

Program Manager:

Local Conservation District

Common Practices:

Heavy Use Areas and gateways, Pasture renovation, Pasture spraying, and Equipment rental

Requirements:

Farm must be located in the County

Timeframe: Varies based on location, continuous sign-ups common. Pasture renovations must fall within optimal seeding seasons (Spring or Fall)

Funding Available:

Varies by location and project - Pays 50% up to a set amount. Contact the Conservation District for details

NEXT STEPS (VARIES BY LOCATION)

1. Determine a conservation need
2. Contact the Conservation District to complete an application or inquire if assistance is available
3. The Board will review at the next monthly meeting and notification of approval will be made to start the project
4. Farm visits will be made to document before and after completion (HUA and Gateways)
5. The Board will approve the completion and payment will be available.

ITEMS TO REMEMBER

- One project per year
- Soil Test less than 2 years old must be available for Pasture Renovation
- Practices must be installed to follow NRCS standards

OTHER LOCAL PROGRAMS

- Equipment Rental (County specific - e.g. post driver, sprayer, bale wrapper)
- County sponsored Tree Rebate Programs
- Free Tree Seedling giveaway (County Conservation District Offices)
Usually in the Spring

