

A green icon consisting of two L-shaped brackets forming a corner, positioned to the left of the text "EQIP".

EQIP

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health and reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.



Massachusetts

\$4,598,000.00

Program	Focus Area	FY2020 Obligated Contracts (\$)	FY2020 # of Obligated Contracts	FY2020 Obligated Acres (Ac)	FY2021 Obligated Contracts (\$)	FY2021 # of Obligated Contracts	FY2021 Obligated Acres (Ac)	Change from 2020-2021 \$	Change in \$ from 2020- 2021 %
EQIP Gener	BFR	\$109,589.00	12	129	\$93,158.00	10	124	(\$16,431.00)	85.01%
	CAP	\$155,993.00	44	4180	\$104,127.00	28	1331	(\$51,866.00)	66.75%
	Cranberries	\$788,421.00	23	408	\$995,531.00	33	570	\$207,110.00	126.27%
	Forest & Wildlife	\$440,519.00	22	785	\$562,176.00	22	1242	\$121,657.00	127.62%
	General EQIP	\$503,822.00	18	479	\$393,521.00	9	252	(\$110,301.00)	78.11%
	Livestock	\$1,083,936.00	17	998	\$2,055,370.00	20	1258	\$971,434.00	189.62%
	On-Farm Energy	\$90,006.00	4	25	\$7,068.00	1	1	(\$82,938.00)	7.85%
	Organic	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	0	0	\$0.00	#DIV/0!
	SDFR	\$46,530.00	4	41	\$18,419.00	2	96	(\$28,111.00)	39.59%
	Shellfish	\$596,926.00	10	19	\$90,535.00	3	5	(\$506,391.00)	15.17%
	Soil Health	\$339,033.00	39	3304	\$153,407.00	17	811	(\$185,626.00)	45.25%
	Top 10 Priority Practices	\$517,192.00	13	1018				(\$517,192.00)	0.00%
	Urban				\$36,834.00	2	6	\$36,834.00	#DIV/0!
	CIG	\$71,687.00	2	57	\$200,023.00	2		\$128,336.00	279.02%
	General Allocation Total:	\$4,743,654.00	208	11385	\$4,710,169.00	149	5697	(\$33,485.00)	99.29%
EQIP WLFW	NEC	\$71,687.00	2	57	\$112,003.00	2	82	\$40,316.00	156.24%
	WLFW Totals:	\$71,687.00	2	57	\$112,003.00	2	82	\$40,316.00	156.24%
	EQIP Totals:	\$4,815,341.00	210	11442	\$4,822,172.00	151	5779	\$6,831.00	100.14%



Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
ACCESS CONTROL

CODE 472
(ac)

DEFINITION

The temporary or permanent exclusion of animals, people, vehicles, and equipment from an area.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish the following purpose:

- Achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by monitoring and managing the intensity of use by animals, people, vehicles, and equipment in coordination with the application schedule of practices, measures, and activities specified in the conservation plan

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

CODE 595
(ac)

DEFINITION

A site-specific combination of pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression strategies.

PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes—

- Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to water quality from leaching, solution runoff and adsorbed runoff losses
- Prevent or mitigate off-site pesticide risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans from drift and volatilization losses
- Prevent or mitigate on-site pesticide risks to pollinators and other beneficial species through direct contact
- Prevent or mitigate cultural, mechanical and biological pest suppression risks to soil, water, air, plants, animals and humans

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands and waters where pests will be managed.

Natural Resources Conservation Service
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
BIVALVE AQUACULTURE GEAR AND BIOFOULING CONTROL

CODE 400
(ac)

DEFINITION

Actions that reduce, clean or remove biofouling organisms and other waste from bivalve production areas while minimizing environmental risk.

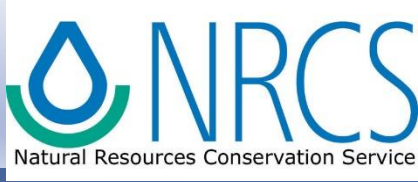
PURPOSE

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes—

- Minimize adverse impacts of shellfish aquaculture operations and gear on water, plant, animal and human resources
- Ensure dependable water quantity and quality to support shellfish production
- Ensure adequate food quantity and quality to support shellfish production

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Near-shore, intertidal and subtidal areas where bivalve aquaculture occurs.



RHODE ISLAND NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE

Environmental Quality Incentives
Program (EQIP)

In partnership with RI DEM and RI CRMC

EQIP OYSTER RESTORATION INITIATIVE

- Purpose:
 - Work with oyster growers to help restore the functions and values of oyster reefs by creating new reefs in approved areas
- EQIP provides funding for the following conservation practices:
 - Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643)
 - Involves placement of oysters and cultch at restoration sites
 - Also includes funding for monitoring success at the site
 - Access Control (472)
 - This practice consists of marking the approved restoration site with buoys



ELIGIBILITY – WHO CAN APPLY?

- Must be an existing oyster grower
- Be granted control of the land at the restoration site
- Comply with Adjusted Gross Income and HEL/WC provisions for USDA Farm Bill Eligibility



RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS



RI oyster growers bag clean shell to begin EQIP funded oyster restoration effort

RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS



Bags of shell are transported to the hatchery for remote set process

RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS



The newly set spat on shell are transferred back to the grower's lease and allowed to grow for approximately four to five months (until they reach an average size of 1 inch)

RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS

- NRCS identifies corners of the restoration plot and growers mark with buoys



RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS

- NRCS counts and measures samples of oysters from each grower in September-October



RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS



Clean cultch is placed at the restoration site to create reefs. The spat on shell is transferred to the restoration site and placed on top of the cultch.

RI NRCS OYSTER RESTORATION PROCESS

- Growers hire monitoring contractors to complete reef monitoring each year



Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats

Conservation Practice Job Sheet – Oyster Monitoring RI-643

Owner/Operator _____ Farm No. _____ Tract No. _____ Field No. _____

Oysters. Maggie Payne, RI NRCS.

Definition
Restoring and conserving rare or declining native vegetated communities and associated wildlife species.

Where used
This practice may be used on any landscape which once supported or currently supports the habitat to be restored or managed.

Purpose (check all planned purposes)
To restore land or aquatic habitats degraded by human activity, provide habitat for rare and declining

wildlife species by restoring and conserving native plant communities, increase native plant community diversity, and manage unique or declining native habitats. (Note: NRCS uses the term "wildlife" to include all animals, terrestrial and aquatic).

- Restore land or aquatic habitats degraded by human activity.
- Provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species by restoring and conserving native plant communities.
- Increase native plant community diversity.
- Management of unique or declining native habitats.

Specifications
Habitat management activities should be prioritized, initiated, and orchestrated in concert with an existing state or regional conservation plan for the habitat, species and associated relationships.

Confer with other agencies and organizations to develop guidelines and specifications for conserving declining habitats.

Follow up habitat assessments shall be performed on a regular basis.

All plant materials should comply with the minimum standards, established by the American Nursery and Landscape Association, 1250 I Street Northwest, Suite 500, Washington, DC.

Plant materials centers and commercial growers should be encouraged to develop plant materials for habitat restorations.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and mental or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791. To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Job Sheet –Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) April 2016
Page 1 of 3

HOW TO APPLY FOR EQIP:

- EQIP applications are accepted on a continuous basis
- Application ranking deadlines for FY 2022 are January 21, March 18, May 20, July 15.





FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Mia Halter, District Conservationist

NRCS West Yarmouth Field Office

303 Main St, Route 28

West Yarmouth, MA.

Phone: 508-771-6476 ext. 3

Email: mia.halter@usda.gov

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ma/programs/farmbill/>

