Conservation Corner

*Conservation Corner is a weekly article produced by the Forest County Land &Water Conservation Department. For more information contact Steve Kircher, County Conservationist-Land Information/GIS Director at 715-478-1387 or by e-mail at* [*lcc@co.forest.wi.us*](mailto:lcc@co.forest.wi.us)*.*

 The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) seeks public comments on its interim rule for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), USDA’s flagship program that helps producers plan and implement 150-plus conservation practices on working lands.

“The Environmental Quality Incentives Program gives farmers and **forest landowners** the tools they need to improve their agricultural operations while conserving natural resources,” said Angela Biggs, NRCS state conservationist in Wisconsin.

NRCS invites comments on this interim rule through February 17, 2020. Electronic comments must be submitted through [regulations.gov](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/12/17/2019-26872/environmental-quality-incentives-program) offsite link image     under Docket ID NRCS-2019-0009. All written comments received will be publicly available on [http://www.regulations.gov.](http://www.regulations.gov/) offsite link image

Popular EQIP practices include cover crops, nutrient management**, forest stand improvement,** prescribed grazing, and practices related to water quality improvement. Implementing conservation practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat while improving agricultural operations.

For more information on how to sign up for EQIP in Wisconsin, visit [www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov/), or contact the Forest County Land Conservation Office.

Forest County landowners/farmers can expect a survey in the mail regarding available Cost Share funding for farmland. If you have a project/improvement in mind, contact us for assistance.