

Programs of the



Natural Resources Conservation Service

NRCS

Helping People Help the Land

- NRCS provides technical assistance to the agricultural community
 - NRCS offers cost-share programs that help land-users install conservation practices
- All NRCS Programs are Voluntary
 - NRCS is not a regulatory agency

New Mexico NRCS Programs

- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Organic
 - Seasonal High Tunnel
 - On-Farm Energy

For a complete list of NRCS Programs visit:

<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

■ The Program

- Rewards farmers and ranchers that meet the highest standards of conservation and management on their working agricultural lands.
- Encourages agricultural producers to address resource concerns by undertaking additional conservation activities and improving and maintaining existing conservation systems.
- CSP provides financial and technical assistance to help land stewards conserve and enhance soil, water, air, and related natural resources on their land.

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- The Purpose
 - Improve and protect wildlife habitat on private and Tribal lands.
- The Program
 - Participants voluntarily limit future use of the land for a period of time, but retain private ownership
 - NRCS provides technical assistance and financial incentives to develop and improve habitat for fish and wildlife and to develop a wildlife habitat development plan

Environment Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Goals
 - Enhance agricultural production
 - Optimize environmental benefits
- The Program
 - Financial and technical assistance are provided to develop and implement structural and management practices to treat natural resource concerns such as soil erosion and water quality and/or quantity.
 - Concrete lined ditches
 - Irrigation pipeline
 - Drip systems
 - Livestock pipelines

EQIP

- Special Initiatives

- Organic

- Contracts are subject to the \$20,000 annual and \$80,000 over a 6 year period payment limitation.

- Seasonal High Tunnel

- Limited to 5% of an acre per contract (2,178 sq ft)

- On-Farm Energy

- Identify ways to conserve energy on farms
 - Implement recommended measures and conservation practice standards through use of completed AgEMPs (also known as on-farm energy audits)

EQIP – Eligibility

■ Producer Eligibility

- Agricultural producer that is engaged in livestock or agricultural production with at least \$1000 of annual farm income earned
- Has control of the land for the term of the proposed contract
 - Applicants will be asked to show documentation to include a deed, lease or other evidence of land ownership/control.
- The applicant is within appropriate program payment limitations. The overall payment limitation for EQIP is \$300,000 over a six-year period.

EQIP – Eligibility cont.

■ Producer Eligibility cont.

- The applicant is in compliance with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements.

- If an applicant has an average adjusted gross nonfarm income greater than \$1 million, the person or legal entity is not eligible, unless 66.66 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income is attributable to activities related to farming defined as farm income.

EQIP – Eligibility cont.

■ Land Eligibility

- Be agricultural land, nonindustrial private forest land, or other land on which agricultural products, livestock, or forest-related products are produced.
 - Cropland
 - Rangeland
 - Grassland
 - Pasture land
 - Private non-industrial forest land

EQIP – Eligibility cont.

■ Land Eligibility cont.

- Be privately owned or Tribal land
 - Publicly owned land may be eligible if –the land is a working component of the participant's agricultural operations, and the participant has control of the land for the term of the contract, and the conservation practices to be implemented on the public lands are necessary and will contribute to an improvement in the identified resource concern.
- Applicant must have permission of the landowner to install a structural practice on land not owned by the applicant.
- Have an identified resource concern that may be addressed.

More on NRCS

- For more information on these and other NRCS programs, please visit the New Mexico NRCS webpage at <http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/>

Or the National NRCS webpage at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>