



Who is Eligible?

Applicants must have an interest in an agricultural (forestry) operation, have current crop and producer records on file with USDA's Farm Service Agency, and be compliant with the conservation provisions of the current Farm Bill. They must own or control the land, and agree to implement conservation practices according to the contract schedule.

Land is not eligible for EQIP if it is currently enrolled in another USDA Farm Bill conservation program such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or the Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE).

Land is also ineligible if it is used for mitigation purposes, or if it is publically owned, unless the publically owned land is part on an eligible landowners operation.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program Forestry Management

How Does Sign-up for EQIP Work?

NRCS offers continuous sign-up for our conservation programs, so you can apply anytime. Applications periods are set so that applications can be reviewed and contracts awarded .

Current application periods are posted on the NJ NRCS website: www.nj.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow the link to "[Current Funding Opportunities](#)."

Visit the NRCS New Jersey website for the current list of eligible practices and payment rates:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nj/programs/financial/eqip/>

For More Information or to Sign-Up, Contact Your Local USDA Service Center:

Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties
Columbus Service Center (1971 Jacsonville-Jobstown Rd)
Telephone: (609) 267 - 1639

Mercer, Middlesex and Monmouth counties
Freehold Service Center (4000 Kozloski Rd)
Telephone: (732) 462 - 0075

Hunterdon, Somerset and Union counties
Frenchtown Service Center (687 Pittstown Rd, Suite 2)
Telephone: (908) 782 - 4614

Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties
Hackettstown Service Center (Bldg #1, 101 Bilby Rd)
Telephone: (908) 852 - 2576

Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties
Vineland Service Center (1318 South Main Rd, Bldg 5A)
Telephone: (856) 205 - 1225

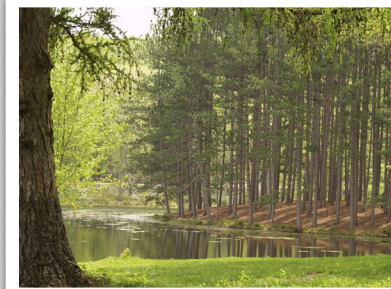
Gloucester and Salem counties
Woodstown Service Center (51 Cheney Rd, Suite 2)
Telephone: (856) 769 - 1126

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United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for persons who are engaged in livestock, forestry or agricultural production, including organic production.

Forestry is an eligible land use under the EQIP program. EQIP provides payments for implementing conservation practices on forest land that have a positive environmental impact, while protecting long term production and sustainability.

Applicants with forest land must have a Forest Stewardship Plan for their operation prepared by a certified forestry consultant.



Don't Have a Forest Stewardship Plan?

EQIP offers contracts to develop Forest Stewardship Plans! Producers are eligible for a payment to develop a Forest Stewardship Plan. The Plan must address all resource concerns, including critical wildlife habitat, protection of stream corridors and environmentally sensitive areas.

Once the Plan is approved by the State Forester, the producer may apply for another EQIP contract to implement practices scheduled in the Plan, as described above.



What Practices Receive Funding?

NRCS will review the Forest Stewardship Plan and determine the conservation practices that are recommended to improve environmental quality both on and off site. Eligible practices must reduce soil erosion or sedimentation, promote forest soil quality, enhance habitat for wildlife species of concern, or improve ecologic conditions and overall forest health.

Forestry applications will be grouped for competitive ranking into a forestry funding pool, with the highest ranked applications selected for contract development and funding.

Practices may not be started until the contract is signed by NRCS, unless the applicant requests a waiver from the state conservationist.

What are the Payment Rates and Terms?

Program payment rates are calculated at approximately 75% of the typical cost of implementing the practice, as determined by the resource concern being addressed. If the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged, veteran or limited resource producer, the rates are 25% higher, up to a maximum of 90%. Payments are made after conservation practices are implemented to the standards agreed to in advance.

Contracts are subject to payment limitations. No applicant may receive more than \$450,000 within a current Farm Bill period.

What is the Contract Period?

Contracts provide pre-determined program payments to the producer for the implementation of the planned practices according to a schedule developed with the producer. Contract lengths are typically 3 to 5 years.

The schedule lists the conservation practice extent (amount), date to be installed, and payment. The practices are subject to NRCS technical standards adapted for local conditions. .

EQIP Conservation Practices for Forested Land

Resource Concern	Eligible Practices on Forest Land
Reduce soil erosion or sedimentation	Critical Area Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Streambank and Shoreline Protection, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Forest Trails and Landings
Promote forest soil quality	Critical Area Planting, Forest Stand Improvement, Tree and Shrub Establishment
Enhance habitat for wildlife species of concern	Access Control, Brush Management, Firebreak, Forest Stand Improvement, Fish Passage, Prescribed Burning, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Tree and Shrub Site Preparation
Improve ecological conditions for desirable forest species	Forest Stand Improvement, Prescribed Burning, Tree and Shrub Establishment, Tree and Shrub Site Preparation