

EQIP Organic Initiative

Indiana 2009 State Guidelines

These are Indiana's Guidelines developed from the Conservation Programs Manual (CPM) 440 part 515 and are intended to provide Indiana specific information for implementation of the 2009 EQIP Organic program. These Guidelines are not all inclusive for EQIP program management. Additional details on producer eligibility, land eligibility, appeals, evidence of control, and payment limitations can be found in CPM-440 part 515. Contracting specific information can be found in CPM-440 part 512.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants to install or implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural and forest land.

Key EQIP Organic Initiative requirements are:

- EQIP is to be used to provide technical and financial support for implementation of practices related to organic production to address identified natural resource concerns.
- Payments for organic-related conservation practices to a person or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed, in the aggregate, \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6-year period.
- Payments through EQIP are for implementation of conservation practices approved in the Field Office Technical Guide that assist growers to meet provisions of an Organic System Plan (OSP) as administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS). Payments are not authorized for activities or practice components which are solely production related and are not linked to an identified resource concern.
- Requires that participants using EQIP to transition to an organic production systems implement conservation practices for certified organic production that are consistent with an OSP.
- Requires that participants who already operate certified organic operations implement EQIP practices according to an approved OSP.
- Requires that NRCS terminate EQIP contracts for producers who are either not pursuing organic certification or are not in compliance with the Organic Food Production Act of 1990.
- EQIP payments may not be used for any costs related to organic certification. EQIP payments may not be used to provide an "incentive" for growers to transition to or maintain organic production.
- Producers who sell less than \$5,000 in agricultural products are not required to obtain organic certification or implement practices according to an OSP; however, these producers may voluntarily transition or obtain organic certification. If producers who sell less than \$5,000 in agricultural products elect to pursue organic certification and use EQIP through this special initiative to voluntarily transition to organic certification, they will be subject to the same requirements as noted in this bulletin.

General EQIP Provisions

- **ELIGIBLE PRODUCERS and LAND:** only producers and land currently Certified Organic per the USDA National Organic Program, and/or those producers who self-certify that they are committed to seeking USDA Organic Certification on the identified acreage are eligible for this initiative. Other producers who do not meet these requirements may apply for other EQIP opportunities.
- **CONSERVATION PLAN:** All EQIP applicants will have an on-site visit completed and a conservation plan will be developed in Toolkit on the acres being offered for application *before* the application is ranked. Required documentation will include a resource checklist (CPA-52) and list of conservation practices that the client has agreed to install if funded.

- **APPLICATIONS:** All applications will be entered in ProTracts and ranked using the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool in ProTracts. Ranking will be done in the county in which the producer signs up for the program and that county will manage the EQIP contract. Payment limitations, adjusted gross income (AGI), and producer eligibility **must be** verified before the application status is changed to eligible.
- **APPLICANTS:** Applicants **must** prove control of the land for the contract period to meet basic eligibility requirements. The proof can be a Deed or other evidence of ownership, a lease, or documented historical use of the land. Applicants that are entities must provide Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Charter or By-laws, court orders, or articles of partnership clearly designating who has signatory authority for the entity at the time of application. Where an applicant is importing or exporting manure, they **must** provide a contract/agreement that shows the terms of receiving or exporting for the life of the EQIP contract. When an applicant is not the owner of the land the landowner **must** sign the contract **or** provide *written permission* to install any structural or vegetative practices on their land.
- **CONTRACTS:** EQIP contracts are written with a minimum term that *ends one year after* the implementation of the last scheduled practice, and a maximum term of ten years. Contracts record the details of payments for implementing conservation practices and are legally binding documents. Only practices being implemented with EQIP financial assistance are listed in the contract. Practices must be implemented according to NRCS technical standards.
- **PAYMENT LIMITATIONS:** Payments for organic-related conservation practices to a person or legal entity, directly or indirectly, may not exceed, in the aggregate, \$20,000 per year or \$80,000 during any 6-year period. Producers cannot receive a contract for more than the remaining balance of the payment limitation. The payment limitation can be reviewed in Fund Manager. Additional information on combined payment limitations with 2002 and 2008 Farm Bill contracts can be found in CPM-440-515.92 C
- **HISTORICALLY UNDERSERVED PRODUCERS:** Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, and Socially Disadvantaged producers as defined in the EQIP rule at 7 CFR 1466.3, are eligible for higher practice payment rates. Payment rates for these producers are 25% greater than the payment rate for other producers. Producers in these groups are held to the same per practice payment caps as other producers. Ten (10) percent of the states allocated EQIP funds will be available for historically underserved producers.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Participants may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider for EQIP technical assistance. In order to be reimbursed the **Technical Service Provider must be in TechReg**, and the technical assistance practice code must be in the contract prior to service being provided. Technical assistance can be paid on all 2009 EQIP funded practices.

Ranking Highlights:

- The Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts will be used to rank all applications. AERT includes National, State and local priorities.

- The state's specific resource concerns are: soil erosion, soil condition, water quality, air quality, plant condition, domestic animals and fish and wildlife concerns specific to Indiana.
- A portion of the EQIP Organic ranking is based on the applications efficiency score. This score takes into account the degree of cost effectiveness, the treatment of multiple resource concerns, the use of practices that provide environmental enhancements for a longer period of time, and the magnitude of the environmental benefits resulting from treatment of National, State, and local resource concerns

Ranking points are only available for practices that will address existing resource concerns (as defined in the Quality Criteria in Section III, Indiana Electronic Field Office Technical Guide). Practices that a producer wishes to implement on lands that currently meet the Quality Criteria, but will result in greater environmental benefit are eligible for funding but will be ranked accordingly.

- **EQIP livestock practices** such as, but not limited to 313, 359, 561, and 382 will have to meet the following requirements:
- **Animal Units:**
 - Animal units are calculated as the average weight times the number of animals divided by 1000.
 - Payment rates using Animal Units (AU) for the 'Unit Type' for payment purposes will be based on or up to the existing facility capacity at the time of application.
- **Confined Livestock Operations:**
 - **New facilities:** Are eligible for payments **only** where **existing** confined facilities will be closed, for environmental benefits, and moved to a new location. The new facility may include up to a 20% increase in animal units compared to the facility that is closing. Herd increases over 20% are not eligible for funding. The closure (Closure of Waste Impoundments – 360) and the new facility must both be included in the EQIP contract.
 - **Existing and or expansion:**
 - Eligible when implemented to solve an existing resource concern on an existing facility site with less than 20% expansion of the Animal Units within the same species.
 - Where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more on an existing facility, payment will be based on the EXPANSION scenario up to the capped amount.
- **Grazing Livestock Operations:**
 - As of the date of the application, sites that do not have the species and animal units that the practices are planned for adjacent to an existing livestock operation under ownership of the applicant, do not have resource concerns addressed by those planned practices, and will be ranked accordingly unless the livestock will go from a confined or overstocked situation to a Prescribed Grazing system, with no more than a 20% increase in animal units.
 - This requirement is not intended to prevent using Pasture and Hayland Seeding (512) to convert cropland to pasture or hay. In this case, the cropland could have existing resource concerns like air quality, energy, excessive nutrients, organic matter depletion, or soil erosion that would be addressed by

the conversion to pasture or hay and should be ranked accordingly.

Funding Highlights:

- EQIP Organic funding will be distributed according to the following:
 - 25% of all potential EQIP Organic Initiative funding will be distributed to each NRCS Indiana Administrative Area, and applications funded based on ranking score.

TSP TA

- Technical assistance funding (TSP TA) will be available for immediate use on 2009 applications. \$250,000 in TA funds has been reserved. This allows the actual amount of TA to be included in a FY09 application and carry right into an approved contract without the need for contract modification. The TA must only be used for a FY09 scheduled and installed practice.

Payment Indexing

- Implementation of payment indexing to move on schedule practices to the current year payment schedule has been postponed to 2010. On schedule 2007 and 2008 practices will not receive payments based on the 2009 payment schedule.

FY 2009 EQIP Organic Schedule of Events

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
Ongoing	Participants request conservation plans	NRCS/Partners
May 8, 2009	Release final AERT, payment schedule, and Organic Guidelines to field	Programs/Technology
May 11, 2009	Start accepting EQIP Organic Initiative applications	Field
May 11, 2009	Training to field- teleconference	Programs/Technology
May 29, 2009	End of sign up period, Applications received by this date will be considered for 09 funding	Field
June 5, 2009	All applications entered in ProTracts and ranked	Field
July 15, 2009	All QA completed and applications moved to approved	Area
August 15, 2009	Final date to "accept obligation" in Fund manager and "sign contract" in ProTracts. Funds must be obligated into contracts (National requirement)	Area

Indiana 2009 EQIP Organic Practice List
Payment Schedule, Special Provisions, Restrictions, and Requirements

Practices Eligible for Payments

Payment schedule rates for conservation practices were developed to promote positive conservation outcomes tailored to the environmental needs of Indiana. Cost sharing by a percentage and incentive payments are no longer available. Practice schedule payments are payments for the installation of a specific practice. Payments are based on the statewide documented cost of installation and offered as a payment per unit of the practice installed. Example: 500 feet of Access Road is installed, 500 ft (Unit) X \$7.25 (Unit Payment Rate) = \$3625.00 (EQIP payment). Payment schedule amounts will not exceed dollar caps placed on specific practices. 2009 EQIP practices, payment rates, caps and special provisions are in the table below.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
472	Access Control	Access Control - From Stream or Wetland or Woodland	AC	72	PR	100	720	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Payment is to be used for livestock exclusion only, livestock must currently be present in the area intended to be protected to qualify for this Payment. ❑ Area protected must have a minimum of 30 ft distance to water in the case of streams, measured from barrier to waters edge. ❑ In the case of wetlands, the area protected is the portion of wetland present on the contract acres that is protected by the exclusion. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
560	Access Road	Access Road - One Way Traffic	FT	5.00	PR	100		
365 or 366	Anaerobic Digester, Ambient Temperature or Controlled Temperature	Anaerobic Digester	AU	150.00	PR	100	200,000	✓
		Anaerobic Digester - EXPANSION	AU	60.00	PR	100	80,000	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Payment is eligible for the digester vessel, cover, internal equipment, controls, gas piping and flare portions of the digester only. ❑ Digesters must address an existing resource concern. ❑ Producers are required to acquire their own Technical Assistance (no NRCS or TSP design available). 								
316	Animal Mortality Facility	Animal Mortality Facility-animal units composted	AU	507.00	PR	100	20,000	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Animal Units (AU) are defined as 1000 lbs. of animals being composted. Refer to the CIT for the appropriate determination of AU for payment. 							
575	Animal Trails and Walkways	Animal Trails and Walkway	FT	3.31	PR	100		✓

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
370	Atmospheric Resource Quality Management	Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement Systems	AC	21.00	PR	100	21,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Available for implementing the following practices on the same acreage: No-till + Nutrient Management/Waste Utilization + Cover crops + Buffers as a system. <input type="checkbox"/> All 4 practices must meet applicable standards. <input type="checkbox"/> Available if at least 1 of the 4 practices is currently not installed on the offered acres. <input type="checkbox"/> This Payment is limited to 1000 acres per applicant per year and is in addition to any other Payment or Payments for the individual practices for the system. <input type="checkbox"/> No fall commercial nitrogen application for spring seeded crops (corn/soybean) unless a nitrification inhibitor is used. Fall applications of DAP and MAP are permitted. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under a Corn/Wheat/Double-crop Soybean rotation is already energy efficient, offers limited opportunity or benefit from the addition of a cover crop and are therefore not eligible for this payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under a Corn/Soybean/Wheat rotation will only be eligible for up to 2 years of payment (when a cover crop is seeded into or following wheat and/or when a cover crop is seeded into or after corn). <input type="checkbox"/> No-Till must be <u>continuous</u> throughout the rotation. <input type="checkbox"/> Buffers must be adjacent to all water bodies and must be at least 2% of the enrolled acres. <input type="checkbox"/> Sink holes shall only be considered water bodies when they hold water long enough to prevent cropping. <input type="checkbox"/> Prioritize buffer areas as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Water bodies (Required). 2. Sensitive areas. 3. Treating resource concerns where they exist in each field. 4. Between land use changes. 5. Establish buffer in low yielding areas <input type="checkbox"/> Buffers may not be used to buffer other buffers. <input type="checkbox"/> CRP, GRP and WRP acres are eligible to meet the buffer requirement, but can not be included in the acres for the payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Cover crops must be installed on all enrolled acres each year to receive the full payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres on which cover crops are harvested (for grain or forage) are not eligible for this Payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Fertilizer applications specifically for the cover crop are not permitted. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under CSP contracts are not eligible for this Payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Participants are required to analyze their operations using the NRCS Energy Calculators (Tillage and Nitrogen) annually and COMET-VR for the planned rotation, and provide output reports to NRCS. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments	Closure of Waste Impoundments	CU FT	0.15	PR	100	7,500	√
317	Composting Facility	Composting Facility	SQ FT	0.50	PR	100		√

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
327	Conservation Cover	Muck Soils	AC	364.00	PR	100		
		Introduced Cool Season Grasses	AC	225.00	PR	100		
		Native Grasses	AC	261.00	PR	100		
328	Conservation Crop Rotation	Conversion to Organic Farming	AC	102.00	PR	100	10,200	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Available only under the Organic application type in ProTracts <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible only for cropland (including hay in rotation) that is being converted to USDA Certified organic farming during the 3-year transition period. Existing permanent pasture or hayland and/or conversion to permanent pasture or hayland is not eligible. <input type="checkbox"/> Organic farming must meet the established USDA definition of organic farming under federal code (7CFR-205) establishing the National Organic Program (NOP). <input type="checkbox"/> The operation does not have to be totally "certified" to qualify, but would have to have an organic system plan or equivalent that documents their plan to meet the NOP requirements during the transition period. <input type="checkbox"/> USDA web link for organic farming information is http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexNet.htm <input type="checkbox"/> Also see the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Organic Resource Guide at http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/Organic_Resource_Handout.pdf <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
340	Cover Crop	Cover Crop	AC	45.00	PR	100	15,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The cover crop can not be mechanically harvested for grain, seed or forage. This includes dry hay, straw, baleage, silage, haylage, green chop or etc. (unless waived via Indiana bulletin 300-9-1). <input type="checkbox"/> Grazing of cover crops is allowed if used to address an existing resource concern caused by existing livestock, and the cover crops will be grazed according to a grazing plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
342	Critical Area Planting	Critical Area Planting	AC	622.00	PR	100		
362	Diversion	Diversion	FT	1.71	PR	100		
554	Drainage Water Management	Drainage Water Management	AC	40.00	PR	100	2,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Payment for this practice is for the acres being managed under this practice. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management	Strip Disking	AC	14.00	PR	100		
		Strip Spraying	AC	15.00	PR	100		
		Prescribed Burning or Inter-seeding Forbs	AC	50.00	PR	100		
		Woodland Edge Feathering and Forest Regeneration Openings	AC	303.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Strip disking, strip spraying and prescribed burning</u> are eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. Maximum of 100 acres of any combination. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Woodland edge feathering</u> is a one time \$303/acre per tract payment. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
592	Feed Management	Feed Management	AU	1.00	PR	100	1,000	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This payment applies only to confined livestock facilities. <input type="checkbox"/> Producers must have a Feed Management plan, developed by a qualified individual, which meets the 592 standard to reduce Nitrogen and/or Phosphorus loads, reduce feed and water wastage and use, reduce overall manure production and/or improve air quality. <input type="checkbox"/> Animal units for the payment will be determined by the Animal Units (AU) present at any one time at the location or facility. <input type="checkbox"/> NRCS will not provide Technical Assistance (neither directly nor through TSPs). <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
382	Fence	Permanent Fence	FT	0.55	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fence is only eligible if used to exclude livestock from environmentally-sensitive areas (472-Access Control) or for Waste Storage Ponds/Lagoons (313; 359) or for pasture management that will meet the Indiana FOTG Prescribed Grazing (528) standard. <input type="checkbox"/> Fence is not eligible around crop fields for the purpose of grazing crop residues. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NOTE: Temporary Interior Fence is included in the Prescribed Grazing (528) payment rate. 							
386	Field Border	Field Border	AC	245.00	PR	100		
393	Filter Strip	Muck Soils	AC	384.00	PR	100		
	Filter Strip	Filter Strip	AC	255.00	PR	100		
511	Forage Harvest Management	Forage Harvest Management	AC	9.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible if both of the following are not currently occurring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A forage sample of each cutting of hay will be taken. <input type="checkbox"/> Scouting of the re-growth prior to each cutting will occur. 							
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Forest Stand Improvement	AC	34.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The offered forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 acres. <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 10 acres of 666 must be scheduled in the contract. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is not authorized where the amount of work is less than 200 diameter inches or less than 10 sq. ft. of basal area/acre or at least 30 grapevines per acre. <input type="checkbox"/> A Forestry Plan meeting Forest Management Plan – Written (106) standard must be developed prior to receiving payment. NOTE: a plan developed outside of EQIP Financial Assistance for 106 meets this requirement as long as the plan meets the 106 standard, Forest stewardship plans qualify. 							
655	Forest Trails and Landings	Erosion control on forest trails and landings	AC	317.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is only for the actual acres needing treatment. <input type="checkbox"/> A Forestry Plan meeting Forest Management Plan – Written (106) standard must be developed prior to receiving payment. NOTE: a plan developed outside of EQIP Financial Assistance for 106 meets this requirement as long as the plan meets the 106 standard, Forest stewardship plans qualify. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute/Pipe Drop or Other	NO	2205.00	PR	100		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Straight Pipe Structure	NO	1110.00	PR	100		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Concrete or Aluminum Toewall	NO	3488.00	PR	100		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Large Structure (Drainage Areas > 300 acres, or > 300 cfs)	NO	5663.00	PR	100		
412	Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway	AC	2230.00	PR	100		
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection	SQ FT	0.50	PR	100	10,000	√
422	Hedgerow Planting	Hedgerow Planting	FT	0.19	PR	100		
449	Irrigation Water Management	Irrigation Water Management - Implementation	AC	8.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Management must decrease non-point source pollution of surface or ground water resources or result in increased efficiency of water use or increased energy efficiency. <input type="checkbox"/> A Uniformity Test and flow monitoring is required the first year payment is received. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is for detailed record keeping and data collection, and irrigating according to an approved irrigation scheduling program (such as Purdue's Michiana Irrigation Scheduler or equivalent). <input type="checkbox"/> Payment provided only for existing irrigation systems. Participant must have irrigated 2 of the past 5 years per EQIP policy. The participants' statement or the DCs knowledge of this is acceptable proof. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
441 &/or 442	Irrigation System, Microirrigation	Irrigation Systems -Microirrigation system upgrade	NO	1500	PR	100	7500	
	Irrigation System, Sprinkler	Irrigation Systems - Sprinkler system upgrade	NO	1500	PR	100	7500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is for upgrading <u>existing</u> systems to make them more energy and/or water efficient. <input type="checkbox"/> The need for upgrading the existing system to be more energy and/or water efficient must be identified in an Irrigation Water Management Plan meeting the 118 standard prior to receiving payment. <input type="checkbox"/> The EQIP application must also include Irrigation Water Management (449). 								
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Lined Waterway or Outlet	FT	28.92	PR	100		
484	Mulching	Mulching - Without Erosion Control Blanket	AC	309.00	PR	100		
	Mulching	Mulching - Erosion Control Blanket	AC	3383.00	PR	100		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 484 is only eligible as a component of another practice for the purpose of establishment of permanent vegetative cover. 								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
590	Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - Basic Management	AC	5.00	PR	100	2,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible land must not currently be under a nutrient management plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible on cropland or pastureland only if at least one of the following 3 scenarios is currently occurring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Soil testing has not occurred within the last 4 years, but regular soil testing will occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrogen is currently being applied in the fall / early winter without a nitrification inhibitor. Nitrogen will now be injected with a nitrification inhibitor or not applied in the fall / early winter. Surface applications of DAP and MAP are permitted but not on frozen or snow-covered ground. <input type="checkbox"/> Nitrogen is currently applied as a single pre-plant application, but will be split applied/side-dressed. <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same contract year. Acreage previously covered by 590 in an EQIP contract are not eligible again for the 590 Basic. <input type="checkbox"/> The Nutrient Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
582	Open Channel	2-Stage Ditches	Ft	4.78	PR	100	20,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for existing constructed channels with > 1 square mile drainage area. <input type="checkbox"/> Site evaluation by person with adequate engineering approval is required prior to contract obligation. 							
	Open Channel	2-Stage Ditches-Shared Ditch	Ft	2.39	PR	100	10,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Where a property line bisects the ditch and both owners agree to installation, each owner receives the Shared Ditch payment rate for their portion of that section. <input type="checkbox"/> Must also meet the conditions for 2-Stage Ditches above. 							
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	Warm & Cool Season Grasses	AC	123.00	PR	100		√
		Legume in Addition to Existing Stands	AC	60.00	PR	100		√
595	Pest Management	Pest Management- Basic Management	AC	3.00	PR	100	1,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible on all cropland and pastureland where pesticides are applied not currently under a pest management plan. Acreage previously covered by 595 in an EQIP contract is not eligible again for the 595 Basic. <input type="checkbox"/> Follow IPM principles (i.e. scouting, pest identification, field history, treatment threshold) for all pesticide applications. <input type="checkbox"/> 3 pest scouting trips/crop per year are required (emergence, mid-season, late season). <input type="checkbox"/> Follow all pesticide label setbacks (as applicable for water bodies, properties and other environmentally sensitive areas) for herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. <input type="checkbox"/> Foliar pesticide applications are only allowed when field scouting discovers pests (e.g. diseases, insects, weeds) at economic threshold levels, as referenced in a Purdue extension/scientific publication, or a predicted threat by Purdue University Specialists. <input type="checkbox"/> The Pest Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
595	Pest Management	Pest Management - IPM Orchards	AC	96.00	PR	100	3,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Eligible on all orchards where pesticides are applied. Growers will use the Ohio State University (OSU) IPM self-assessment tools online (at: http://ipm.osu.edu/pageview.asp?id=10) to obtain a benchmark score for pest management adoption at the start of the EQIP contract. Payments will be based on an annual increase in score of at least 10%, and a minimum score of 60% must be obtained by the end of the third year. ❑ Follow all pesticide label setbacks (as applicable for water bodies, properties and other environmentally sensitive areas) for herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. ❑ Foliar pesticide applications are only allowed when field scouting discovers pests (e.g. diseases, insects, weeds) at economic threshold levels, as referenced in a Purdue extension/scientific publication, or a predicted threat by Purdue University Specialists. Follow IPM principles (e.g. scouting, pest identification, field history, treatment threshold) for all pesticide applications. ❑ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques will include monitoring and forecasting, reduced-risk pesticides, reduced risk technology, cultural control and biologically based control, as applicable, for the crop to be grown. ❑ The Pest Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. ❑ Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
	Pest Management	Pest Management – IPM Vegetable/Truck Crops	AC	48.00	PR	100	1,500	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Eligible on all vegetable and truck crops where pesticides are applied. Growers will use the Ohio State University (OSU) IPM self-assessment tools online (at: http://ipm.osu.edu/pageview.asp?id=10) to obtain a benchmark score for pest management adoption at the start of the EQIP contract. Payments will be based on an annual increase in score of at least 10%, and a minimum score of 60% must be obtained by the end of the third year. ❑ Follow all pesticide label setbacks (as applicable for water bodies, properties and other environmentally sensitive areas) for herbicides, insecticides and fungicides. ❑ Foliar pesticide applications are only allowed when field scouting discovers pests (e.g. diseases, insects, weeds) at economic threshold levels, as referenced in a Purdue extension/scientific publication, or a predicted threat by Purdue University Specialists. Follow IPM principles (e.g. scouting, pest identification, field history, treatment threshold) for all pesticide applications. ❑ Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques will include monitoring and forecasting, reduced-risk pesticides, reduced risk technology, cultural control and biologically based control, as applicable, for the crop to be grown. ❑ The Pest Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. ❑ Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
595	Pest Management	Invasive Species Control	AC	127.00	PR	100	3100	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible only if identified as necessary in an approved Forest Management Plan or Prescribed Grazing Plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible on Forestland or Pastureland to control: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Honeysuckle (Bush or Japanese) <input type="checkbox"/> Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Flora Rose <input type="checkbox"/> Autumn Olive <input type="checkbox"/> Buckthorn <input type="checkbox"/> Periwinkle <input type="checkbox"/> Area of treatment will be a best estimate of the total area of infestation, or by estimating the percent of the total area that is affected. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
516	Pipeline	Pipeline - Bedded	FT	1.22	PR	100		√
	Pipeline	Pipeline Non-Bedded	FT	0.88	PR	100		√
378	Pond	Pond	NO	5601.00	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Ponds (378) are allowed only for livestock watering. <input type="checkbox"/> Economic feasibility of alternate water sources must be evaluated and considered. <input type="checkbox"/> Ponds must be sized for the grazing need or the minimum to meet standards. 							
521A &/or 521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	AC	32,670.00	PR	100		√
	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	AC	1546.00	PR	100		√
<input type="checkbox"/> 521A, and 521B, are allowed only for Waste Storage (313) and Waste Storage Lagoons (359).								
528	Prescribed Grazing	Prescribed Grazing	AC	17.00	PR	100	1,700	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Payments will also be available for other practices required as part of the plan. <input type="checkbox"/> Must have physically started implementing the practices planned for the rotational grazing system to receive the first payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment includes the typical scenario cost of temporary, moveable fencing. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment for 528 is not eligible in the same year and acreage receiving Nutrient Management (590)-Basic or Pest Management (595)-Basic payments. 							
533	Pumping Plant for Water	Pumping Plant for Water Well	NO	780.00	PR	100		
	Pumping Plant for Water	Pumping Plant for Water Control	NO	1594.00	PR	100		√
<input type="checkbox"/> Paid only for livestock water or wetland control.								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Residue Management, No Till	AC	22.00	PR	100	11,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A STIR rating of less than 20 must be documented to receive this Payment. ❑ This practice must be applied to the same acres all 3 years in which the payments are made. ❑ Applicant must have no-tilled for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible (based on the Indiana 329 Practice Standard). ❑ The crop rotation for the contract period must include at least two years of no-till corn. ❑ Must develop nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) plans that are specific for a no-till system, and have any component critical to the success of the system implemented the fall prior to the implementation of no-till. This is to address issues that may limit the success of no-till implementation. Payments will be provided for nutrient management and pest management practices as well if requirements are met. ❑ It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329. ❑ In contracts where 345 is used as a transition, the combined total of both practices will not exceed 2 years of 345 and 3 years of 329. ❑ This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not allowable to pay for 500 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 500 acres of no-till on another. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. ❑ Agronomy Tech Notes 1- 4 are references for this practice at: http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/TechnicalNotes/technicalnotes.html 							
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Residue Management, Mulch Till – Modified No-Till	AC	8.00	PR	100	4,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Practice must meet the Indiana 345 practice standard for modified no-till / high end mulch till system. ❑ A STIR rating of less than 20 must be documented to receive this Payment. ❑ This practice must be applied to the same acres all 3 years in which the payments are made. ❑ Applicant must have mulch tilled (modified no till) and/or no tilled (329) for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible. ❑ The rotation for the contract period must include at least two years of corn. ❑ Must develop nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) plans that are specific for a mulch-till system, and have any component critical to the success of the system implemented the fall prior to the implementation of mulch-till. This is to address issues that may limit the success of mulch-till implementation. Payments will be provided for nutrient management and pest management practices as well if requirements are met. ❑ It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329. ❑ In contracts where 345 is used as a transition, the combined total of both practices will not exceed 2 years of 345 and 3 years of 329. ❑ This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not allowable to pay for 500 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 500 acres of no-till on another. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
643	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	AC	494.00	PR	100		
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Riparian Forest Buffer	AC	407.00	PR	100		
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover	Native Grasses	AC	261.00	PR	100		
558	Roof Runoff Structure	5" & 6" Gutters	FT	2.25	PR	100	4,500	√
	Roof Runoff Structure	Rock Trench	FT	4.12	PR	100	8,200	√
350	Sediment Basin	Settling basin for ag waste	NO	2704.00	PR	100		√
		Sediment basin for ag land	NO	3153.00	PR	100		
<input type="checkbox"/> Ag Land sediment basin is only eligible in areas with >30 acre DA and protecting open water (lake, stream); otherwise use Water and Sediment Control Basin (638)								
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	Shallow Water Development and Management	AC	1710.00	PR	100		
574	Spring Development	Spring Development	NO	1094.00	PR	100		√
578	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing - Rock	NO	1283.00	PR	100		√
	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing Culvert or Concrete	NO	2695.00	PR	100		√
587	Structure For Water Control	Structure For Water Control	NO	774.00	PR	100		
606	Subsurface Drain	Small 6" or less Tile	FT	1.00	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	8" Tile	FT	1.45	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	10" Tile	FT	2.00	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	12" Tile	FT	2.54	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	Large 15" or larger Tile	FT	3.51	PR	100		
<input type="checkbox"/> 606 is paid only as a component of another EQIP practice. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment is not to exceed the payment on the other EQIP practice that 606 is supporting. <input type="checkbox"/> In conjunction with a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, size is limited to 8 inches. <input type="checkbox"/> Exception: Where an existing tile crosses a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, and needs to be replaced; then payment will be provided for replacement of the existing tile for the width of the waterway, regardless of diameter, but diameters greater than 15 inch will be paid at the 15 inch diameter rate.								
600	Terrace	Terrace	FT	3.90	PR	100		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment – cropland	AC	395.00	PR	100		
		Tree and Shrub Establishment - pastureland	AC	321.00	PR	100		
612	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ A Forestry Plan meeting Forest Management Plan – Written (106) standard must be developed prior to receiving payment. NOTE: a plan developed outside of EQIP Financial Assistance for 106 meets this requirement as long as the plan meets the 106 standard, Forest stewardship plans qualify. ❑ The offered upland forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. ❑ The minimum amount of upland tree planting to be completed must be at least 1.0 acre adjacent to existing forestland that results in at least 10 acres of contiguous forest land. ❑ The offered bottomland or wetland forests acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 5 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. ❑ The minimum amount of bottomland or wetland tree planting to be completed must be at least 1.0 acre adjacent to existing forestland that results in at least 5 contiguous acres of forest land. 							
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning	Pruning	AC	40	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Pruning only of plantation hardwood crop trees (Black Walnut, Black Cherry, and Oak Species). ❑ A Forestry Plan meeting Forest Management Plan – Written (106) standard must be developed prior to receiving payment. NOTE: a plan developed outside of EQIP Financial Assistance for 106 meets this requirement as long as the plan meets the 106 standard, Forest stewardship plans qualify. 							
620	Underground Outlet	Small 6" or less Tile	FT	1.00	PR	100		
	Underground Outlet	8" Tile	FT	1.45	PR	100		
	Underground Outlet	10" Tile	FT	2.00				
	Underground Outlet	12" Tile	FT	2.54				
	Underground Outlet	Large 15" or larger Tile	FT	3.51	PR	100		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 620 is paid only as a component of another EQIP practice. ❑ Payment is not to exceed the payment on the other EQIP practice that 620 is supporting. ❑ Diameters greater than 15 inch will be paid at the 15 inch diameter rate. 								
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Native Grasses	AC	270.00	PR	100		
		Tree and Shrubs	AC	395.00	PR	100		
		Introduced Cool Season Grasses	AC	213.00	PR	100		
635	Vegetated Treatment Area	Vegetated Treatment Area	AC	2106.00	PR	100		√

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
313	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit or pre-fabricated	CU FT	0.71	PR	100	50,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit or pre-fabricated EXPANSION	CU FT	0.28	PR	100	20,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit	CU FT	0.14	PR	100	50,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit EXPANSION	CU FT	0.05	PR	100	20,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof	SQ FT	9.98	PR	100	50,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof EXPANSION	SQ FT	3.96	PR	100	20,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof	SQ FT	5.75	PR	100	50,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof EXPANSION	SQ FT	2.30	PR	100	20,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack	SQ FT	7.72	PR	100	50,000	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack EXPANSION	SQ FT	3.09	PR	100	20,000	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ New production facilities are not eligible for payments. ❑ To be eligible for payments a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be written, approved, delivered, and paid for prior to the start of the waste storage facility, and must be used as the basis for the design of this practice. ❑ Payment will be limited to a facility sized for up to an additional 180 days storage. The Indiana Animal Waste Systems Calculator will be used to determine the contracted size of the storage facility and the subsequent amount eligible for payment. ❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer. ❑ If a site has no animals but will be collecting and storing manure from another farm, then the applicant must have a contract to receive manure at the site for the length of the EQIP contract, and provide NRCS with a copy to be eligible for payments. ❑ Eligible when implemented to solve an existing resource concern on an existing facility site with less than 20% expansion of the Animal Units within the same species. ❑ Where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more, payment will be based on the EXPANSION scenario up to the capped amount. 							
629	Waste Treatment	Biofilter – ‘bed’ type	No.	375			6,000	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Producers are required to acquire their own Technical Assistance (no NRCS or TSP design available). ❑ For existing air quality concerns associated with mechanically ventilated livestock buildings. ❑ Eligible for bed type filters on <u>pit</u> fans only. ❑ Payment is per fan. ❑ Eligible components include biofilter, plenums, exhaust fan upgrades, and moisture management systems. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon	CU FT	0.14	PR	100	50,000	✓
	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon EXPANSION	CU FT	0.05	PR	100	20,000	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ New production facilities are not eligible for payments. ❑ To be eligible for payments a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be written, approved, delivered, and paid for prior to the start of the waste treatment lagoon, and must be used as the basis for the design of this practice. ❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer. ❑ If a site has no animals but will be collecting and storing manure from another farm, then the applicant must have a contract to receive manure at the site for the length of the EQIP contract, and provide NRCS with a copy to be eligible for payments. ❑ When implemented to solve an existing resource concern on an existing facility site with less than 20% expansion of the Animal Units within the same species, payments may be up to the capped amount. ❑ Where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more, payments will be based on the EXPANSION scenario up to the capped amount. 							
633	Waste Utilization	Waste Utilization-Basic Management	AC	23.00	PR	100	5750	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Available for crop and pasture/hay fields where animal wastes are being utilized. ❑ Land must not currently be under an NRCS waste utilization or nutrient management plan. Acreage previously covered by 633 in an EQIP contract is not eligible again for the 633 Basic. ❑ Only fields with a soil test phosphorus level of <50 ppm (100 lbs) per acre will be eligible. ❑ The applicant can be the generator or receiver of the waste and must have control of the fields that receive the waste during the life of the contract. ❑ Criteria for the payment are tied to the fields that will receive the manure. ❑ Pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) and/or chlorophyll meter (SPAD) must be completed on cropland receiving manure. Follow Purdue University CES publication (AY-314-W or AY-317-W) guidelines. ❑ Soil test must have been completed within the last 4 years to be valid. The number of acres necessary for manure application shall be based on the IDEM "Manure Application Land Requirements." ❑ Municipal sewage sludge applications are not eligible. ❑ Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same contract year. ❑ The Waste Utilization Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. ❑ Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. ❑ Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
633	Waste Utilization	Waste Utilization-High Management	AC	28.00	PR	100	7,000	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Available for the additional management/costs associated with cover crops and/or nitrification inhibitors. <input type="checkbox"/> Must meet the requirements of Waste Utilization-Basic Management, plus either of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Manure applications on summer (after wheat), fall, winter or after corn silage allowed only with a cover crop, established prior to or within 2 weeks after manure application, and/or the use of a nitrification inhibitor. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for spring manure applications, only if switching manure application from summer (after wheat), fall or winter. <input type="checkbox"/> Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same year. <input type="checkbox"/> This Payment is in addition to any other Payment for the cover crop (340). <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin	Water & Sediment Control Basin	No.	1247.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Water & Sediment Control Basin (638) requires the following three conditions to be met: <input type="checkbox"/> Practices 590 (Nutrient Management) and 595 (Pest Management) must already be implemented or implementation started within the year the structure is being built. <input type="checkbox"/> Fields within the watershed of the structure must be managed to "T", or practices must be installed in the year the structure is built that brings the soil loss to "T". <input type="checkbox"/> All of these requirements apply within the entire drainage area of the WASCObS, whether on the applicant's land or adjacent land. If these requirements are not met, practice 638 is not eligible for a payment. 							
642	Water Well	Drilled Well	FT	12.00	PR	100		√
	Water Well	Dug Well	FT	40.00	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Paid only for livestock watering <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule Pumping Plant for pump separately 							
614	Watering Facility	Portable Tank-Plastic	NO	94.00	PR	100		√
	Watering Facility	Ball Fountain or Concrete tank	NO	615.00	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Schedule Heavy Use Area Protection (561) as needed 							
351	Well Decommissioning	Well Decommissioning	NO	125.00	PR	100		
657	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration	AC	1534.00	PR	100		
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	AC	15.00	PR	100	500	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Payment to manage area for wetland wildlife for a maximum of 25 acres per applicant per year. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual practices installed under this practice will be paid at rates established for the practices installed. <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for up to three payments to encourage adoption. 							
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	FT	0.58	PR	100		

NOTE: The cap column is the maximum payment that will be paid for a practice regardless of the units installed or the unit cost of the item.

Historically Underserved Instructions:

Limited Resource Farmers:

- Limited Resource Farmers have the responsibility to prove that they are eligible for that Special Group. Potential Limited Resource Farmers must meet the definition of ag producer and meet both of the following:
 1. Direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$155,200 in each of the previous two years.*1

AND

 2. A total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.*2
 - Limited Resource Farmers should go to this link <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/tool.asp> and run the tool to see if they meet the requirements.
 - Prior to signing the EQIP contract, producers will have to show District Conservationists the following two items from the IRS 1040 for the previous two tax years: 1. the Gross farm income, generally on line 11 of Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming to substantiate gross farm sales and; 2. the Adjusted Gross Income, generally on line 33 of the 1040 to substantiate household income less than 50 percent of the county median. The IRS 1040 form must be the signed document as filed with IRS, copies are acceptable.
 - All members of an entity must meet the Limited Resource Farmer requirement.
 - District conservationists will document in assistance notes that they have confirmed the Limited Resource Farmer status. Copies of 1040's and schedule F's will NOT be maintained by NRCS.
- *1 This value will be adjusted for inflation beginning in 2010 using the "Prices Paid by Farmer Index" compiled by **NASS**.
- *2 Total household income will be determined annually and indexed for inflation using Commerce Department Data.

Beginning farmer:

- Beginning Farmers have the responsibility to prove that they are eligible for that Special Group. Potential Beginning Farmers must meet the definition of ag producer and meet both of the following:
 1. Be an individual or entity that has NOT operated a farm, or who has operated a farm for not more than 10 consecutive years. (This requirement applies to all members of an entity.)

AND

 2. Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Prior to signing the EQIP contract producers must show District Conservationists at least one IRS 1040 from the previous ten years where Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming, has NOT been filed. Information from Schedule F is generally found on line 18 of the 1040. The IRS 1040 form must be the signed document as filed with IRS, copies are acceptable.
- All members of an entity must meet the Beginning Farmer requirement.
- District conservationists will document in assistance notes that they have confirmed the Beginning Farmer status. Copies of 1040's and schedule F's will NOT be maintained by NRCS.

Socially Disadvantaged farmer:

- Is a member of a group that has been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices because of their identity as a member of a group, without regard to their individual qualities.
- Gender alone is not a covered group.
- There is no validation process for participants who self certify as belonging to a socially disadvantaged group.
- See CPM-440-512.5 for additional information

Producer Eligibility:

- To be eligible to participate in the EQIP Organic Initiative, an applicant must be an agricultural producer. To be considered an agricultural producer, there must be a minimum of \$1,000 in agricultural products sold, or that normally would have been sold, in a normal year.

Producers with **only** forest land must have one of the following to be considered eligible:

- A forest management plan or forest stewardship plan.
- A prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales.
- Proof of capital investment in forest practices.

See CPM 440-515.51 for additional information on producer eligibility.

In addition to the above, producers must also meet the requirements for the Organic Initiative:

- Currently be operating the eligible land under a USDA Certified Organic System Plan (OSP)
- Complete the self-certified statement that they are pursuing USDA Certified Organic certification

Land Eligibility:

Eligible land is land on which agricultural commodities or livestock are produced and includes cropland, grassland, pastureland, and private non-industrial private forest. ***Reclaimed mine land is eligible only if it has been used as agricultural land and has been released from bond. NRCS must have written proof that the bond has been released.***

See CPM-440-515.52 for additional information on land eligibility.

Technical Assistance from TSPs:

EQIP participants may choose to hire a TechReg certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist them with the technical assistance activities to design and implement their contracted practices. TSP technical assistance (TA) funds will be provided, subject to fund availability, for any practice scheduled to be implemented in calendar year 2009 (FY09 applications and prior-year EQIP contracts) – (**NOTE:** FY09 applications should have the TSP TA scheduled in the application; Prior Year contracts will need to be modified to add the TSP TA practices), subject to the following exceptions:

- Technical Assistance is only available for practices that have a total estimated installation cost less than \$100,000. Engineering on individual projects over \$100,000 will not be completed by NRCS; therefore, TSP TA is only available where the estimated installation cost is less than \$100,000. See the NRCS Indiana Supplement to Part 502 – Responsibilities, of the National Engineering Manual for related NRCS Indiana policy at http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual_supplements.html.

- CNMPs scheduled in Prior Year contracts – these individuals should apply for an FY09 CNMP-only application, and modify their current contract to delete the 100 or 102 Practice Code.

The following TA activities are eligible for payments to producers, **except** NRCS will not provide direct technical assistance, or TSP TA funding, for assistance on Feed Management (592), Anaerobic Digesters (365/366), or Biofilters (629):

1. 911 Design (all other practices)
2. 912 Installation (all other practices)
3. 913 Checkout (all other practices)

Payments to the producer for 911, 912 or 913 can be made upon delivery of the required documents to NRCS as stated in the Statements of Work for the practice located in Section IV of the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). The Nutrient Management Plan and Pest Management Plan checklists meet these requirements. Payments for practices **912 and 913 shall be submitted together**, and should also be processed with the payment for the associated practice since the 912 and 913 activities will certify that the practice was installed according to NRCS standards and specifications. Payments will be made for the billed amount up to the TSP Technical Service Payment Rate for the specific practice and service. For all practice codes, the maximum payment available to the EQIP participant will be based on the TSP Technical Service Payment rates published on TechReg, available at <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/NTE/TSPNTE2/index.asp>. Copies of the final TSP Technical Service Payment rates obtained from TechReg will be filed in the participant's file. The producer may or may not be reimbursed for the actual amount charged by the TSP provider. Service provider charges are NOT determined nor controlled by the Technical Service Payment rates posted on TechReg. The Technical Service Payment rates reflect the market analysis completed by NRCS for providing the service and establish the NRCS payment cap for the service. Service provider rates are negotiable between the provider and the producer.

TSP TA For All Engineering Practices: all three TA activities (911, 912, and 913) must be scheduled and completed by the TSP. TA practice code 911 will not be scheduled without 912 and 913.

TSP TA Guidance for Practices with Multiple Years of Application: 911, 912, and 913 are only available 1 time per contract on a practice. 912 and 913 are only eligible the first year of practice implementation. Practices implemented previously are not eligible for 912 and 913. Practices scheduled this year but not previously implemented are eligible for 912 and 913.

TSP TA Step-By-Step Instructions for NRCS and for EQIP Applicants are available at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqiphomepage.html>

Using ProTracts Application Fund Codes:

Specific fund codes will be used for the Organic Initiative.

Potential Duplicative Payments:

NRCS must ensure that 2009 EQIP contracts do not include practices that may cause duplicate payments with Conservation Security Program payments. See Indiana Bulletin 300-8-7 for the list of Conservation practices that may create potential duplicative payments between multiple USDA program payments.

Products to the Participant:

NRCS shall provide one signed copy of the NRCS-CPA-1202, NRCS-CPA-1202 appendix, Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT), and NRCS-CPA-1155 to the participant when the "Approved" EQIP contract is signed by the participant. Every signatory to the contract that receives any payment share greater than 0% shall receive a copy of the listed documents.