

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Indiana State Guidelines

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

General EQIP Provisions

- **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** checked at time of application, and **must be** resolved 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 application and contract **or** provide *written permission* to install any engineering practices on their land. *There is a new requirement to indicate the dominant livestock species and crop being grown for each contract.*
- **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 cost share and incentive 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:** An individual or entity may not receive, directly or indirectly, cost-share or incentive payments that, in the aggregate, exceed \$450,000 for **all** EQIP contracts entered during the term of the 2002 Farm Bill. The \$450,000 payment limitation will be checked in the ProTracts eligibility screen. Producers cannot receive a contract for more than the remaining balance of the payment limitation. The payment limitation can be reviewed in Fund Manager.

- **SPECIAL GROUPS:** Limited Resource Farmers and Beginning Farmers are eligible for higher cost-share rates. Cost share rates for Limited Resource Farmers are 90%. Cost share rates for Beginning Farmers are 15% greater than the established cost share rate. Example: With a base cost share rate of 50% a Beginning Farmer would receive 65%; at a base cost share rate of 20% a beginning farmer would receive 35%. Both Limited Resource Farmers and Beginning Farmers are held to the same cost share and incentive caps as other producers.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Farmers and ranchers 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 TECH REG, and the technical assistance practice code must be in the contract prior to service being provided. Technical assistance can be paid on all EQIP funded practices.
- **DETERMINING IF AN APPLICATION IS "LIVESTOCK":** To be considered a livestock application, 50% or more of the total cost-share/incentive payments must be for livestock related practices. In accordance with national guidance, 60% of EQIP allocations will be awarded to livestock contracts. If the application is livestock, the predominant livestock species must be entered in ProTracts. The practices considered livestock practices in Indiana are indicated by a check mark in the Livestock Practice column in the Indiana EQIP practice list.

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.
- The Local Work Group will identify the local top ten (10) resource priorities from the State list, and then place them in order of importance. The local points will be calculated as follows: The most important local resource priority will receive the highest points; the second most important local resource priority will receive the second highest points, until available points are disbursed to the top ten local resource priorities.
- A portion of the EQIP 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:
- **Confined 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, do not have a resource concern, and will be ranked accordingly, unless they meet the provisions of importing manure, or if existing confined facilities will be closed for environmental benefits and moved to a new location (Closure of Waste Impoundments – 360, and the new facility must be included in the EQIP contract).
- **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 a resource concern, 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.

Funding Highlights:

- **EQIP Environmental Emergencies and CNMPs:** 10% of the EQIP Funding will be used for Livestock Environmental Emergencies and CNMP-only applications. CNMP-only applications, and any application determined to be a livestock environmental emergency (leaking lagoon, failed waste storage facility, etc.) will be funded on a first come, first served basis, without ranking. CNMP only applications will contain only CNMP and associated TA practices. Livestock Environmental Emergencies shall only contain the practices and TA necessary to adequately address the immediate emergency which is being funded. Any funds remaining by the final selection period that are not used for this purpose will be used for other applications.
- EQIP funding will be distributed according to the following funding pools:

Priority Pool 10%	Non-Livestock 40%	Livestock 50%
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 - Priority Pool will consist of ALL “CNMP only” applications and any Livestock Environmental Emergency applications received which are certified as eligible for this designation by the Area Office.
 - Eligible Priority Ranking Pool applications will be funded as they come in and are certified as eligible.
 - Non-Livestock and Livestock applications must meet the normal rules for funding as noted earlier in this document under the **“DETERMINING IF AN APPLICATION IS “LIVESTOCK”** section.
- All applications within a specific funding pool will compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis. As of the funding round cutoff date, ranked applications above the median score of all the applications in a pool will be offered funding.
- Applications not funded in a previous round, or applications received after a funding round cutoff date, will compete for funding in the next available round. This procedure will be used until all EQIP funds have been awarded.
- The Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System is a new incentive. This is an incentive payment for a bundle of specific practices that when combined provide a greater environmental benefit and establish a basis for a market based approach to conservation. Indiana’s Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System consists of No-till, Nutrient Management, Cover Crops, and Buffers used in combination and will be a component of the Cover Crop practice.

Current FY EQIP Schedule of Events

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
Dec. 5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Instructions to promote deferred prior year applications that wish to continue. 2. Deferrals promoted by Dec. 15th. 3. Continuously accept new applications and determine producer eligibility (ag. producer, AGI, payment limitation, entity eligibility and signatory authority, control of land, and LRP or BF status). Change status to "Eligible" if applicable. If not eligible send Eligibility Letter to applicant. 4. Bulletin to field with current fiscal year EQIP instructions. 5. News release to public to announce program and cutoff date for 1st Round funding. 6. Ranking and EQIP criteria posted to web. 7. Area begins Quality Assurance review process of rankings and plans as they are completed in ProTracts. When QA is complete, change status to "Preapproved". 8. Statewide training to review process 	<p style="text-align: center;">Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Field</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Field</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Public Affairs Staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Area Programs Specialists</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs & Technology Staff</p>
Dec. 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 1st Round cutoff date for all new applications (NRCS-CPA-1200) completed and signed between 10-1 and 12-15, and all deferred prior year applications that were promoted. These will be considered in 1st Round funding. 	Field
Jan. 15	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All QA reviews completed on all applications that were signed by 12-15 and are planned and ranked. Status is "Preapproved". 	Area Programs Specialists
Jan. 25	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applications will be selected for funding based on median ranking scores. Status in ProTracts will be changed to "Approved". 2. Field will check for "Approved" applications in ProTracts and begin taking action to obligate. Print the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 for producers' signature and send Approval Letter to producer. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Programs</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Field</p>
Feb. 10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Producer has signed the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 (with Programs staff E-signature) and NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC appendix, Field has advised AC that contract is ready to obligate. 2. AC or designee signs the contract in ProTracts and creates the obligation. This finalizes the contract. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Field</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AC or designee</p>

Feb. 20	1. 2 nd Round cutoff date for any new applications signed between 12-15 and 02-20. These will be considered in 2 nd Round funding along with remaining unfunded applications from previous rounds.	
Mar. 10	1. All QA reviews completed on all applications that were signed by 2-20 and are planned and ranked. Status is "Preapproved".	Area Programs Specialists
Mar.15	1. 2 nd Round applications will be selected for funding based on median ranking scores. Status in ProTracts will be changed to "Approved". 2. Field will check for "Approved" applications in ProTracts and begin taking action to obligate. Print the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 for producers' signature and send Approval Letter to producer.	Programs Field
Mar. 30	1. Producer has signed the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 (with Programs staff E-signature) and NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC appendix , Field has advised AC that contract is ready to obligate. 2. AC or designee signs the contract in ProTracts and creates the obligation. This finalizes the contract.	Field AC or designee
Apr.	Additional rounds will be announced if funds become available for applications signed after 2-20	

Indiana EQIP Practice List

Costs, Special Provisions, Restrictions, and Requirements

Cost share rates and incentives for conservation practices are developed to promote positive conservation outcomes tailored to the environmental needs of Indiana. Cost share types for the EQIP program will be Average Cost (AC) and Flat Rate (FR). For AC, the cost share rate is a percentage of the Average Cost per unit to install the practice. The average cost is developed for each practice or component based on cost data collected from actual installation. The maximum cost share rate for any AC practice will be 50 percent of the AC unit cost. Flat Rates (FR) will be used for incentive payments and are on dollar-per-unit basis. Cost share or incentive amounts will not exceed established dollar or acre caps placed on specific practices. EQIP practices, cost share rates, caps and special provisions are in the following table.

Practices Eligible for Incentive Payments	
<p>Incentive payments may be paid up to 3 years. Exceptions are noted in individual practices. Producers may only receive incentive payments for no-till, nutrient management, pest management, cover crop, or the Energy Conservation Bundle on one contract. For example, producers who have received an incentive payment for these practices in a previous contract are not eligible to apply for them on additional tracts or contracts. The purpose of an incentive payment is to enable a trial period for an on-farm management change to achieve a desired environmental outcome. Incentive caps apply to the client/producer; the client may not sign up additional farms or split applications to obtain additional incentive payments.</p>	
Practices Eligible for Cost Share Payments	
<p>Cost share payments are one time payments for the installation of a specific practice. The cost share amount is controlled by a combination of the Average Cost per unit or caps on the total practice cost.</p>	

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
340	Cover Crop	Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System	AC	20.00	FR	100	20,000.00	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Available for implementing 329 (No-till) + 590 (Nutrient Management) and or 633 (Waste Utilization) + 340 (Cover crops) + Buffers (386, 393, 332, 390, 391, 412, 422, and/or 380) as a system. <input type="checkbox"/> Available if at least 1 of the 4 practices is currently not installed on the offered acres. <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 buffers as follows <ol 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 <input type="checkbox"/> Buffers may not be used to buffer other buffers. <input type="checkbox"/> Buffers around sinkholes are eligible for inclusion in the 2% minimum requirement. <input type="checkbox"/> This incentive is limited to 1000 acres per applicant per year and is in addition to any other incentive or cost share for the individual practices for the system. <input type="checkbox"/> Producers must install cover crops on all enrolled acres each year to receive the full payment. <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 incentive payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Acres under CSP contracts are not eligible for this incentive. 						

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
560	Access Road	Access Road - One Way Traffic	FT	12.02	AC	50		
702	Agrichemical Handling Facility	Mixing and Loading pad only	SQ FT	13.70	AC	50		
365	Anaerobic Digester	Anaerobic Digester – Ambient	NO	20,000.00	FR	100	20,000.00	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> This incentive is a one time only payment.								
366	Anaerobic Digester	Anaerobic Digester – Controlled Temperature	NO	20,000.00	FR	100	20,000.00	✓
<input type="checkbox"/> This incentive is a one time only payment.								
316	Animal Mortality Facility	Animal Mortality – Timber Walls	SQ FT	16.00	AC	50		✓
	Animal Mortality Facility	Animal Mortality – Concrete Walls	SQ FT	29.07	AC	50		✓
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments	Closure of Waste Impoundments	CU FT	0.75	AC	50	5,000.00	✓
317	Composting Facility	Roofed Concrete Floor	SQ FT	16.00	AC	50	25,000.00	✓
	Composting Facility	No Roof-Concrete Pad	SQ FT	2.75	AC	50	25,000.00	✓
	Composting Facility	No Roof-Gravel Pad	SQ FT	1.00	AC	50	25,000.00	✓
100	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	No	1000.00	FR	100	1,000.00	✓
	<input type="checkbox"/> A <i>one time incentive payment</i> is available to implement the CNMP.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Applications with CNMPs-only and associated TA will be funded on a first-come, first served basis without ranking.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Applications with CNMPs and other practices will compete in normal funding pools based on their ranking score.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> CNMP's are required on a Waste Storage Facility (313) and Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) and must be completed and paid for prior to the design and installation of the facility or lagoon. The CNMP shall be used as the basis for the design of any waste storage and handling facilities. Producers building a 313 or 359 are eligible for the CNMP incentive payment.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> CNMP's are not required on Composting Facility (317), Animal Mortality Facility (316), or Heavy Use Area Protection (561).							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Livestock producers not building a 313 or 359 and wanting to develop a CNMP on their operation are eligible for the CNMP incentive.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-livestock producers receiving (collecting and storing) manure from another farm are eligible for the Nutrient Management or Waste Utilization incentives, but not the CNMP incentive or funds for a TSP to develop a CNMP. The applicant must also 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 cost share.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-livestock producers receiving manure as part of a contract can build a Waste Storage Facility (313) for storing manure, must develop a CNMP, and are eligible for the CNMP and nutrient/waste management incentives.							
	<input type="checkbox"/> By technical definition, a CNMP is a conservation system that is unique to animal feeding operations (AFO's). It should address all land units that the animal feeding operation (AFO) owner and/or operator owns or has decision-making authority over and on which manure and organic by-products will be							

generated, handled, stored or applied.

- ❑ For EQIP purposes, the CNMP is written/ developed on all acres owned or under decision-making authority at that AFO (i.e. may not include ground 5 miles away that normally does not receive manure and rented ground not under long term contract). CNMP implementation is required on all acres identified to be receiving manure. At the minimum, the CNMP is developed and implemented on all tracts under contract. The CNMP may identify additional acres not currently under EQIP contract that will need to be added which could be done so with a contract modification.
- ❑ For EQIP purposes, an AFO that applies for 313/359 and hauls the manure offsite (i.e. poultry facility with only a few acres), must show control over the land where manure is applied to be eligible for the facility cost-share, CNMP incentive, and any nutrient management incentives for the duration of the EQIP contract.
- ❑ For CNMPs, Animal Units (AU) are defined as 1000 lbs. of live animal. Total animal units are based on the number of animals on the farm at any one time (a snapshot) and are not based on the farm's yearly production. See the Agricultural Waste Management Field Handbook for additional information on animal units and waste calculations.
- ❑ Producers required to develop a CNMP must be informed of the CNMP requirements. Refer to the [NRCS AFO CNMP Handout](#), [IN NRCS CNMP Checklist](#) and the CNMP Guidance for Minimum Requirements @ <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/agronomy/CNMP%20Requirements%2012-19-05.pdf>.
- ❑ See the [Indiana Agronomy web page](#) for additional information on CNMP requirements.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
327	Conservation Cover	Conservation Cover	AC	117.00	AC	50		
328	Conservation Cropping Rotation	Conversion to Organic Farming	AC	50.00	FR	100	5,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Eligible only for cropland that is being converted to organic farming. <input type="checkbox"/> Organic farming must meet the established USDA definition of organic farming under federal code (7CFR- 205) establishing the National Organic Program. <input type="checkbox"/> The operation does not have to be totally "certified" to qualify, but would have to have an organic system plan that was agreed to by a certifying agent under the federal or approved state program. <input type="checkbox"/> The incentive is capped at \$5,000.00 per applicant per year. <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 							
656	Constructed Wetland	Constructed Wetland	AC	643.00	AC	50	5,000.00	
332	Contour Buffer Strip	Contour Buffer Strip	AC	150.00	AC	50		
340	Cover Crop	Cover Crop	AC	15.00	FR	100	3,750.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clients who have received cover crop payments under a previous EQIP contract are not eligible. 							
342	Critical Area Planting	Critical Area Planting	AC	950.00	AC	50		
589C	Cross Wind Trap Strips	Cross Wind Trap Strips	AC	200.00	FR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Must establish a permanent warm season grass trap strip with a minimum 15 foot width. 							
362	Diversion	Diversion	FT	2.50	AC	50		
554	Drainage Water Management	Drainage Water Management	AC	40.00	FR	100	2,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Incentive payment for this practice is for the acres being managed under this practice. 							
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management	Strip Disking and Spraying and prescribed burning	AC	15.00	FR	100		
	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management	Woodland Edge Feathering and Forest Regeneration Openings	AC	250.00	FR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Strip disking, strip spraying and prescribed burning</u> is eligible for the incentive for up to 3 years. <input type="checkbox"/> <u>Woodland edge feathering</u> is a one time \$250/acre per tract payment. <input type="checkbox"/> Maximum of 100 acres of any combination. 							
592	Feed Management	Feed Management	AU	1.00	FR	100	1000.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> This incentive 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 Phosphorus loads, reduce feed and water wastage and use, and reduce overall manure production. <input type="checkbox"/> Animal units for the incentive payment will be determined by the Animal units present at any one time at the location or facility. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
382	Fence	Permanent Exterior Fence	FT	2.02	AC	20		√
	Fence	Permanent Interior Fence	FT	1.18	AC	50		√
	Fence	Temporary Interior Fence	FT	0.29	AC	50		√
386	Field Border	Field Border	FT	.37	AC	50		
393	Filter Strip	Filter Strip	AC	125.00	AC	50		
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Forest Stand Improvement	AC	68.00	AC	50		
	Forest Stand Improvement	Forest Stand Improvement – Storm Damaged Areas	AC	106.00	AC	50		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The offered forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 acres. ❑ A minimum of 10 acres of 666 must be scheduled in the contract. ❑ A Forestry Plan meeting the Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share. 							
655	Forest Trails and Landings	Forest Trails and Landings	AC	677.00	AC	50		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ The offered forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 contiguous acres. ❑ A Forestry Plan meeting the Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share. 							
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute less than 4' overfall	NO	2,500.00	AC	50		
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute 4' or greater overfall	NO	4,000.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Grout	CU YDS	115.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop <4' overfall	NO	2,600.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop 4-8' overfall	NO	3,500.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Pipe Drop >8' overfall	NO	4,500.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Straight Pipe Structure	NO	1,500.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Concrete Toewall	NO	5,000.00	AC	50		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Aluminum Toewall	NO	6,500.00	AC	50		
	412	Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway	AC	3,280.00	AC	50	

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection Gravel Pad w/Goertextile	SQ FT	0.75	AC	50	20,000.00	✓
	Heavy Use Area Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection Concrete Pad	SQ FT	2.75	AC	50	20,000.00	✓
	Heavy Use Area Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection – Winter Feeding w/roofs	SQ FT	16.86	AC	20	20,000.00	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Winter Feeding Buildings built according to 561 Heavy Use Area Protection, must be sited in a pasture and must not be used as a confined feeding floor. ❑ New EQIP rules for cost share on buildings apply to these structures. 							
422	Hedgerow Planting	Hedgerow Planting	FT	1.50	AC	50		
449	Irrigation Water Management	Irrigation Water Management	AC	3.00	FR	100	300.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Management must decrease non-point source pollution of surface or ground water resources or result in increased efficiency of water use. ❑ Incentive provided only for existing irrigation systems. Producer must have irrigated 2 of the past 5 years per EQIP policy. The producers' statement or the DCs knowledge of this is acceptable proof. 							
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Lined Waterway or Outlet	FT	36.00	AC	50		
634	Manure Transfer	Manure Transfer from Storage to Field	NO	5,000.00	FR	100	5,000.00	✓
	Manure Transfer	Manure Transfer from Production Site to Storage	NO	5,000.00	FR	100	5,000.00	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Available where a producer does NOT currently meet the practice standard and makes significant changes in waste handling to meet the practice standard. ❑ An incentive of \$ 5,000 on a manure transfer system from a production site to a storage area. ❑ An incentive of \$ 5,000 on a manure transfer system from a storage area to the field. ❑ Only one of each transfer system (\$10,000 in total incentives) is allowed per applicant (a one year, one time incentive for each system). 							
484	Mulching	Mulching - Without Erosion Control Blanket	AC	456.00	AC	50		
	Mulching	Mulching - Erosion Control Blanket	AC	7,775.00	AC	50		
590	Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - Without Animal Waste	AC	5.00	FR	100	1,250	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Eligible land must not currently be under a nutrient management plan. ❑ Clients who have received nutrient management payments under a previous EQIP contract are not eligible. ❑ Incentive payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same contract year. ❑ The Nutrient Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	Warm Season Grasses	AC	150.00	AC	50		√
	Pasture and Hay Planting	Cool Season Grasses	AC	145.00	AC	50		√
	Pasture and Hay Planting	Legume in Addition to Existing Stands	AC	56.00	AC	50		√
595	Pest Management	Pest Management	AC	4.00	FR	100	1,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Only eligible if used in conjunction with Residue Management – No Till (329) and/or Residue Management – Mulch Till (Indiana Modified No-Till) (345), or is within the drainage area of a WASCOB. ❑ Eligible land must not currently be under a pest management plan. ❑ Clients who have received pest management payments under a previous EQIP contract are not eligible. ❑ The Pest Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application. 							
516	Pipeline	Pipeline - Bedded	FT	2.52	AC	50		√
	Pipeline	Pipeline Non-Bedded	FT	1.66	AC	50		√
378	Pond	Pond	NO	8,950.00	AC	50		√
521C	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite Sealant	Pond Sealing or Lining, Bentonite	AC	21,563.00	AC	50		√
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	AC	65,340.00	AC	50		√
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	AC	3,488.00	AC	50		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 378, 521A, 521B, and 521C are cost shared only for livestock watering, Waste Storage (313) and Waste Storage Lagoons (359). 							
338	Prescribed Burning	Prescribed Burning	AC	30.00	AC	50		
409	Prescribed Forestry Mgt	Prescribed Forestry Mgt	NO	100	FR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Eligible for a one time only incentive to develop a Prescribed Forestry Plan that meets the 409 standard. ❑ The offered upland forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. ❑ The offered bottomland or wetland forests acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 5 acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. ❑ Producer is also eligible for TSP TA under Planning on Forestland TA (910 Planning + travel) at the TechReg NTE rate for this practice. 							
528	Prescribed Grazing	Prescribed Grazing	AC	10.00	FR	100	1250.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Incentive payment is made during the first 3 years of the contract. ❑ Cost share payments will also be available for other practices required as part of the plan. ❑ Must have physically started working towards implementing the practices planned for the rotational grazing system to receive the first incentive payment. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
533	Pumping Plant for Water	Pumping Plant for Water Control	NO	2,450.00	AC	50		√
<input type="checkbox"/> Cost shared only for livestock water or wetland control.								
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Residue Management, No Till	AC	20.00	FR	100	5,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A STIR rating of less than 10 must be documented to receive this incentive. <input type="checkbox"/> This practice must be applied to the same acres all 3 years in which the incentive payments are made. <input type="checkbox"/> Clients who have received no-till (329 or 329A) incentive payments under a previous EQIP contract are not eligible. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant must have no-tilled for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible (based on the current Indiana 329 Practice Standard). <input type="checkbox"/> The rotation for the contract period must include at least two years of no-till corn. <input type="checkbox"/> Must implement nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) the fall prior to the implementation of no-till. This is to address issues that may limit the success of no-till implementation. <input type="checkbox"/> Incentive payments will be provided for nutrient management and pest management practices as well if requirements are met. <input type="checkbox"/> It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not intended to pay for 250 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 250 acres of no-till on another. 							
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Residue Management, Mulch Till – Modified No-Till	AC	8.00	FR	100	2,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Practice must meet the Indiana 345 practice standard for modified no-till / high end mulch till system. <input type="checkbox"/> A STIR rating of less than 20 must be documented to receive this incentive. <input type="checkbox"/> This practice must be applied to the same acres all 3 years in which the incentive payments are made. <input type="checkbox"/> Clients who have received mulch till or no-till (345, 329 or 329A) incentive payments under a previous EQIP contract are not eligible. <input type="checkbox"/> Applicant must have mulch tilled (modified no till) and/or no tilled (329) for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible. <input type="checkbox"/> The rotation for the contract period must include at least two years of corn. <input type="checkbox"/> Must implement nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) the fall prior to the implementation of the mulch till system. This is to address issues that may limit the success of mulch till implementation. Incentive payments will be provided for these practices as well. <input type="checkbox"/> It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not intended to pay for 250 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 250 acres of no-till on another. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
643	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	AC	369.00	AC	50		
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Riparian Forest Buffer	AC	471.00	AC	50		
558	Roof Runoff Structure	5" Gutters	Lin Ft	3.75	AC	50	3,750.00	√
	Roof Runoff Structure	6" Gutters	Lin Ft	4.50	AC	50	3,750.00	√
350	Sediment Basin	Sediment Basin	NO	8950.00	AC	50		
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	Shallow Water Development and Management	AC	2000.00	AC	50		
574	Spring Development	Spring Development	NO	2,000.00	AC	50		√
578	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing - Rock	NO	2,500.00	AC	50		√
	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing - Culvert	NO	4,720.00	AC	50		√
	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing - Concrete	NO	5,370.00	AC	50		√
580	Streambank & Shoreline Protection	Riprap or Gabion	FT	80.00	AC	50	4000.00	
	Streambank & Shoreline Protection	Bioengineering	FT	50.00	AC	50	4000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ This practice must be installed in conjunction with a Riparian Forest Buffer to be eligible for cost share. ❑ The cap is per participant. 							
585	Stripcropping	Stripcropping	AC	12.00	AC	50		
587	Structure For Water Control	Structure For Water Control	NO	1,500.00	AC	50		
606	Subsurface Drain	4" or 5" Tile	FT	1.30	AC	50		
	Subsurface Drain	6" Tile	FT	1.66	AC	50		
	Subsurface Drain	8" Tile	FT	2.50	AC	50		
	Subsurface Drain	10" Tile	FT	3.63	AC	50		
	Subsurface Drain	12" Tile	FT	4.82	AC	50		
	Subsurface Drain	15" or larger Tile	FT	7.05	AC	50		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ 606 is cost shared only as a component of another EQIP cost shared practice. ❑ Cost share is not to exceed the cost share on the other EQIP practice that 606 is supporting. ❑ In conjunction with a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, size is limited to 8 inches. ❑ Exception: Where an existing tile crosses a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, and needs to be replaced; then cost share 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 cost shared at the 15 inch diameter rate. 								
600	Terrace	Terrace	FT	8.00	AC	50		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
612	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment (General)	AC	488.00	AC	50		
	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment (Fine Hardwoods)	AC	522.00	AC	50		
	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment – Post Planting Herbicide Treatment	AC	45.00	AC	50		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> A Forestry Plan meeting Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share. <input type="checkbox"/> The offered upland forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. <input type="checkbox"/> 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 contiguous acres of forest land. <input type="checkbox"/> 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. <input type="checkbox"/> 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	Tree Shrub Pruning	AC	68.00	AC	50		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The offered forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented. <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 10 acres of 660 must be scheduled in the contract. <input type="checkbox"/> A Forestry Plan meeting Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share. 							
620	Underground Outlet	4" or 5" Tile	FT	1.30	AC	50		
	Underground Outlet	6" Tile	FT	1.66	AC	50		
	Underground Outlet	8" Tile	FT	2.50	AC	50		
	Underground Outlet	10" Tile	FT	3.63	AC	50		
	Underground Outlet	12" Tile	FT	4.82	AC	50		
	Underground Outlet	15" or larger Tile	FT	7.05	AC	50		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 620 is cost shared only as a component of another EQIP cost shared practice. <input type="checkbox"/> Cost share is not to exceed the cost share on the other EQIP practice that 620 is supporting. <input type="checkbox"/> Diameters greater than 15 inch will be cost shared at the 15 inch diameter rate. 								
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Warm Season Grass Planting	AC	178.00	AC	50		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Tree and Shrub Planting	AC	488.00	AC	50		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Cool Season Grass Planting	AC	89.00	AC	50		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
472	Use Exclusion	Use Exclusion - From Stream or Wetland or Woodland	AC	250.00	FR	100	2,500.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Incentive to be used for livestock exclusion only, livestock must currently be present in the area intended to be protected to qualify for this incentive. ❑ 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. 							
313	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit	CU FT	1.56	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit EXPANSION or NEW	CU FT	1.56	AC	20	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit	CU FT	1.03	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit EXPANSION or NEW	CU FT	1.03	AC	20	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof	SQ FT	18.48	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof EXPANSION or NEW	SQ FT	18.48	AC	20	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof	SQ FT	13.48	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof EXPANSION or NEW	SQ FT	13.48	AC	20	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack	SQ FT	16.00	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack EXPANSION or NEW	SQ FT	16.00	AC	20	18,000.00	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ To be eligible for cost share 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 for the design of this practice. ❑ 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 cost share. Cost share will be 50% of AC cost up to the capped amount. ❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer during the Inventory and Evaluation process. ❑ 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, cost share will be 50% of AC cost up to the capped amount. ❑ In situations where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more on an existing facility site, or involves a new facility, cost share will be 20% of the AC cost up to the capped amount. 								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon	CU FT	1.03	AC	50	45,000.00	√
	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon EXPANSION or NEW	CU FT	1.03	AC	20	18,000.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ To be eligible for cost share 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 for the design of this practice. ❑ 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 cost share. Cost share will be 50% of AC cost up to the capped amount. ❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer during the Inventory and Evaluation process. ❑ 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, cost share will be 50% of AC cost up to the capped amount. ❑ In situations where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more on an existing facility site, or involves a new facility, cost share will be 20% of the AC cost up to the capped amount. 							
633	Waste Utilization	Waste Utilization (Less than or equal to 50 ppm)	AC	30.00	FR	100	7,500.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Only available for crop fields where animal wastes are being utilized. ❑ Only fields with a soil test phosphorus level of <50 ppm (100 lbs) per acre will be eligible. ❑ The applicant can be the person whose farm is generating the waste or the person receiving the waste. ❑ The applicant must have control of the fields that are to receive the waste during the contract. ❑ Eligible land must not currently be under a nutrient management plan. ❑ Criteria for the incentive are tied to the fields that will receive the manure. ❑ Pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) must be completed on land receiving manure. ❑ Soil test must have been completed within the last 4 years to be valid. The number of acres necessary for manure application should be based on the IDEM "Manure Application Land Requirements." ❑ Incentive 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. 							
635	Waste Water Treatment Strip	Waste Water Treatment Strip	AC	3,280.00	AC	50		√
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin	Water & Sediment Control Basin	NO	2,060.00	AC	50		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Water & Sediment Control Basin (638) requires the following three conditions to be met: ❑ Practices 590 (Nutrient Management) and 595 (Pest Management) must already be implemented or implementation started within the year the structure is being built. ❑ 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". ❑ 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 and component practices will not be cost shared. 							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Unit Type	FY 07 Unit Cost	Cost Type	Share Rate	Cost share cap	Livestock Practice
642	Water Well	Water Well	FT	37.19	AC	50		✓
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cost shared only for livestock watering							
614	Watering Facility	Portable Tank-Plastic (includes HUAP)	NO	577.00	AC	50		✓
	Watering Facility	Portable Tank-Plastic (without HUAP)	NO	232.00	AC	50		✓
	Watering Facility	Ball Fountain (includes HUAP)	NO	1476.00	AC	50		✓
	Watering Facility	Concrete Tank (includes HUAP)	NO	1188.00	AC	50		✓
351	Well Decommissioning	Well Decommissioning	NO	227.00	AC	50		
657	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration	AC	643.00	AC	50		
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	AC	20.00	FR	100	500.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Incentive to manage area for wetland wildlife for a maximum of 25 acres per applicant per year. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual practices installed under this contract will be cost shared at rates established for the practices installed.							
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	FT	1.00	AC	50		
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	FT	0.30	AC	50		
910	TA Planning	TA Planning	NO	NTE rate	AM	100		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Available only for the development of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) or Prescribed Forestry plans (409) scheduled in the current fiscal year.							
911	TA Design	TA Design	NO	NTE rate	AM	100		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Available for the development of a Design (Tree Planting Plan, Engineering Design, Pest/Nutrient Management Plan, etc.) for any practice scheduled for the current fiscal year.							
912	TA Application	TA Application	NO	NTE rate	AM	100		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Available for the Installation (Pre-Construction Assistance, Location of Setbacks, Staking and Layout, installation inspection/assistance, permits, compliance with laws/regulations, etc.) for any practice scheduled to be implemented in the current fiscal year.							
913	TA Checkout	TA Checkout	NO	NTE rate	AM	100		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Available for the Checkout (records of implementation, certification that the installed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications, etc.) of any practice scheduled to be implemented in the current fiscal year.							

The cost share cap column is the maximum amount of cost share or incentive that will be paid for a practice regardless of the units installed or the unit cost of the item.

Special 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 \$113,600 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/> 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.

*1 This value will be increased beginning in fiscal year 2005 to adjust for inflation 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.

Producer Eligibility:

To be eligible to participate in EQIP, 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. New entities (LLCs, partnerships, and corporations) must meet the \$1,000 in agricultural sales requirement as the entity.

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 515.61 for additional information on producer eligibility.

Land Eligibility:

Eligible land is land on which agricultural commodities or livestock are produced and includes cropland, grassland, pastureland, private, and non-industrial 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 515.62 for additional information on land eligibility.

Portable Equipment:

Portable pumps and/or portable engines are the only portable equipment authorized for payment through NRCS cost share programs, and must be an eligible component of a structural practice included in the Field Office Technical Guide. Portable pumps or engines shall be approved the State Conservation Engineer on a case by case basis where the use would result in environmental benefits over a larger geographic area.

All cost shared equipment will be examined during contract reviews to assure it is operated and maintained on the contract acres according to practice standards and contract requirements. It has been determined that fence and watering tanks ***are not considered*** portable "equipment".

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 availability, for any practice in current fiscal year EQIP contracts, 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.
- Contracts prior to FY03 are not eligible for any TSP TA assistance.
- FY03 and FY04 contracts are eligible for TSP TA assistance on engineering practices only, and where the TSP service will be completed in the current CY.
- FY05 and newer contracts are eligible for TSP TA assistance on any practice only if the TSP services can be completed in the current CY.

- NRCS will not provide direct technical assistance, or TSP TA funding, for assistance on Feed Management or Anaerobic Digesters.

The following TA activities are eligible for payments to producers:

1. 910 Planning (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans and Prescribed Forestry only)
2. 911 Design (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)
3. 912 Installation (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)
4. 913 Checkout (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)

Payments to the producer for 910, 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, Pest Management Plan and CNMP checklists meet these requirements.

Payments for practices **912 and 913 shall be submitted together**, and should also be processed with the cost-share or incentive payment for the practice since 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 "Not To Exceed" 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 Not-To-Exceed (NTE) rates published on TechReg, available at <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/NTE/TSPNTE2/index.asp>. Copies of the final TSP NTE 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 NTE rates posted on TechReg. The NTE rates reflect the NRCS cost for providing the service and establish the NRCS cost share 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 Incentive Practices with Multiple Years of Application: 911, 912, and 913 are only available 1 time per contract on incentive practices. 912 and 913 are only eligible the first year of practice implementation. Incentive practices implemented previously are not eligible for 912 and 913. Practices scheduled this year but not previously implemented are eligible for 912 and 913.

Waivers to Begin Practices:

Starting a practice before the contract is approved by NRCS causes the applicant to be ineligible for EQIP financial assistance for that practice, unless a waiver has been granted. If the practice has not been started, applicants may request the State Conservationist grant a waiver ***in special cases and for meritorious reasons such as alleviation of imminent and significant environmental problems, prevention of endangerment to life or property, or adverse weather conditions***. The waiver will expire at the end of the fiscal year in which it is granted. Once an applicant signs a Waiver Request, the District Conservationists shall immediately forward the Waiver Request to the Area Conservationist for review. The Area Conservationist will forward the request to the State Conservationist through the ASTC for Programs.

Using ProTracts Application Priority:

The Application Priority feature in ProTracts will be used to assign the application type (CNMP, Emergency, Livestock, Non-livestock) to each application and assist in tracking current fiscal year EQIP applications by funding pools. **CNMP** only and Livestock **Environmental Emergencies** applications will be given the **HIGH** priority rating. **Livestock** applications will be given the **MEDIUM** rating. **Non-Livestock** applications will be given the **LOW** rating. District Conservationists will enter the application priority rating at the time the application is being ranked.

Producer Furnished Labor and Equipment Costs:

When a producer furnishes labor or equipment for the installation of an EQIP cost shared practice that has an AM cost type, the rates must be reasonable and customary for the work performed. If local costs are not readily available for the typical work performed then District Conservationists should use the following references to help determine if labor and machinery charges billed are reasonable.

Local tool rental store or material supply houses can assist with tool, machinery, and supply costs.

Local tractor dealers may be able to provide information on tractor use and cost, or short term leasing costs.

Local contractors may provide their average costs to perform certain tasks.

<http://www.gpo.gov/davisbacon/in.html> (current Davis Bacon federal contract wage rates)

<http://www.ces.purdue.edu/extmedia/EC/EC-130-W.pdf> (2004 Purdue machinery rates, Indiana)

<http://www.isabellacounty.org/dept/msue/06customworkrates.pdf> (2005-06 Isabella Co. machinery rates, Michigan)

<http://www.doane.com/machinery05.pdf> (2006 Doane's Agricultural Report® machinery rates, Iowa)

<http://www-agecon.ag.ohio-state.edu/programs/FarmManagement/OhioFarmCustomRates2006.pdf> (2006 Ohio State machinery rates, Ohio)

Products to the Participant:

NRCS shall provide one signed copy of the NRCS-CPA-1200, 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. For entities, every signatory to the contract shall receive a copy of the listed documents.