

**Farm Bill 2002 – Environmental Quality Incentives Program**  
**Environment Quality Incentives Program – Applicant Ranking Procedures for**  
**Indiana/Clay County**

***The EQIP Ranking Process for 2003***

The four state wide resources concerns are:

**Livestock** – Water quality is negatively impacted because of animal production activities.

Clay County Concerns:

- Contract will include Prescribed Grazing
- Practices will be applied to correct pollution from dead animal composting.
- Practices will be applied to address air quality concerns.
- Nutrient management will be used to address phosphorous soil test levels in excess of crop need.
- Contract boundaries are <1/2 mile from a stream (blue dotted or solid lines on USGS map)
- Contract will exclude livestock from streams and/or woods of which they currently have access.
- Any part of the offered area that falls within county concern area (see map)

Local ranking criteria based on:

- 3 concerns that apply – High
- 2 concerns that apply – Medium
- 1 - 0 concerns that apply – Low

**Water Quality** – Water quality is negatively impacted by agricultural activities.

Clay County resource concerns –

- Watersheds above public wellhead protection areas or Public water intake. (See office map)
- Watersheds having > 50% HEL cropland. ( B slope or greater)
- Nutrient management plan is a component of a Resource management system.
- Establish a minimum width buffer area as specified in the FOTG Standards & Spec. along water bodies (ponds, lakes, and dotted/solid blue lines on USGS topo)
- Offered Land unit is 600 ft or less from a waterbody.

Local ranking criteria based on:

- 3 concerns that apply – High
- 2 concerns that apply – Medium
- 1 - 0 concerns that apply – Low

**Erosion** – Soil quality is negatively impacted by excessive erosion.

Clay concerns –

- \* Watersheds cropland having >50% HEL (B slopes or greater)
- Applicants adopting/implementing high residue management systems retaining 80% of existing residue on the surface, on cropland for the life of the contract.
- Applicants adopting/implementing high residue management systems retaining 50% to 80% of existing residue on the surface, on cropland for the life of the contract.
- Applicants who will convert erosive cropland (B slopes or greater according to the Soil Survey) to permanent vegetation.

Local ranking criteria based on:

- 3 concerns that apply – High
- 2 concerns that apply – Medium
- 1 concern that apply – Low

**Forest Health** – Forest quality is negatively impacted.

Clay County Concerns:

- Trees will be planted on the offered tract ( 2 hits )
- \* Timberstand Improvement will be implemented on the offered tract ( 1 hit )
- \* Livestock will be excluded from wooded areas where they currently graze. ( 2 hits )
- Land unit being ranked is 200 ft. to 600 ft. from a water body. ( 1 hit )
- Land unit being ranked is less than 200 ft to a water body. ( 3 hits )
- 51% of total acres to be planted to trees are B slopes or steeper. (2 hits )

Local ranking criteria based on:

- 4-6 hits - High
- 2-3 hits – Medium
- 0-1 hits - Low

Each application will be ranked for both state and local concerns. Each application will receive a score that is a composite of the statewide and local ranking. The scores will range from high for both state and local resource concerns (HH) to low for both (LL). The applications will be broken into 9 tiers for planning priority and funding. The first letter represents the local ranking and the second represents the state ranking.

1. HH – High ranking for both local and state criteria
2. HM – High for local and medium for state.