

NEWS RELEASE

CONSERVATION COMMENTS

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Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

EQIP – Signup Available

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has an ongoing signup at the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office. NRCS has announced a March 4, 2011 cutoff date. All applications filed by that date will be scored and considered for funding under the 2011 program year. EQIP can be used for a number of things. Payment rates have been established for Minnesota that assist with practices from A to Z. Structural practices for erosion control such as water and sediment control basins, terraces, diversions, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, & streambank stabilization. There are per acre payments established to develop plans and adopt nutrient management, pesticide management, drainage water management, no-till, prescribed grazing, conservation crop rotation, cover crops, access control, and irrigation water management. The program can provide assistance for sealing wells, converting irrigators to low pressure nozzles, fencing and watering systems for prescribed grazing, brush control/herbaceous weed control, and seasonal high tunnels. Practices like wetland restorations, native grass plantings, windbreak plantings, prescribed burning, pollinator habitat management, and other wildlife habitat practices can be assisted with. If there are animal waste pollution problems to correct the program can assist with waste storage facilities, covers over feedlots, gutters to divert water, and wastewater treatment.

As you can see there are a variety of things that can be worked on, and the payments vary for each one. If you are interested in discussing options or being considered the deadline for application consideration for this year is March 4. Call our office in Madison, MN to set up an appointment @ 320-598-7321, ext 3.

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