Funding Invasive Plant Projects Through the Farm Bill

2004 Cal-I PC Symposium
John Warner, NRCS
October 8, 2004
Conservation Provisions of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
  $832,100,000
- Wetlands Reserve Program  $275,200,000
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program
  $33,300,000

Fiscal Year 2004
USDA News Release 1/28/04
All NRCS Programs

- Voluntary participation
- Focus on private lands
- Non-regulatory
- Confidentiality of case file data
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Help farmers and ranchers reduce soil erosion, improve water quality & quantity and protect grazing land.
- Provides technical and financial assistance.
- Calif received $57 million for Fiscal Year 2004.
Eligibility Requirements

- Must be an agricultural producer
- Must have control of the land for life of project
- $2.5 million adjusted gross income limit
Sunflower Family (Asteraceae)

Yellow starthistle (Centaurea solstitialis)

UC Statewide IPM Project
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California Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was established in the 1996 Farm Bill to provide a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address significant natural resource concerns. Nationally, it provides technical, financial, and educational assistance primarily in designated priority areas to address natural resource concerns. The 2002 Farm Bill made significant changes to the EQIP Program. Please check back often to this web site and the NRCS National web site for current information.

Fact Sheets & General Information

- Current EQIP Program Fact Sheets
- NRCS EQIP National Program Information
- NRCS Program Appeal Information
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

California EQIP Program, Contract, and Practice Data Reports

The following documents require Adobe Acrobat.

Fiscal Year 2002 (5.6 MB)
Fiscal Year 2001 (4.3 MB)
Fiscal Year 2000 (2.4 MB)
Fiscal Year 1999 (2.0 MB)
The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) was established in the 1996 Farm Bill to provide a single, voluntary conservation program for farmers and ranchers to address significant natural resource concerns. Nationally, it provides technical and financial assistance to address natural resource concerns. Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), EQIP was reauthorized in the 2002 Farm Bill and awards cost share assistance to projects which provide significant environmental benefit. Eligible farmers and ranchers may apply for EQIP program benefits at any time. Application ranking periods are established to allow evaluation of projects and awarding of contracts based upon an environmental score for each application that achieves the natural resource benefits identified by local, state and national priorities. Practices eligible for cost share and the environmental score is calculated based on ranking criteria developed with input from Local Work Groups (LWG) and the State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). To be considered for fiscal year 2004 EQIP program benefits, producers must have submitted an application and required eligibility documentation to their local NRCS office no later than close of business on January 30, 2004. Contact your local NRCS office as soon as possible as some NRCS Designated Conservationists may have established an application deadline earlier than January 30, 2004.

Eligibility

Eligible producers engaged in livestock or crop production on eligible land may apply for EQIP program benefits. Eligible land includes cropland; rangeland; grassland; pastureland; private non-industrial forestland; and other farm or ranchlands as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture. Submittal of all applications, determination of eligibility and project evaluation is completed at the local NRCS level.

2004 EQIP Program Information

- California Statewide EQIP Program Priorities, Ranking Information and Statewide Cost Lists
- California EQIP Funding Allocation
- California County EQIP Program and Application Information - New!
- NRCS National EQIP Program
Locate your county on the map below to find the practices available for cost-share and download the Excel spreadsheet that NRCS offices use to evaluate EQIP applications and determine the amount of money that can be cost-shared.

Map of California by County
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Local Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>Mojave Desert EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Mojave Desert Local Cost Share List</th>
<th>Chino Basin EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Chino Basin Local Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Local Practice Cost Share List</th>
<th>EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Local Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Local Approved Practice Cost Share List</th>
<th>EQIP Program Description</th>
<th>Confined Animal Feeding Operation Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>Cropland Ranking Criteria</th>
<th>Rangeland Resource Concern Ranking Criteria</th>
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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (Fiscal Year 2004)
State of California - County Program Description for San Benito and Santa Clara Counties
Watersheds - All watersheds
Administrative Office/Contact: USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service
2337 Technology Parkway, Suite C
Hollister, CA 95023
(831) 637-4360

Introduction
San Benito County and Santa Clara County are located in the interior coastal mountains and
valleys of central California. San Benito County covers 889,020 acres and Santa Clara County
covers 826,050 acres. Combined irrigated land is about 55,000 acres and combined grazing land
is about 986,000 acres. Irrigated cropland is in the Santa Clara Basin, which drains to the San
Francisco Bay via Coyote Creek, and in the Santa Clara, San Juan and Hollister valleys which
drain to the Monterey Bay via the Pajaro River. Irrigated agriculture is primarily built around
vegetable crops and fruit and nut orchards. Irrigation water is obtained from local ground water
basins and water imported through the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project. Grazed
land is primarily confined to the mountains and isolated nonirrigated valleys in the Santa Cruz,
Gabilan and Diablo Mountain ranges.

EQIP Program
Mr. Bruce Eisenman, Designated Conservationist for San Benito and Santa Clara Counties has
taken into consideration the locally identified resource concerns identified by the Local Work
Group and stakeholders. Funds allocated to the Hollister NRCS office will be initially divided
equally between irrigated cropland and grazed land. Allocated funds not used in one of these
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (2004 EQIP)
NRCS California Statewide Ranking Criteria Worksheet

Detailed Ranking Criteria Worksheet - Factor 3: Local Resource Concerns

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Resource Concern(s)</th>
<th>30 Points</th>
<th>25 Points</th>
<th>20 Points</th>
<th>15 Points</th>
<th>10 Points</th>
<th>5 Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yellow and Purple starthistle (YST/PST) control under a prescribed grazing treatment plan</td>
<td>25 acres or more of YST/PST to be treated.</td>
<td>20 to 24.9 acres of YST/PST to be treated</td>
<td>15 to 19.9 acres of YST/PST to be treated</td>
<td>10 to 14.9 acres of YST/PST to be treated</td>
<td>5 to 9.9 acres of YST/PST to be treated</td>
<td>1 to 4.9 acres of YST/PST to be treated</td>
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<td>Yellow and Purple starthistle (YST/PST) control – community effort - Applies to the...</td>
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<td>15 Points</td>
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<td>Applicant has one or more neighbors participating</td>
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</table>
Yellow Starthistle Control

Year 1. Practice 528A. Prescribed Grazing. Required burn or herbicide treatment. $35/acre.

Year 2. Practice 528A. Prescribed Grazing. $10/acre.

Year 3. Practice 528A. Prescribed Grazing. $10/acre.

http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>State Approved Cost</th>
<th>50% Cost Share</th>
<th>Not-to-exceed $</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fence</td>
<td>$4 LF</td>
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<td>$2 LF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Range</td>
<td>$1,000 acre</td>
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<td>$500 acre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Planting</td>
<td>50% Cost Share</td>
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Rancher Owned Equipment and Self Labor Not-to-Exceed Rates

Drawbar horsepower 90.0 to 129.9
Example: D-7
$90.00 per hour (including the driver)

Hand labor
$15.00 per hour

Materials on Hand
Fair market value
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

- Provides technical and financial assistance to eligible landowners to address wetland, wildlife habitat, soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on private lands in an environmentally beneficial and cost-effective manner
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)

- Offers opportunities to landowners to improve and protect wildlife habitat on private lands
- Provides cost-share payments under 5- to 10-year agreements for upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic wildlife habitats
- Since 1998, nearly 11,000 landowners have enrolled more than 1.6 million acres, with an increasing emphasis on riparian and aquatic habitats.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Conservation Planning</th>
<th>Site</th>
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<td>Individual</td>
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<td>Group</td>
<td>Reach</td>
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<td>Areawide</td>
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http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/