



United States Department of Agriculture

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

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# What is EQIP?



- **Helping People Help the Land.**
- **Provides financial incentives to producers/landowners to voluntarily adopt, install, or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices for resolving resource concerns on their operation.**
- **Provides technical assistance to producers to effectively adopt conservation practices and resolve resource concerns.**
- **Available for land uses Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF), Crop, Pasture, Farmsteads**
- **Available in all counties, and States.**



# Funding



- **EQIP is the main funding program**
  - Has smaller fund pools within it (WTCAC, Local Work Group, Beginning Farmer, Socially Disadvantaged)
  - Special initiative opportunities include Monarch, Climate Smart, Organic, Energy
- **Other Programs related to EQIP**
  - RCPP - Regional Conservation Partnership Program
  - GLRI - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
- **Some Fund Pools are available statewide, and others are limited to certain geographic areas.**
  - Local NRCS staff will help guide you
- **Special rates are available for historically underserved producers such as: socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers**



# EQIP Application Process



- **Applications are accepted all year and batched at least once yearly.... November 4<sup>th</sup> is first batching date!!!**
- **Applicants apply with their local NRCS office. NRCS staff will assist with applicant and land eligibility.**
  - During application process, NRCS staff will complete a site visit and work on planning documents with you. Do NOT start practices prior to receiving a contract.
- **Applications are prioritized and ranked**
  - EQIP is a competitive funding process
- **Applications do not guarantee a contract**



# Eligibility



## Local NRCS staff will help you work through eligibility

- **Eligible Applicants**
  - Agricultural producers (landowners or renters)
  - Indian Tribes
  - Owners of non-industrial private forestland
  - Those with interest in agriculture or forestland
- **Eligible Land**
  - Agricultural or Forested privately owned land
  - Publicly owned land that is part of an agriculture or forest operation
  - Indian land
  - Rented non-industrial private forest or agricultural land
- **Resource Concern Eligibility**
  - At least one resource concern must be identified and addressed with an eligible conservation practice or activity



# Applications

- Available online  
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/wi/programs/financial/eqip/>
- Local NRCS office
- FSA paperwork
  - 2023 AGI for individuals & entities. Tribes exempt
  - AD-1026 HEL and Wetland Compliance
  - 902 – Farm Operating Plan
  - Rental Agreement

## CONSERVATION PROGRAM APPLICATION

Clear Form

Applicant (Decision Maker):	Application Date:
Address:	Location where assistance is requested:
Email:	
Telephone:	Receive text messages (optional):
Assistance Requested:	

Click here for [instructions](#) to complete this form or contact the local office for assistance.

1. Do you have a customer record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA)?  
 Yes  No
2. Interested in participating in the following (select all that apply):
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE)	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	<input type="checkbox"/> Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP)
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	

a) Program enrollment type, activity type, and/or project name, as applicable:

3. Applicant Information:  
 Select the business structure and enter the legal name, and tax identification number for all applicants who will be participants on the contract or agreement including the decision maker.

Business Structure (Mark with an X)		Applicant Legal Name	Tax Number (last four digits)
Individual	Entity		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		

To add more applicants, complete [NRCS-CPA-1200 Continuation Page](#), Applicant Information and attach to this form.

- a) If applicant is a legal entity or joint operation, do you have appropriate documents including proof to sign for the entity or joint operation?  
 Yes  No  N/A

# Steps to Assistance



# 5

## Steps to Assistance

How to Get Assistance from NRCS for Farms, Ranches and Forests

1

PLANNING

Visit your local NRCS field office to discuss your goals and work with staff on a conservation plan.

2

APPLICATION

With the help of NRCS, complete an application for financial assistance programs.

3

ELIGIBILITY

Find out if you're eligible for NRCS' variety of financial assistance programs.

4

RANKING

NRCS ranks applications according to local resource concerns.

5

IMPLEMENTING

Put conservation to work by signing a contract and implementing conservation practices.



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# ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

- **Approximately 130 different practices:**
- **Common practices:**
  - Pasture: pasture and hay land planting, fencing, pipeline and watering facilities, prescribed grazing, and animal trails
  - Crop: cover crops, nutrient management, grassed waterways, diversions, no-till, high tunnel, Wildlife habitat plantings
  - Forest: forest stand improvement, brush management, woody residue treatment, and herbaceous weed control
  - Farmstead/Garden: underground outlet, roof gutters, waste storage, composting facility, high-tunnel



# CPA, DIA, and CEMA

Practice Code	Practice Name	Plan Type
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)	CPA
106	Forest Management Plan	CPA
116	Soil Health Management Plan	CPA
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	CPA
199	Conservation Plan	CPA
101	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)	DIA
120	Agricultural Energy Design	DIA
140	Transition to Organic Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
144	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
148	Pollinator Habitat Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
157	Nutrient Management Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
158	Feed Management Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
159	Grazing Management Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
160	Prescribed Burning Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
161	Pest Management Conservation System Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
162	Soil Health Management Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
163	Irrigation Water Management Design	DIA
164	Drainage Water Management Design	DIA
165	Forest Management Design and Implementation Activity	DIA
207	Site Assessment and Soil Testing for Contaminants Activity	CEMA
216	Soil Health Testing	CEMA
217	Soil and Source Testing for Nutrient Management	CEMA
218	Carbon Sequestration and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation Assessment	CEMA
228	Agricultural Energy Assessment	CEMA



# Agricultural Energy Assessment

## CEMA 228

-Baseline assessment of all energy use of systems, equipment, and facilities for agricultural operations.

Enterprise refers to the different businesses within the operation to be assessed:

- cropland (Field Crop or Fruit/Vegetable)
- livestock production (Dairy, Swine, Poultry, Beef, Buffalo),
- irrigation (Field Crops or Fruit/Vegetable),
- greenhouse
- maple syrup production.



# Agricultural Energy Assessment CEMA 228

## AGRICULTURAL ENERGY ASSESSMENT CEMA 228

	Scenario	Unit	Limit	Payment Rate	Payment Rate HU
5	Large size, 3 Enterprises	No.		\$5,979.62	\$7,175.54
21	Large size, 4+ Enterprises	No.		\$7,183.91	\$8,620.59
37	Large size, 2 Enterprises	No.		\$4,775.33	\$5,730.40
53	Medium size, 4+ Enterprises	No.		\$6,317.11	\$7,580.53
69	Small size, 4+ Enterprises	No.		\$5,617.96	\$6,741.55
85	Medium size, 3 Enterprises	No.		\$5,112.82	\$6,135.38
101	Small size, 3 Enterprises	No.		\$4,413.68	\$5,296.41
117	Medium size, 2 Enterprises	No.		\$3,908.53	\$4,690.24
133	Small size, 2 Enterprises	No.		\$3,209.39	\$3,851.27
149	Large size, 1 Enterprise	No.		\$3,571.05	\$4,285.26
165	Medium size, 1 Enterprise	No.		\$2,704.25	\$3,245.10
181	Small size, 1 Enterprise	No.		\$2,005.10	\$2,406.12

Enterprise refers to the different businesses within the operation: cropland (Field Crop or Fruit/Vegetable), livestock production (Dairy, Swine, Poultry, Beef), irrigation (Field Crops or Fruit/Vegetable), greenhouse or maple syrup production.

**Small:** ≤300 Acres; ≤300 AU; up to 2 irrigation pumps; ≤ 20,000 sq. ft. of heated greenhouse, or a maple syrup enterprise.

**Medium:** 301 to 2,500 ac.; 301 to 1000 AU; 3 to 6 Irrigation Pumps; 20,001 to 40,000 sq. ft. heated greenhouse

**Large:** >2,500 ac.; >1000 AU; 7 or more Irrigation Pumps; >40,001 sq. ft. heated greenhouse

If one operation is MEDIUM or LARGE, select that scenario, with the appropriate number of additional enterprises.



# Agricultural Energy Assessment CEMA 228

## Associated practices that come out of Energy Assessment plans

### ENERGY EFFICIENT AGRICULTURAL OPERATION 374

25 practices scenarios – Fans, Water heaters, variable speed drives, plate cooler, evaporator, reverse osmosis

### ENERGY EFFICIENT BUILDING ENVELOPE 672

-Sealant, Insulation –attic and walls, Insulated Roll-up Door

### ENERGY EFFICIENT LIGHTING SYSTEM 670

4 practice scenarios





## High Tunnel System 325

- **Plant productivity and health**
- **Eligible land – cropland, gardens, hay land, orchard.**
- Crops must be grown in the natural soil profile.
- Raised beds shall not exceed 12 inches in depth
- minimum 6-mil greenhouse grade, UV-resistant material

# Associated Practices with High Tunnel Systems

- Crop rotation
- Irrigation Systems, Micro-Irrigation
- Subsurface Drain
- Nutrient management
- Integrated pest management
- Critical area planting
- Mulching
- Roof runoff structure
- Diversion
- Underground outlets
- Heavy use protection
- Cover crop

## HIGH TUNNEL SYSTEM 325

	Scenario	Unit	Limit	PaymentRate	PaymentRate HU
13	Seasonal High Tunnel	Sq. Ft.		\$3.74	\$4.49
70	Small High Tunnel, Snow and Wind	Sq. Ft.		\$7.23	\$8.67

**Limitations:** Payment is not made until structure is completed and plastic is installed. This practice is now available in the following fund pools; Beginning Farmer, Local Work Groups, Socially Disadvantaged, Organic, and WTCAC.

**Scenario 70** – Use for high tunnels less than or equal to 600 sqft. This scenario is eligible only on PLUs using the Urban land use modifier, and requires prior consultation and approval from State Agronomist.



# Find your Local Service Center

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/wi/home/>

The image displays two screenshots of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Wisconsin website. The top screenshot shows the navigation menu with 'Contact Us' highlighted, and a sub-menu where 'Local Service Centers' is circled in yellow and pointed to by a blue arrow. The bottom screenshot shows the 'Local Service Centers' page, featuring a blue banner with 'CONTACT US LOCAL SERVICE CENTERS' and a list of directories. A blue arrow points to the 'Locate a Local Service Center near you' link in the 'National NRCS Directories' section.



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# Closing

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME!**



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