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TYPES OF LANDS THAT QUALIFY
Cropland, grassland, wetland, forestland

TYPE OF PROGRAM
Restoration and management

MONETARY BENEFIT
Direct payment

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to private landowners and producers. The EQIP provides financial cost-share payments for implementing conservation practices to eligible producers and landowners.

HOW IT WORKS

Conservation practices that meet national resource concerns, such as sedimentation and soil erosion, water quality, air quality, soil health, livestock production and efficiency, and wildlife habitat, are available to producers and landowners. The NRCS provides financial and technical assistance to landowners and producers with the initiative to implement these conservation practices.

Staff from the NRCS work with producers one-on-one to develop a conservation plan based on the producer's goals, needs, and vision for their property. NRCS staff also help implement the practice selected by the landowner from the list of over 200 various practices available.

These conservation plans incorporate practices that will benefit the environment and boost the productivity and efficiency of agricultural and forestry production systems.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Any farmer, producer, or landowner is eligible for assistance through the EQIP. These producers can be row crop producers, specialty and/or organic producers, livestock producers, or landowners interested in wildlife

and/or forestry. Producers interested in the EQIP must also have farm numbers and records established with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Also, new in the 2018 Farm Bill, historically underserved producers can receive both increased and advanced payments to implement these conservation practices in their operation. Traditionally underserved producers include farmers and producers that are beginning, have limited resources, are socially disadvantaged, and/or are military veterans.

COMMON PRACTICES

The following practices are examples of opportunities available, although there are many more practices available. The payment examples are also subject to change each year that funding is available.

Practice Code	Name	Payment
327	Conservation cover (pollinator planting)	\$620.39/acre
315	Herbaceous weed treatment (kudzu)	\$122.78/acre
338	Prescribed burning	\$33.27/acre
394	Firebreak	\$0.12/foot
356	Dike (shallow water area)	\$3.22/yard ³
490	Tree/shrub site preparation	\$42.92/acre
587	Structure for water control	dependent on size of structure
612	Tree/shrub establishment (hardwood)	\$0.74/bare root seedling
666	Forest stand improvement	\$46.25/acre

HOW TO APPLY

Applications are currently being accepted for continuous sign-up at your local USDA Service Center. Contact your local NRCS office for deadlines in your state.

EQIP EXAMPLE

A landowner has a 200-acre tract of pastureland. The landowner would like to enroll half of the land (100 acres) into the EQIP and plant hardwoods on it. NRCS determines that chemical and mechanical site preparation are also needed on the tract due to years of compaction by cattle before hardwood planting can occur at 10' x 10' spacing between trees. Of the 100-acre tract, 5 acres were left out of the planting for a supplemental food plot at the landowner's request. The EQIP agreement states that the landowner will maintain the tree cover for the life of the 15-year term.

Costs

The payment rate from the EQIP practice will reimburse the landowner for chemical site preparation at \$38.34/acre, mechanical site preparation at \$128.29/acre, and seedling cost at \$0.35 per seedling. On 95 acres, at 10' x 10' tree spacing, or 435 trees/acre, the planting will require 41,325 seedlings.

Sample Calculation

$$\$38.34/\text{acre} \times 95 \text{ acres} = \$ 3,642.30$$

$$\$128.29/\text{acre} \times 95 \text{ acres} = \$12,187.55$$

$$\$0.35 \text{ per seedling} \times 41,325 \text{ seedlings} = \$14,463.75$$

With all NRCS specifications met, the landowner is reimbursed the total of these three practices, or \$30,293.60.

HOW ARE EQIP PAYMENTS TAXED?

EQIP payments over and above costs are considered ordinary income and are taxed at the ordinary income rate.



The Mississippi Land Trust works with willing private landowners and government agencies to protect fish and wildlife habitat in Mississippi.

P.O. Box 23 | Stoneville, MS 38776
662.820.9774 | www.misslandtrust.org



The Mississippi River Trust works with willing private landowners and government agencies to protect fish and wildlife habitat in the Lower Mississippi River region.

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Wildlife Mississippi works with willing private landowners and government agencies to conserve fish and wildlife habitat in Mississippi.

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