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TREE FARM BULLETIN

2014 Farm Bill - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to plan and implement conservation practices that improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related natural resources on agricultural land and non-industrial private forestland. EQIP may also help producers meet Federal, State, Tribal, and local environmental regulations.

Who can apply:

Owners of land in agricultural or forest production or persons who are engaged in livestock, agricultural or forest production on eligible land and that have a natural resource concern on that land may apply to participate in EQIP. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, non-industrial private forestland and other farm or ranch lands.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be agricultural producer (person, legal entity, or joint operation who has an interest in the agricultural operation, or who is engaged in agricultural production or forestry management).
- Control or own eligible land.
- Comply with adjusted gross income (AGI) for less than \$900,000. Note: Federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes or Alaska Native corporations are exempt from the AGI payment limitations.
- Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation requirements.
- Develop an NRCS EQIP plan of operations that addresses at least one natural resource concern.

Additional program requirements may apply.

How EQIP works:

Financial assistance payments are made on completed practices

Financial assistance payments through EQIP are made to eligible producers, to implement approved conservation practices on eligible land or to help producers develop Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) to address specific land use issues. Payments are made on completed practices or activities identified in an EQIP contract that meet NRCS standards. Payment rates are set each fiscal year and are attached to the EQIP contract when it is approved. Payment rates for each conservation practice can be found at each NRCS State Programs website.

Historically underserved producers may be eligible for higher payment rates

Historically underserved producers (limited resource farmers/ranchers, beginning farmers/ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, Indian Tribes and veteran farmer or ranchers) who self-certify on Form NRCS-CPA-1200, Conservation Program Application are eligible for a higher practice payment rate to support implementation of contracted conservation practices and activities.

Self-certified socially disadvantaged farmer/rancher, beginning farmers/ranchers, and veteran farmer/rancher producers may elect to be evaluated in special EQIP funding pools. More information can be found on the State Programs website or from your local NRCS office.

Payment and contract limitations

Payments received by producers through EQIP contracts after February 7, 2014 may not exceed \$450,000 for all EQIP contracts entered into during the period 2014 to 2018. Federally recognized Indian Tribes are not subject to payment or EQIP contract limitations.

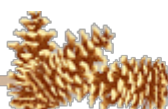
Applications submitted after these dates will be evaluated and considered for funding during later funding opportunities. **Producers must submit a complete program application, establish “farm records”, and other documentation to support eligibility** to be considered for financial assistance through EQIP.

How to apply for EQIP:

Complete EQIP application at your local NRCS field office

To apply for EQIP, visit your local NRCS field office, in your [local USDA Service Center](#). Step-by-step assistance can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getstarted>.

If you would like to be considered for funding in 2018, your application must be completed and submitted to your local NRCS office by close of business on December 15th, 2017.



1) WHEN WAS YOUR LAST TREE FARM INSPECTION?

When was the last time your property was inspected by a Tree Farm Inspector? If it has been longer than five years you are overdue. A Tree Farm inspection should be conducted every five years. If it has been longer than five years, you are no longer a “Certified” Tree Farmer and you need to be inspected. It is imperative that we make sure the inspections and management plans for our certified tree farmers are current, concise and correct, with addendums where needed. If you have not had your tree farm inspected in the last 5 years, please call your inspector and set up a date and a time for an inspection. All you need to do is call your Tree Farm Inspector at one of the numbers below and have the coffee pot on when your inspector gets there.

Chama District	575-588-7831	Cimarron District	575-376-2204
Socorro District	575-835-9359	Las Vegas District	505-425-7472
Capitan District	575-354-2231	Bernalillo District	505-867-2334

2) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or, do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) COMMUNITY CORNER

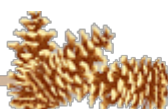
If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would like us to help you promote your event, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

4) E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL

Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Doug Boykin at doug.boykin@state.nm.us and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

5) COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 3rd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish office located at 3841 Midway Place NE, Albuquerque, NM. Come out and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us



6) AMAZONSMILE

DID YOU KNOW SHOPPING AT AMAZONSMILE CAN HELP SUPPORT THE NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE?

WHAT IS AMAZONSMILE?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

HOW DOES AMAZONSMILE WORK?

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. To browse or shop AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

IS THERE ANY COST TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS OR TO THE CUSTOMERS?

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

DOES THE AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION TAKE ANY PORTION OF DONATIONS TO FUND ITS OPERATIONS?

No. Amazon funds the operations of the AmazonSmile Foundation.

Visit: http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas for additional information.

Visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0392161> to start shopping today.

YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE.

