

Environmental Quality Incentives Program CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLANS 2010 New Jersey FACT SHEET


United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
October 2009

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program for persons who are engaged in livestock, forestry or agricultural production, including organic production.

Under a new provision of the 2008 Farm Bill, EQIP offers financial assistance for producers interested in obtaining the services of certified professionals who can develop resource specific Conservation Activity Plans for their eligible agricultural land.



NJ will offer four Conservation Activity Plan options in 2010:

- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) – for livestock operations that store, transport, or use manure
- Integrated Pest Management Plans – for cropland where the operator intends to follow the NJ Pest Management Standard to reduce risk of pesticide use on the farm
- Forest Management Plans (FMP) – to develop NJ-approved Stewardship Plans for woodlots and non-industrial private forestry operations that are 10 acres or greater
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Plans – for any ag operation interested in habitat enhancement for threatened, endangered or at-risk species on their agricultural or appurtenant lands, including streams

Who is Eligible?

Applicants must have an interest in an agricultural operation, and be compliant with the conservation provisions of the 2008 farm bill with current crop and producer records on file with USDA's Farm Service Agency. They must own or control the land, and agree to implement conservation practices according to the contract schedule.

Land is not eligible for a CAP if it is currently enrolled in another USDA Farm Bill conservation program such as the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) or the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP). Land is also ineligible if it is publically owned, unless the publically owned land is part on an eligible landowners operation and is not the only land offered for enrollment in EQIP.

For More Information or to Sign Up, Contact Your Local USDA Service Center:

Burlington, Camden and Ocean counties

Columbus Service Center (1971 Jacksonville-Jobstown Rd)
Telephone: (609) 267-1639

Hunterdon, Somerset and Union counties

Frenchtown Service Center (687 Pittstown Rd Suite 2)
Telephone: (908) 782-4614

Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland counties

Vineland Service Center (1317 South Main Rd. Bldg 3)
Telephone: (856) 205-1225

Mercer, Middlesex and Monmouth counties

Freehold Service Center (4000 Kozloski Road)
Telephone: (732) 462-0075

Bergen, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Warren counties

Hackettstown Service Center (Bldg #1, 101 Bilby Road)
Telephone: (908) 852-2576

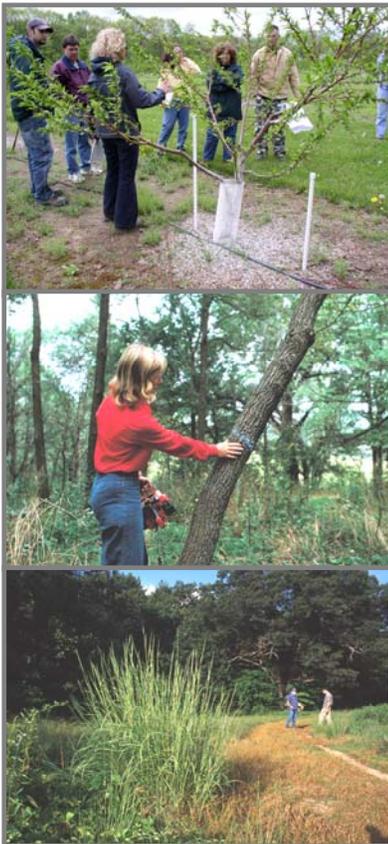
Gloucester and Salem counties

Woodstown Service Center (51 Cheney Road, Suite 2)
Telephone: (856) 769-1126

CAP Applications

CAP applications are single-practice applications that include only the Conservation Activity Plan. Applications can be submitted anytime during the year. CAP requests will be funded on a first-come, first-served basis (depending on funding availability) as the applications are received and are certified as eligible, without regard to ranking.

- Any reserved funds remaining by the final selection period that are not used for these applications will be used for regular EQIP applications.
- No more than 1 specific Conservation Activity Plan will be scheduled per FSA tract; however, more than 1 Conservation Activity Plan of different types may be scheduled per tract if on separate land units within the tract.
- Payment limitations, adjusted gross income (AGI), and producer eligibility **must** be verified before the application status is changed to eligible.
- If any other practices are requested they must be in a separate EQIP application.



CAP Contracts

EQIP-CAP contracts are written with a minimum term that **ends one year after** the payment is certified for the contracted plan. Contracts are legally binding documents. The plan must be completed within 12 months of contract signing or the contract will be in a non-compliance status subject to termination.

What are the Payment Rates and Terms?

Program payment rates for CAPs in New Jersey are calculated at 75% of the typical cost of plan preparation by an approved Technical Service Provider. If the applicant is a beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged or limited resource producer (all considered historically underserved categories), the rates are 90%. Payments are made after the Conservation Activity Plan is submitted to NRCS for review.

Contracts are subject to payment limitations. No applicant may receive more than \$300,000 during any six-year period. Organic farms have a limitation of \$80,000 during any six-year period with an annual limit of \$20,000.

2010 Payment Rates

Conservation Activity Plan	Unit	Payment Rate	Historically Underserved
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)			
Waste storage/transfer only	au	\$17.00	\$20.39
Land treatment and Nutrient Management only	ac	\$9.83	\$11.80
Combination plan for <= 8 animal units	au	\$42.60	\$51.12
Combination plan for 8.1 - 99.9 animal units	au	\$39.23	\$47.07
Combination plan for >=100 animal units	au	\$37.77	\$45.32
Forest Management Plan (FMP)			
Forest Stewardship Plan 10-25 acres	ac	\$26.28	\$31.54
Forest Stewardship Plan 25.1-100 acres	ac	\$15.77	\$18.92
Forest Stewardship Plan 100.1-200 acres	ac	\$10.52	\$12.62
Forest Stewardship Plan > 200 acres	ac	\$8.26	\$9.91
Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)			
Grain Crops	ac	\$8.39	\$10.07
Specialty Crops	ac	\$16.79	\$20.14
Fish & Wildlife Habitat Management Plan (FWHMP)			
Target Species Plan <= 40 acres	ac	\$30.03	\$36.04
Target Species Plan >40 acres	ac	\$18.56	\$22.27