

Attention Horse Owners

Federal Assistance is available for 2013 through the
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

Applications are being accepted for technical and financial assistance to treat identified soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on eligible land.



What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to treat identified soil, water, and related natural resource concerns on eligible land with financial and technical assistance.

What is WHIP?

The Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) is a voluntary program for private and Tribal land to develop or improve high quality habitat that supports fish and wildlife populations of National, State, Tribal, and local significance. Through WHIP, NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to landowners and others to develop upland, wetland, aquatic, and other types of wildlife habitat on their property.

Who can use EQIP & WHIP?

- ✓ Farm or ranch operations involving the production, growing, raising, or reproducing of livestock or livestock products.

What can EQIP & WHIP do for you?

Producers receive cost-share payments for at least 50 percent and up to 75 percent of the cost of structural and vegetative conservation practices.

- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Roof Run-Off Structure
- Watering Facilities
- Solar Pumps
- Lined Waterway
- Grassed Waterway
- Composting Facility
- Critical Area Planting
- And Much More!



For more information, please call
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
(760) 745-2061 ext. 3

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

What is the Program Process for San Diego County?

- Step 1:** Submit Application – At a later date a deadline will be announced.
- Step 2:** A field visit(s) is conducted with you (the landowner) and your ranch manager/foremen if needed. A NRCS engineer and NRCS planner will help you determine objectives, collect and analyze your resource concerns, as well as discuss applicable conservation practices.
- Step 3:** Evaluate the alternatives given to you during the field visit and make decisions as to what you would like to have included in your FY13 application.
- Step 4:** NRCS ranks all applications using an environmental ranking matrix.
- Step 5:** Applications that rank highest are funded first until all funds have been expended.
- Step 6:** IF funded your contract is signed. This will be completed in mid-April
- Step 7:** IF your contract has been funded construction and implementation can begin. (Except engineering projects must be designed and approved first)
- Step 8:** Once your practice has been installed you can contact NRCS for a field inspection. Once the practice has been certified as being installed correctly, we will begin the project reimbursement process.

What else should I know about NRCS and the Programs?

- NRCS is a non-regulatory agency. We offer technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers.
- NRCS' purpose is to "Help People, Help the Land". NRCS has six mission goals: high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.
- We do not offer grants, only financial assistance through contracts for established conservation practices found in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).
- Each practice has three components: 1. Standards, 2. Specifications, and 3. Practice Requirements. Practice requirements are written site specific to each individual landowner/farmer. These will be given to you at the signing of the contract or soon after. The standards and specifications are available on-line at: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov>.
- Each practice has its own specific payment rate that is usually calculated by the acre, volume, or length that will be implemented. The cost share amounts are estimated to be 50% -75% of the project. The cost share is not based on how much your project actually costs. Although we will collect receipts to verify what you have spent and to help judge increasing the cost share amounts for the following years.
- Only new practices will be cost-shared on. Conservation practices that have already been installed or begun are not eligible for the program.
- Funding is not guaranteed if you apply. Applications are selected based upon the environmental ranking score.
- Do not purchase parts or begin installation before officially funded (your contract is signed).
- You may apply for either the EQIP or WHIP programs. You may have more than one contract on your land at the same time. Each program has different objectives and conservation practices.
- Please keep all receipts, invoices, and time logs for project reimbursement.
- You must install one conservation practice within a year of signing your contract.