

2010 EQIP Eligibility

Land Eligibility

In general, the term "eligible land" means land on which agricultural commodities, livestock or timber are produced. This includes:

- Cropland
- Rangeland
- Grassland
- Pasture land
- Private, non-industrial forestland; and
- Other land which the Secretary of Agriculture determines poses a serious threat to soil, air, water or related natural resources.

Participant Eligibility

To be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation and:

- The applicant is an agricultural producer that is engaged in livestock or agricultural production, OR the applicant is a private, non-industrial forest landowner. Proof that the land is working forest land or that at least \$1,000 of annual farm income is earned may be requested.
- The applicant has an interest in the operation associated with the land offered for enrollment.
- The applicant has control of the land for the term of the proposed contract. Applicants will be asked to show documentation, which may be a deed, lease or other evidence of land ownership/control.
- The applicant is in compliance with the provisions for protecting the interests of tenants and sharecroppers, including the provisions for sharing EQIP payments on a fair and equitable basis.
- The applicant is in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation compliance provisions. For assistance assessing

your compliance status, contact you local NRCS Service Center. [Click here for more information on compliance.](#)

- The applicant is within appropriate program payment limitations. The overall payment limitation for EQIP is \$300,000 over a six-year period.
- The applicant is in compliance with Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements. If an applicant has an average adjusted gross nonfarm income greater than \$1 million, the person or legal entity is not eligible, unless 66.66 percent or more of the average adjusted gross income is attributable to activities related to farming defined as farm income. [Click here to view the AGI fact sheet.](#)

Circumstances that may limit an individual's or entity's participation in EQIP include the following:

- Federal and state governments and political subdivisions thereof are not eligible.
- All individual producers, entities or other applications with multiple beneficiaries will provide a taxpayer identification number (TIN) or social security number for each member of the entity and embedded entities at the time of application. This is for purposes of monitoring payment limitations.
- Entities which do not provide the social security number for each member of the entity are not eligible to participate.