

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



2002 brought drought conditions not seen in Colorado in over 50 years. As a result NRCS provided financial and technical assistance to farmers and ranchers to help protect natural resources impacted by drought conditions.

The Program

The **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** is a voluntary conservation program that provides technical, financial, and educational assistance to farmers and ranchers. It's a tool that addresses significant natural resource concerns while implementing conservation practices such as:

- Stockwater development
- Irrigation delivery and system improvements
- Tree and shrub plantings
- Grass seeding
- Related management practices such as prescribed grazing, irrigation water management, and wildlife habitat management

The Partnership

EQIP funds are distributed and spent in priority areas and on natural resource concerns (Priority Issues). **Priority areas are identified at the local level** (county, community, or watershed) and are reviewed and supported by the State Technical Committee, made up of conservation partners from various Federal, state, and local agencies, several agricultural organizations, plus others.

The Assistance

EQIP activities are carried out according to an EQIP plan of operation developed in conjunction with the producer. Contracts for confined livestock feeding operations require the

development and implementation of a comprehensive nutrient management plan.

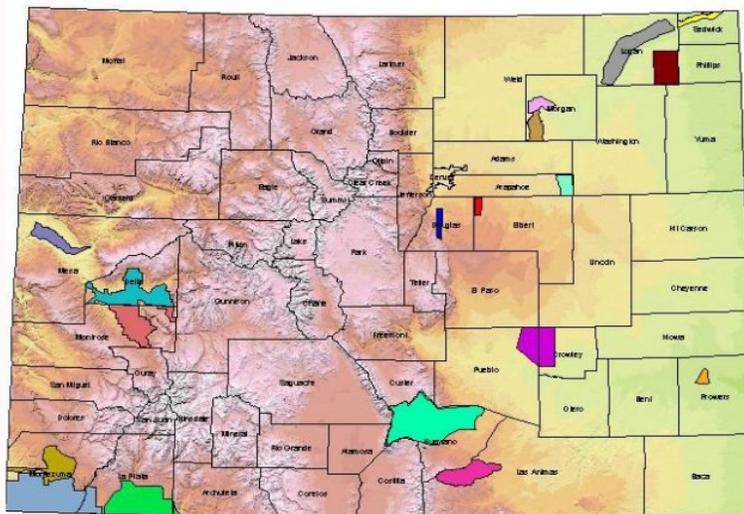
EQIP offers contracts with a minimum term of one year after implementation of the last scheduled practice and **maximum term of ten years**. NRCS pays up to **75 percent** of the cost of certain conservation practices important to improving and maintaining the health of natural resources in the area.

Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to **\$450,000 per individual** over the period of the 2002 Farm Bill.

Colorado's EQIP Drought-Stressed Rangeland/Cropland Management

NRCS took a proactive approach to help support some of its primary customers natural resources and announced a redirection of funds to provide expedited assistance to Colorado's farmers and ranchers that would help to protect native rangeland vegetation and cropland soils from high-risk wind erosion caused by Colorado's severe weather conditions. The drought-stressed rangeland/cropland effort was developed as a component of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

FY-2002 Priority Areas



- APISHAPA WATERSHED
- BEAVER BADGER
- BIJOU FLATS
- COAL CREEK
- FLEMING HAXTUN
- GRAND VALLEY
- HUERFANO RIVER PROJECT
- LOWER GUNNISON-DELTA
- LOWER GUNNISON-MONTROSE
- MC ELMO
- MUDDY CREEK
- OLNEY-BOONE
- OVERLAND TRAIL
- SOUTH PLATTE RIVER
- SOUTHERN UTE
- UTE MT. UTE
- WEST MAY VALLEY
- WEST PLUM



FISCAL YEAR 2002 EQIP CONTRACT FUNDING

Statewide Resource Concerns

	# Apps.	\$ Apps.	# Aprvd.	\$ Aprvd.	% Funded
Water Quality	713	24,359,749	104	12,68,279	15
Soil Erosion	196	2,146,821	38	277,543	19
Grassland	413	7,403,579	99	941,083	24
Wildlife Habitat	118	2,193,242	11	283,430	9
Animal Waste Systems	29	1,600,934	6	217,326	21
Total Issues	1,469	37,704,325	258	2,987,661	18
Drought Grassland	1,268	7,878,023	456	3,530,526	36
Drought Crop	2,781	19,870,230	45	152,959	1.6
Total Drought	4,049	27,748,253	501	3,683,485	12
Ground Surface Water Conservation	256	10,569,799	49	3,634,753	19
Totals of Issues, Drought & GSWC	5,774	76,022,374	808	10,305,899	14

Livestock Improvement (Est. Funds)
12%
0%
100%
90%
100%

Priority Areas

Cong. District		# Apps.	\$ Apps.	# Appd.	\$ Appd.	% Funded
3	Grand Valley Salinity	79	3,046,068	50	1,209,082	63
3	Southern Ute	56	557,789	33	222,863	59
3	McElmo Creek Salinity	48	1,232,006	17	517,712	35
3	Ute Mountain Ute	3	119,000	3	119,000	100
3	L. Gunnison (Montrose)	104	2,561,950	50	817,200	48
3	L. Gunnison (Delta)	79	2,198,615	36	946,149	46
5	West Plum	2	48,131	2	48,131	100
4	Overland Trail	44	822,291	29	529,887	66
4	South Platte River	12	77,540	12	77,540	100
4	Bijou	4	106,755	4	106,755	100
4	Beaver/Badger Wtrshd	3	49,882	3	49,882	100
4	Fleming & Haxtun	31	154,791	31	154,791	100
4	West May Valley	5	141,250	4	99,580	80
4	Coal Creek	1	17,646	1	17,646	100
4	Muddy Rock	9	212,348	6	90,913	67
3	Huerfano	4	72,157	4	72,157	100
4	Olney-Boone	6	94,812	4	16,278	67
4	Apishapa	16	362,772	8	114,661	50
	TOTALS	506	11,875,803	297	5,210,227	59

Livestock Improvement (Est. Funds)
57%
80%
95%
100%
35%
25%
0%
0%
6%
0%
33%
0%
100%

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