



# 2010 Annual Report

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

### Colorado Ogallala Initiative

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2009 to September 2010.

#### Who We Are

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to help agricultural producers and others care for the land. NRCS has six mission goals that include high quality, productive soils; clean and abundant water; healthy plant and animal communities; clean air; an adequate energy supply; and working farms and ranchlands.

#### Vision

Productive Lands -  
Healthy Environment

#### Mission

Helping People Help the Land

*“This is an opportunity for producers to install conservation practices that directly benefit the water quality and water quantity issues in the Ogallala aquifer.”*

**Resource Conservationist for Programs**

#### Fiscal Year 2010 Colorado Ogallala Initiative

##### Statewide Activities

Number of Applications Contracted .....	17
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$1.25 Million
Acres Treated .....	2,785

#### The Program

The Ogallala Aquifer, also known as the High Plains Aquifer, is a vast yet shallow underground water table aquifer located beneath the Great Plains in the United States.

It is one of the world’s largest aquifers and covers an area in portions of eight states, which include Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas.

Much of the High Plains region relies on the Ogallala for water. The water in the Ogallala Aquifer is diminishing because of widespread irrigation use in the High Plains states.

In Colorado, water quantity and quality have been a high priority resource concern under EQIP. The additional funding will allow opportunity for agriculture producers to address these concerns.

#### The Benefits

The Ogallala Initiative provides an opportunity for producers to install conservation practices that directly benefit the water quality and water quantity issues.

#### Ogallala Initiative Funding Allocations

The Colorado Ogallala Initiative is funded through EQIP and are distributed in Colorado’s eastern counties.

These areas are identified at the local level 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, and others.

#### The Assistance

Ogallala 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 and a maximum term of ten years.
- NRCS pays up to 75 percent of the cost of certain conservation practices.

Total cost-share and incentive payments are limited to \$450,000 per individual.

#### For More Information

Visit our web site at [www.co.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.co.nrcs.usda.gov).