



2011 Annual Report

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Air Quality (AQ) Initiative

This report contains fiscal year activity for the state of Colorado from the time period of October 2010 to September 2011.

Fiscal Year 2011 Air Quality Initiative

Statewide Activities

Number of Contracts Approved	42
Dollar Amount Approved.....	\$1.9 Million
Acres Treated	15,765

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

“Landowners will be provided funding to implement cost effective and innovative practices that reduce harmful 8-hour surface ozone--the primary component of smog.”

Resource Conservationist for Programs

The Program

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program - Air Quality (AQ) Initiative is a new initiative authorized by the 2008 Farm Bill to implement practices to address air quality concerns from agricultural operations, based on the air quality concerns in the State.

The Air Quality Initiative is a subset of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

The Colorado Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is assisting agricultural producers with reducing ozone precursors [oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOC)] emissions from agricultural sources.

The primary goal is to achieve and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the designated non-attainment areas of Colorado.

The Benefits

NRCS helps farmers and forest landowners conserve our natural resources including providing clean air and preventing adverse atmospheric change.

Through EQIP, landowners could receive up to 65 percent of the cost to implement and install certain conservation practices within the initiative.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that supports agricultural producers and offers financial and technical assistance to help them install structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land.

NRCS has identified numerous conservation practices that farmers may choose to implement including no-till, for example. It is offered because the reduced fuel usage of a no-till system reduces ozone emissions.

Several conservation practices pertaining to animal agriculture such as manure storage structures and waste utilization are also offered which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

For More Information

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