

2011 National Tribal Water Quality Conference Posuwageh, NM

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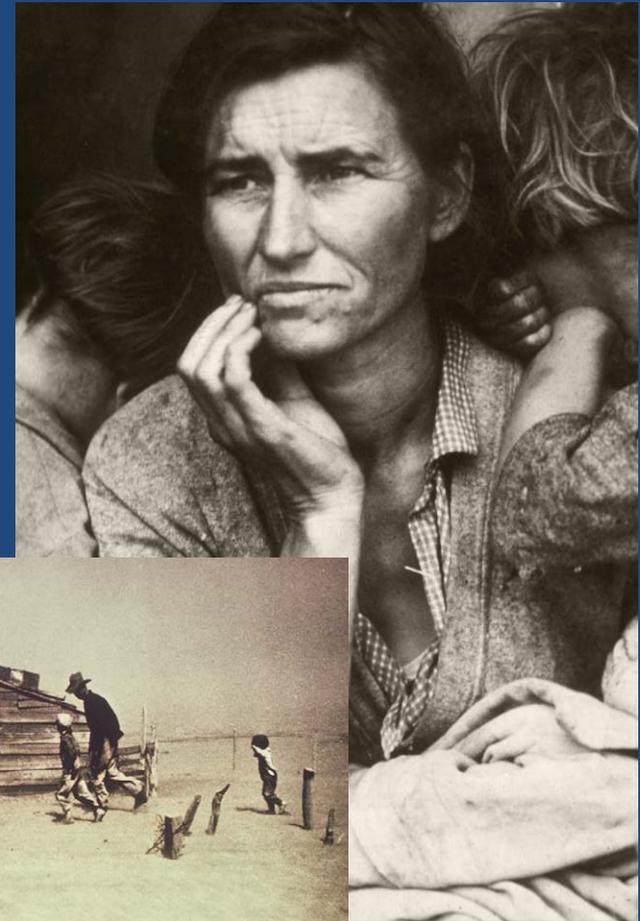
NRCS NM Programs



Origin of NRCS

NRCS resulted from troubled times – the Dust Bowl days of the 1930s.

Dust storms ravaged the Nation's farmland, stripping away millions of tons of topsoil.



What We Do ...



Since that time, NRCS has kept a commitment to protecting and conserving soil and other natural resources on America's private lands.

Our Mission & Purpose



- NRCS works with farmers, ranchers and other groups to protect natural resources on private lands
- NRCS' skilled professionals have a common purpose and passion for conservation



NRCS New Mexico

- NRCS has offices in every county (except Los Alamos)
- The majority of our 190 employees live and work in the state's small towns
- Our staff implement programs and provide Technical Assistance (TA) to the state's agricultural producers



Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

- All Program assistance starts with CTA
- *Conservation plans*
 - Address landowners & NRCS objectives choice on natural resource management for specific areas
- *Technical consultations & planning assistance*
 - Provide professional advice to help customers make decisions about natural resource management



Our Major Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)
 - Cooperative Conservation Partnerships Initiative (CCPI)
 - Conservation Innovation Program (CIG)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Easements
- Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
- For a complete list of NRCS Programs visit:
<http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/>



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Supports production agriculture and environmental quality as compatible goals
 - Encourage environmental enhancements
 - Stimulate innovate approaches to leverage federal investment
 - Promote ground and surface water conservation on agricultural operations
- Producers may receive financial and technical help with structural and management conservation practices on agricultural land



EQIP



Producer Eligibility:

- The applicant is an agricultural operator producing a minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products per year;
- Or the applicant is a private, non-industrial forest landowner;
- Or the applicant has both agricultural and forest land



EQIP

Land Eligibility:

- In general, the term "eligible land" means privately owned or tribal land on which agricultural commodities, livestock or timber are produced
- This includes:
 - Cropland
 - Rangeland
 - Grassland
 - Pasture land
 - Private or Tribal, non-industrial forestland



More Information on EQIP Requirements

- Producer Eligibility
 - \$300,000 payment limitations
 - Ag producers (\$1,000 of agricultural products)
- Land Eligibility
 - Private, Tribal, public (if evidence of control)
- Other Criteria
 - History of irrigation 2 of the previous 5 years



How EQIP Funds Are Used

- Every NRCS office receives EQIP funds
- Local Work Groups help establish local resource concerns
- Funds are available for watershed-type projects involving partners at the State- and National-level



When You Can Apply for EQIP Funding?

- This is a Continuous Sign-up for EQIP funds
- NRCS uses Evaluation Periods set annually to batch existing applications and offer Financial Assistance (FA)
- There is a Ranking Process



What You Need to Apply

- Deed of the land (if it is owned)
- Lease
- Map, survey plat, legal description
- Proof of irrigated water rights if not evident
- Authorization from the Acequia
- If leasing the land, concurrence from the land owner
- Complete the form, NRCS-CPA-1200

Tesuque Pueblo Sprinkler System



Acoma Pueblo Livestock Water Systems





Santa Clara Pueblo- Tribal Member Land Leveling





Leveraging Funds

Now, let's look at specific conservation programs within EQIP:



Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- Under AWEP, NRCS enters into partnership agreements with eligible entities to promote ground and surface water conservation or improve water quality on agricultural lands
- Through the program, partners propose project areas to direct their conservation funding, staff and/or other resources
 - in conjunction with NRCS financial and technical assistance to address a specific resource concern in a defined area
- Each year, NRCS selects AWEP proposals for funding and enters into multi-year agreements with the partner(s) to jointly implement conservation measures on eligible agricultural lands



Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- The intent of AWEP is for the federal government to leverage investment in natural resources conservation along with services and non-Federal resources of other eligible partners
- AWEP is not a grant program
 - Instead, eligible partners agree to direct resources and/or services along with the NRCS funding and technical assistance to address a conservation need
 - As part of the EQIP, AWEP operates through program contracts with producers to plan and implement conservation practices in project areas established through partnership agreements



Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)

- During each fiscal year, NRCS will make AWEP financial and technical assistance available to eligible owners and operators of agricultural lands who participate in approved AWEP project areas across the nation
- Individual landowners and producers are not eligible to submit a partnership proposal
- AWEP replaces the former Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) component of the EQIP
 - AWEP is also a component of EQIP and expands the concept of GSWC by including issues related to water quality

Deming, NM Farm





Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI)

- Voluntary initiative that allows the NRCS to enter into partnership agreements with eligible entities
- Helps to enhance conservation outcomes on agricultural lands and private nonindustrial private forest lands



CCPI

- Each year, if funds are available, NRCS will make technical and financial assistance available to eligible to owners and operators of agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands who participate in approved CCPI project areas through:
 - Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
 - Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)
 - Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Cochiti CCPI





AWEP/CCPI

- RFP Process
- Criteria Established Nationally
- Announced Nationally
- Partners sign agreement
- Contracts developed with ag producers
- Implemented like conventional EQIP/WHIP



Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

- New Mexico NRCS requests applications for Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies
 - Applications are accepted for projects located in New Mexico only
- Applications accepted from eligible individuals, non-federal government and non-government organizations for competitive consideration of grant awards for projects between 1-3 years in duration



Conservation Innovation Grants CIG

- Recent CIG Projects:
- Remote Well Solutions
- Elephant Butte Irrigation District / Low head hydro-electric power generation on irrigation canals demonstration
- Lea SWCD / No-till drill demonstration
- Rio Grande Community Farms / Drip irrigation and organic farming demonstration
- NMSU Clovis Experiment Station / No-till/minimum tillage demonstration
- Jarrett Dairies / Combined anaerobic digestion and wetland treatment of dairy waste



Leveraging Funds

- New Mexico sets aside 8-10% of its EQIP funding for Tribal Lands
- Tribes and Individual Tribal members are eligible to receive payment rates up to 90% or 25% above established rate for conventional EQIP.
- Advanced payment for materials up to 30% of established cost. Work needs to be completed within 30 days of receiving advanced payment



Other Major Programs

- CSP
- Easements
- WHIP



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- A voluntary conservation program that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by:
 - Undertaking additional conservation activities;
 - Improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities





Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- CSP is available on Tribal and private agricultural lands and non-industrial private forest land in all 50 States and the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas
- The program provides equitable access to all producers, regardless of operation size, crops produced, or geographic location
- The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the authority for CSP to the NRCS Chief



Easements

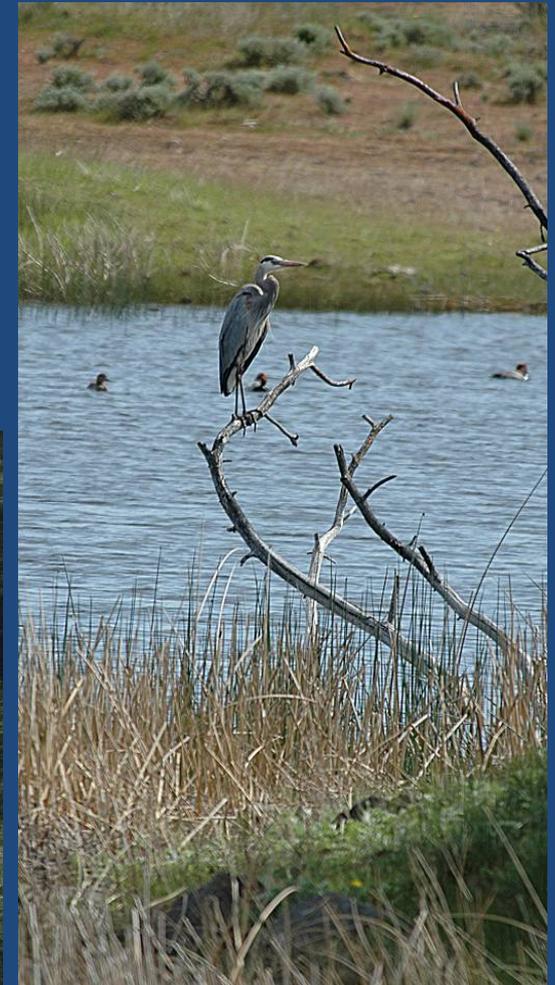
Program easements include:

- Measures to protect land from development or other non-industrial uses
- Measures that provide corridors for wildlife
- Actions that maintain agricultural community integrity



Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

- WHIP provides technical assistance and financial incentives to develop habitat for fish and wildlife on private lands



WHIP

- WHIP develops and improves wildlife habitat on private land





What is Needed to Apply for FA?

To apply for Financial Assistance (FA):

1. Complete Conservation Program Application (NRCS-CPA-1200) and appendix
2. Complete Direct Deposit information Sheet (SF-1199A).
3. Show proof of land ownership and signature authority for contract
 - A. *(Note: This can be accomplished through BIA or a letter from the Governor and Tribal Council)*



What is Needed to Apply for FA?

Items Needed to apply for Financial Assistance (continued):

4. Complete Highly Erodible Land Determination Form-CPA-1026
5. Adjusted Gross Income Certification only needs to be completed if an individual Tribal member is applying.
(If the Tribe is applying then they are exempt from completing the CCC-926)



Key Dates

EQIP and WHIP Application Deadline

January 6, 2012

EQIP National Initiatives

February 3, 2012

June 1, 2012

WRP

December 2, 2011

GRP & FRPP

February 3, 2012

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Tesuque



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Cochiti CCPI



Cochiti CCPI

