

CONSERVATION CROPPING SYSTEMS

Conservation Crop Rotation – Growing crops in a recurring sequence on the same field.

Contour Buffer Strips – Narrow strips of permanent vegetative cover established across the slope and alternated down the slope with wider cropped strips.

Contour Farming – Tillage, planting, and other farming operations performed on or near the contour of the field slope.

Cover Crop – Grasses, legumes, forbs, or other herbaceous plants established for seasonal cover and conservation purposes.

Pasture and Hayland Planting – Establishing native or introduced forage species.

Residue Management – No-till, strip till, mulch till, ridge till – Managing the amount, orientation and distribution of crop and other plant residues on the soil surface year-round, while growing crops in narrow slots or tilled strips in previously untilled soil and residue.

Stripcropping – Growing row crops, forages, small grains, or fallow in systematic arrangement of equal width strips on or near the contour of the field slope. A strip of grass or grass/legume or small grain is alternated with a strip of tilled annual crop or fallow.

***The above practices include incentive payments of between \$15 and \$30 per acre.**



By switching to no-tillage, strip tillage or mulch tillage producers are eligible to receive up to \$30/acre

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT

Composting Facility – A facility for the biological stabilization of waste organic material.

Grazing Livestock Shelter – A fabricated structure to provide shelter and protection to livestock for environmental purposes.

Nutrient Management – Managing the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the applications of plant nutrients and soil amendments.

Wastewater and Feedlot Runoff Control – A planned system in which all necessary components are installed for controlling wastewater and feedlot runoff by storage or vegetative treatment.

***Some of these practices require evaluation and eligibility, so please contact the office soon to begin the process.**

For further information or to apply for EQIP, please contact your local NRCS/SWCD office or:

Kevin Kuehner– Phone 507-381-9440
Watershed Projects

Scott MacLean – Phone 507-317-1961
Farm Bill Assistance

**~ Producers ~
Now is the time**

**Your
Conservation
Needs**

+

EQIP

=

**\$\$ Dollars \$\$
to You**

**Environmental
Quality
Incentives
Program**

Conservation Opportunities Available Through EQIP Cost Share

Landowners and operators can receive cost share to install conservation practices on their land through federal funds as part of the new Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a voluntary program which offers financial and technical assistance to implement measures that will address issues of water quality, wildlife and trees, pasture management, structural practices, conservation cropping systems and livestock management. EQIP incentive payments may be provided for up to three years to encourage producers to carry out management practices they may not otherwise use without the incentive.

Producers can receive up to 50 percent cost share to install the conservation measures that follow:

WATER QUALITY

Critical Area Planting – Establishing permanent vegetation on sites that have or are expected to have high erosion rates, and on sites that have physical, chemical or biological conditions that prevent the establishment of vegetation with normal planting practices.

Filter Strip – A strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forestland) and environmentally sensitive areas.

Pest Management – Managing agricultural pest infestations including weeds, insects, and disease to reduce adverse effects on plant growth, crop production and environmental resources.

Well Sealing – The sealing and permanent closure of a water well no longer in use.

Wetland Restoration – A rehabilitation of a drained or degraded wetland where the soils, hydrology, vegetative community, and biological habitat are returned to the natural condition to the extent practicable. This applies only to class (low hazard) structures with a fill height of ten feet or less.

WILDLIFE AND TREES

Prescribed Burning – Applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.

Tree/Shrub Establishment – Establishing woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, direct seeding, or natural regeneration.

Windbreak – Linear plantings of single or multiple rows of trees or shrubs or sets of linear plantings.

Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation – Widening, partial replanting, releasing, removing and replacing selected trees and shrubs to improve an existing windbreak or shelterbelt.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – Creating, restoring, maintaining, or enhancing areas, for food, cover, and water for upland wildlife and species which use upland wildlife habitat for a portion of their life cycle.

Pollution

Erosion

Ag Waste

Water Quality

PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Prescribed Grazing – The controlled harvest of vegetation with grazing or browsing animals, managed with the intent to achieve a specified objective.



EQIP provides numerous cost-share opportunities including those for feedlot operators

STRUCTURAL PRACTICES

Grassed Waterway – A natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff.

Diversion – A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

Grade Stabilization Structure – A structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

Terrace – An earth embankment, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the field slope.

Lined Waterway or Outlet – A waterway or outlet having an erosion-resistant lining of concrete, stone, or other permanent material. The lined section extends up the side slopes to a designed depth. The earth above the permanent lining may be vegetated or otherwise protected.

Open Channel – Constructing or improving a channel either natural or artificial, in which water flows with a free surface.

Sediment Basin – A basin constructed to collect and store debris or sediment.

Streamed Channel Stabilization – Stabilizing the channel of a stream with suitable structures.

Streambank and Shoreline Protection – Using the vegetation or structures to stabilize and protect banks of streams, lakes, estuaries, or excavated channels against scour and erosion.

Water and Sediment Control Basin – An earth embankment or a combination ridge and channel generally constructed across the slope and minor watercourses to form a sediment trap and water detention basin.

