

Kansas NRCS Announces Deadline for EQIP Funding

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced November 18, 2016, as the first cut-off date to apply for fiscal year 2017 funds through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). EQIP is a voluntary conservation program available for agricultural producers. Through EQIP, NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to install conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and sedimentation, improve water and air quality, and create wildlife habitat. The November 18 application deadline also applies to the following initiatives: High Tunnel System Initiative, Lesser Prairie-Chicken Initiative, Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Project, Ogallala Aquifer Initiative, On-Farm Energy Initiative, Organic Initiative, and the National Water Quality Initiative. NRCS accepts applications for all of its programs on a continuous basis, but applications must be filed for these programs by November 18 to be eligible for the next round of funding.

Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application to the local NRCS field office. EQIP also helps address the unique circumstances of socially disadvantaged, veteran, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land. Qualifying Kansas producers compete separately and receive higher payment rates.

For more information visit the Kansas NRCS Web site www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs or your local U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center. To find a service center near you, check on the Internet at offices.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.