



**The Environmental Quality Incentives  
Program (EQIP)  
under the Saginaw Bay Watershed  
Partnership  
Regional Conservation Partnership Program  
(RCPP)**

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# EQIP

- Purpose:
  - Promote ag production, forest mgmt. & environmental quality as compatible goals

# EQIP

- Purpose (continued):
  - Assist producers in complying with natural resources regulatory requirements
  - Assist producers in implementing conservation practices that address natural resource concerns in a cost-effective manner



# EQIP General Producer Eligibility

- Note: Final eligibility determinations will be made by NRCS.
- An applicant must:
  - Be an agricultural producer
  - Have control of the land for the life of the EQIP contract
    - Written leases and permission from landowner to install conservation practices.



# EQIP General Producer Eligibility

- An applicant must establish farm records with the USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA).

# EQIP General Producer Eligibility

- “Entity” applicants (those using an EIN) must:
  - Obtain a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Number System (DUNS) number, and register the number in the System for Award Management (SAM).
  - Note: The Conservation Program Application also refers to the System for Award Management as the Central Contractor Registration (CCR) database (SAM=CCR).



# EQIP General Producer Eligibility

- DUNS/SAM continued:
  - An informational sheet has been developed to provide to the applicant.



# EQIP General Producer Eligibility

- “Entity” applicants must:
  - Provide information to show who can sign for the entity.



# Conservation Plan

- Written record of conservation practices and systems the producer plans to use on his/her farm.
  - Includes, but not limited to the following:
    - Conservation plan map showing location of planned conservation practices
    - Soils map and description of those soils
    - Resource inventory data
    - Operation and maintenance plans for conservation practices
    - Job and fact sheets

# Conservation Plan

- CCAs may gain access to a producer's conservation plan by providing NRCS with written authorization from the producer for release of records. (See "Authorization Release of Records" Form.)

# Conservation Practices in the EQIP Application

- Conservation practices to be included in an EQIP application are selected from the conservation plan.
- Conservation practices are eligible for funding if they are “NEW” to the applicant’s management system/operation.
  - Conservation practices that are already being applied/reflect the current level of management are ineligible for funding.
    - Example: If the producer already practices basic nutrient management, he/she is not eligible to receive a payment. However, the producer would be eligible to receive payment for a higher level of nutrient management (enhanced nutrient management, VRT, etc.).

## EQIP Contract “Tid-Bits”

- Practices that were started or implemented prior to contract obligation by the NRCS approving official are ineligible for payment, unless waived by the State Conservationist.
- A conservation practice will be scheduled for implementation during the first 12 months of the contract, and must, at a minimum, be started within the first 12 months of the contract.



# Eligible Saginaw RCPP EQIP Practices

| <b>Practice Code</b> | <b>Saginaw RCPP EQIP Practices</b>           |
|----------------------|--|
| 104                  | Nutrient Management Plan                     |
| 130                  | Drainage Water Management Plan               |
| 327                  | Conservation Cover                           |
| 329                  | Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till     |
| 340                  | Cover Crop                                   |
| 345                  | Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till |
| 390                  | Riparian Herbaceous Cover                    |
| 393                  | Filter Strip                                 |
| 554                  | Drainage Water Management                    |
| 587                  | Structure for Water Control                  |
| 590                  | Nutrient Management                          |



# Eligible Saginaw RCPP EQIP Practices

- Refer to Saginaw RCPP-EQIP Conservation Practices Info Sheet for practice descriptions and associated project resource concerns.



# Practice Payment Schedules

- Payment rates are based on the cost of a typical installation of the practice.
- RCPP EQIP will provide the program participant with a payment rate that is 75% of the typical installation cost.
  - 90% is provided to historically underserved participants.