



NEWS RELEASE

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NRCS ANNOUNCES OPPORTUNITY FOR EQIP COST-SHARE FUNDS

Portland, November 7, 2006 — From now until November 30, farmers and ranchers have the opportunity to apply for cost-share for conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

EQIP is a locally-led, voluntary conservation program that helps farmers and ranchers address water quality, soil conservation, and other natural resource needs on their working agricultural lands.

Funds are available on a cost-share basis, and application approval is based on the natural resource priorities set by local conservation leaders. Generally, applications that meet the county priority requirements are evaluated and ranked for funding. In Oregon, cost share is set at 50 percent for eligible conservation practices and may be up to 65 percent for limited resource producers or beginning farmers and ranchers.

Interested landowners should contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the local USDA Service Center. NRCS accepts applications for EQIP year-round on a continuous basis. Funding decisions are made at cutoff points during the year, with the current ranking period closing on November 30, 2006.

For more information about EQIP, including ranking information and cost-share rates, please visit <http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov>.

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