

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Montgomery county agricultural producers and landowners interested in protecting or improving natural resources on their land are urged to contact their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office before February 16 to take advantage of financial assistance in 2010.

EQIP offers technical and financial assistance to install conservation practices. This voluntary program aims at conserving, protecting, and restoring soil and water quality, air quality, and habitat for plants and animals. A variety of conservation practices, such as waterways, nutrient management, honeysuckle removal, livestock watering facilities, fencing, micro-irrigation, and high tunnels are used to achieve the natural resources management goals of the producer.

An environmental ranking score is developed for each applicant from a conservation plan which considers national, state, and local natural resource concerns. When the application is scored, it is compared to other applications and ranked according to the environmental benefit of the conservation plan. To improve the chance of funding for special categories of natural resource concerns or crops, a number of unique EQIP subgroups have been developed. These include:

- Specialty crops
- Livestock
- Cropland and pastureland
- Forest land

For more information or to apply for EQIP, contact Lee Green at phone number: (937)854-7646 x102, address: 10025 Amity Rd, Brookville, OH 45309 or go online to www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov/.