Education and Funding Resource Toolbox for Beginning Farmers
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For more information on Small Farms, visit our website at: http://smallfarms.ifas.ufl.edu/ or contact your local County Extension Agent.

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The 2008 Farm Bill

A Funding Resource

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
EQIP Purpose
EQIP Deadlines
EQIP Process
EQIP New
EQIP Organic Farming
EQIP Purpose

- provide flexible assistance to producers to install and maintain conservation practices that sustain food and fiber production while -
EQIP Purpose

- enhancing soil, water, and related natural resources, including grazing land, forestland, wetland, wildlife, conserving energy; - and
EQIP Purpose

- assisting producers to make beneficial changes to production systems (including conservation practices related to organic production) on agricultural or forested land.
EQIP Program Deadlines

EQIP is a continuous sign-up program

Batching Periods
OVERVIEW OF EQIP PROCESS

Applicant Eligibility

Conservation Plan Developed

Ranking and Cost Estimate
Ranking/Funding

Applications will be competitively ranked (by land use) within a funding account chosen by the applicant.

Applications will only be submitted to one funding account.
OVERVIEW OF EQIP PROCESS

Contract Awarded and Signed

Practice Implemented by Applicant – practices being considered for payment cannot be implemented prior to contract signature (unless waiver granted)
OVERVIEW OF EQIP PROCESS

NRCS certifies practice meets NRCS standards and specifications

NRCS process payment (rebate) paperwork

Landowner receives electronic payment
EQIP 2008

Payment limitation is $300,000 for the length of the Farm Bill.

Payments received for technical assistance shall not be included in this limitation.
EQIP 2008

- Forest management and conservation practices related to organic production have been given stronger emphasis.
- The CNMP, Organic Farming, and Forest Mgt plans MUST be developed prior to installation of the first practice.
EQIP 2008

Organic Farming

- Opportunities for additional conservation assistance to organic producers agreeing to develop and carry out organic system plans.

- Payments for organic production may not exceed in aggregate $20,000 per year or $80,000 during the life of the farm bill for installing conservation practices.
EQIP – Organic Farming

National Organic Program means the national program, administered by the Agricultural Marketing Service, which regulates the standards for any farm, wild crop harvesting, or handling operation that wants to sell an agricultural product as organically produced.
EQIP – Organic Farming

- *Organic System Plan* means a management plan for organic production or for an organic handling operation that has been agreed to by the producer or handler and certifying agent. The Organic System Plan includes all written plans that govern all aspects of agricultural production or handling.
EQIP INFORMATION
&
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