

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA) & Alameda County Resource Conservation District

The mission of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is to provide national leadership in the conservation of soil, water, and related natural resources.

The mission of the Alameda County Resource Conservation District provides leadership in the County and region about natural resources conservation and agricultural enhancement through partnerships, education, outreach, resource services, technical assistance, and funding."

ACRCD

independent, non-regulatory, State special district

Board of Directors



Executive Officer



Staff

NRCS

Resource agency under the USDA

National Headquarters (D.C.)

State Office (Davis)

Area Office (Salinas)

Field Office (Livermore)

District Conservationist



Staff

Alameda County Conservation Partnership

ALAMEDA COUNTY



RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Alameda County Conservation Partnership

- Work with landowners and land-managers on Voluntary Conservation –
- Coordinate with local groups and agencies on Projects –
- Nonregulatory and Confidential –
- Support local agriculture through Technical Assistance, Workshops,
& Farm Bill Programs-



NRCS Farm Bill Programs

Cost-Share funds for Agricultural Producers
(Environmental Quality Incentives Program- EQIP)
&
Easement Programs

★ Topics for Today ★

Basic eligibility for Farm Bill Programs
Cost-share program timeline
Cost-share program funding
Example scenarios for land-uses

NRCS Farm Bill Programs

EQIP

Environmental Quality
Incentives Program



Cost-Share program for
Agricultural producers

Applicants may receive
50-90% of the cost to
implement
conservation based
practices

GRP/FRPP

Grasslands Reserve Program
Farm and Ranch Land Protection
Program



Easement Programs

GRP- short term rentals
and permanent
easements

FRPP- work with a land
trust or other entity

CSP

Conservation Stewardship
Program



Annual Payments made
to reward well managed
lands and to encourage
voluntary conservation
based practices

All funded projects must have a Conservation Benefit...

Super quick EQIP example... Rangeland

Livestock Water Development/Expansion

On-site Benefits:

better utilized forage, draw livestock away from natural water sources, weed management, dependable water source for rancher

EQIP Contract

1200 feet Pipeline,
2500 gal Tank
2 x 300 gal Troughs
Solar Pump



Spring

NRCS Farm Bill Programs

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Environmental Quality
Incentives Program



GRP/FRPP

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Farm and Ranch Land Protection
Program



CSP

Conservation Stewardship
Program



Basic Program Eligibility

- Agricultural Producer (>\$1000/yr)
- Owner or operator of Cropland, Rangeland, Hay/Pasture, Nursery, other...
- Income limitations (AGI < \$1,000,000 or 66% is from agriculture) *for all members*

NRCS Farm Bill Programs

EQIP

Environmental Quality
Incentives Program



Timeline:

Annual sign-up date (Fall)

Applications are funded
the following spring

Practices are
implemented/ installed
only after the contract is
signed

2-5 years

GRP/FRPP

Grasslands Reserve Program
Farm and Ranch Land Protection
Program



Timeline:

Application deadline is
variable

Process from application to
purchase/contract can be
multiple years

(GRP) 10 years, 15, years, 20
year rentals

Or Permanent easement

CSP

Conservation Stewardship
Program



Timeline: (Mimics EQIP)

Can have multiple sign-up
deadlines throughout the
year

Payments are made at the
beginning of the calendar
year for activities
completed the previous
year

2-5 years

NRCS Farm Bill Programs

EQIP

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Incentives Program

GRP/FRPP

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Farm and Ranch Land Protection
Program

CSP

Conservation Stewardship
Program



Funding:

Alameda County expects \$300,000
for FY 2013

Applicants are ranked against an 8
county pool

Contract funds are set for the
duration of the contract length

Payment rates are set for each Fiscal
Year

50% for All Applicants

75% for BFR

90% for Limited Resource Farmers



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Example: Microirrigation on Cropland

	Planned Conservation Treatment		Planned Amount	Unit Cost	Cost-Share
50%	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Acre)	Orchard or Vineyard > 10 ac	20 acres	\$700.00	\$14,000.00
75%	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Acre)	Orchard or Vineyard > 10 ac	20 acres	\$1,050.00	\$21,000.00
90%	Irrigation System, Microirrigation (Acre)	Orchard or Vineyard > 10 ac	20 acres	\$1,260.00	\$25,200.00

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GRP/FRPP

Grasslands Reserve Program
Farm and Ranch Land Protection
Program

Funding:

Varies...

GRP: California NRCS expects
1.5 million for FY2013
(this program is underfunded)

NRCS funds can be matched
with other non-federal sources

FRPP: Funds must be matched
with other non-federal sources

Property values determinations
vary

CSP

Conservation Stewardship
Program

Funding:

Variable.

Moderately competitive

Applicants are ranked
against other applicants
throughout the whole state

Payments are based on a
set dollar amount per acre
(ex from 2010 was \$2500
for a 500 acre ranch)

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Locally led cost-share program to encourage adoption of beneficial practices

Conservation Planning

Work with NRCS/RCD staff to develop a plan for your property

****Resource Concerns****
(Soil, Water, Air, Plants, Animals)

Evaluate Priorities

Apply for Programs, as appropriate

EQIP: Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Locally led cost-share program to encourage adoption of beneficial practices

Applying for Programs

Submit Application

(Application, Appendix, FSA forms, Entity documents, deed/lease (+landowner agreements), direct deposit

Finalize practice locations and amounts

Application will have dollar amounts associated with each practice

If approved, begin implementation of practices

Practices must meet NRCS standards and specifications

All regulatory permits must be in place (more to come on this..)

Payments made when practice is installed/complete, functional (*ex. troughs*)
and meets NRCS specifications

Reimbursement payment

EQIP: Landuse Examples



Grazed Rangeland

Livestock Water Development/Expansion

Ex contract:

Pipeline	1200 ft	@	\$1.21/ft	\$1,452.00
Tank	2500 gal	@	\$0.42/gal	\$1,050.00
Trough	2	@	\$189.00	\$378.00
Solar Pump	1	@	\$2,842.00	\$2,842.00

EQIP: Landuse Examples



Grazed Rangeland

OTHER TYPICAL PRACTICES:

Cross-fencing (interior only)
Riparian exclusion fencing

Range Seeding

YST (noxious weed) treatments

Riparian improvements

Culverts

Well for livestock water

Pond Repair



EQIP: PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS

NRCS/Federal funds = compliance with Federal Endangered Species act

EQIP Applicant = responsible for all other permits that may be necessary



Because of potential complexity, NRCS/RCD staff can assist with acquiring permits.

California Dept of Fish and Game

Army Corp of Engineers

State/Regional Water Boards

...others....

Take home lesson: timing of project implementation may be affected, \$ additional costs, compliance with avoidance and minimization measures

EQIP: Landuse Examples



Cropland
(orchard, row crops, vineyards)

Irrigation System
Improvements

Transition from higher water
use system to lower (or more
efficient) water use system

Land must have been irrigated
2 out of the last 5 years
with this “higher” use system



Benefits: Reduce water use, Reduce
tailwater, Improve application
efficiency

EQIP: Landuse Examples



Cropland (orchard, row crops, vineyards)

OTHER TYPICAL PRACTICES:

Cover Crop
Nutrient management
IPM
Tailwater return system
Hedgerows
Windbreaks
Raptor Perches
Owl Boxes

SUMMARY

NRCS --- RCD --- Farm Bill Programs --- EQIP



**Conservation
Planning**

**Farm Bill
Programs**

**Improved
Management
of Resources**

Contact Information

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<http://www.ca.nrcs.usda.gov/>

<http://www.acrcd.org/>