

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Southern Border Initiative in Texas



Overview

The [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program administered by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that offers farmers and ranchers financial and technical assistance to help plan and implement conservation practices and activities on working agricultural and forestry landscapes.

What is the EQIP Border Restoration Initiative?

Farmers and ranchers along the southern border have seen damage to fields and farming infrastructure, including fencing and livestock and irrigation watering infrastructure. These damages are costly for producers and may also have a negative impact on resource concerns that farmers and ranchers are working to protect and enhance. The USDA has set aside funds for financial and technical assistance through the EQIP Border Restoration Initiative to help producers complete infrastructure repairs along Texas' southern border. This funding is in addition to existing state annual allocations.

Key Program Features

- These funds are made available through a targeted initiative in specific border regions in Texas.
- There are 26 conservation practices identified as eligible for this assistance, including: fencing, watering facility, range planting, livestock pipeline, and more.
- Funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits.
- Early start waivers are available, as well

as shorter enrollment periods to ensure that impacted producers are able to quickly access these funds.

- NRCS offers higher payment rates and advance payments to historically underserved (HU) producers who implement conservation practices through EQIP. HU producers include Beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers, Limited Resource Farmers, and Veterans.

Get Started with USDA

USDA provides technical assistance at no cost to agricultural and forestry producers from USDA Service Centers serving every county in Texas. Our Service Centers are currently open for business, including those that restrict in-person visits or require appointments. Visit farmers.gov/service-locator to find the contact information for your local FSA or NRCS office. Check the status of [your local USDA Service Center](#), then make an appointment to determine next steps for your conservation goals.

Visit [NRCS programs](#) web page to learn more about USDA's financial and technical conservation assistance.

How to Apply

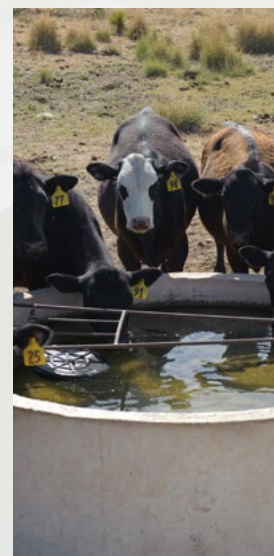
Applications are accepted on a continuous basis; however, to be considered for current funding, apply February 16, 2022 through July 5, 2022. Funding is available through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), which provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits. To apply, producers should contact their [local USDA Service Center](#).

Who is Eligible?

Farmers, ranchers, and landowners who own or lease agricultural land may be eligible. EQIP assistance can be used on many types of operations, including, but not limited to:

- Conventional and organic
- Specialty crops and commodity crops
- Wildlife
- Livestock operations

EQIP Border Restoration conservation practices are offered through a 1-year contract with early start waivers permitted.



EQIP Border Restoration Initiative Eligibility Area

Eligible Counties in Texas include Brewster, Brooks, Cameron, Crockett, Culberson, Dimmit, Duval, Edwards, El Paso, Frio, Hidalgo, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Kenedy, Kinney, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, Maverick, McMullen, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Starr, Sutton, Terrell, Uvalde, Val Verde, Webb, Willacy, Zapata, and Zavala.



EQIP Border Restoration Core Practices

Focus is on conservation practices that help address areas along the southern border that have damage to fields and farming and ranching infrastructure and may also have a negative impact on resource concerns that farmers and ranchers are working to protect and enhance.

EQIP Border Initiative	Practice Code
Animal Mortality	316
Conservation Cover	327
Critical Area Planting	342
Fence	382
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Filter Strips	393
Grade Stabilization Structures	410
Wildlife Habitat Planting	420
Access Control	472
Irrigation Ditch Lining	580
Irrigation Pipeline	430
Irrigation System Micro-irrigation	441
Sprinkler System	442
Irrigation System Surface & Subsurface	443

EQIP Border Initiative	Practice Code
Obstruction Removal	500
Pasture and Hay Planting	512
Livestock Pipeline	516
Pumping Plant (including solar)	533
Range Planting	550
Heavy Use Area Protection	561
Animal Trails and Walkways	575
Stream Crossing	578
Streambank & Shoreline Protection	580
Watering Facility	614
Wells	642
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation	650



Texas

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