

Opportunities To Receive Incentives For Adopting Conservation Practices

Are you interested in securing funding for your IPM program and other conservation practices? Check out the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)!

What's the program?

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) offers incentive to help growers integrate conservation practices into their production, through the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). This program covers many aspects, including promoting integrated pest management, encouraging soil and water conservation, and improving air quality. Adopting mating disruption for pest control, on-farm groundwater recharge, chipping vine materials upon vineyard removal, and the use of cover crop are examples of practices that are promoted and subsidized. Participating in EQIP is voluntary, and NRCS provides no-cost technical assistant to help growers implement conservation practices and meet program requirements.

Who is eligible?

All farmers and ranchers interested in increasing their sustainability practices related to IPM who own or rent agricultural land and make an income below the cut-off are eligible to apply. Please check with your local NRCS office to connect with your rep and discuss eligibility. All growers are encouraged to apply, but especially producers that are from [historically underserved communities](#).

Where should I start?

Check out the EQIP NRCS page [here](#) to read more about the program.

What's the timeline and payout?

The deadline to submit [the application](#) for 2023 funding is **December 9th**. All applications are then pooled into a selection for ranking by need in March, and contracts will be in obligation in early June. Payout will occur after the completion of one year of following the established guidelines for the program. Exact amounts have yet to be released, and so reach out to the local NRCS service center to find out more details.

Who should I contact?

NRCS Service Center, Kern County

BAKERSFIELD SERVICE CENTER
5080 CALIFORNIA AVENUE, SUITE 150
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Amy Rocha
District Conservationist
Phone: 661-281-2745
Email: amy.rocha@usda.gov

Emmanuel Gonzalez Hinojosa
Soil Conservationist
Phone: 661- 281-2765
Mobile: 661-788-9338
Email: emmanuel.gonzalezhinojosa@usda.gov

Conservationists from NRCS will visit individual farms, evaluate, and work side-by-side with growers on program applications and building an action plan for the upcoming season.

Additional notes

Please reach out to UCCE Kern office for questions and concerns. David Haviland (dhaviland@ucanr.edu) is knowledgeable on pest management issues and Tian Tian (titian@ucanr.edu) assists on problems related to general vineyard management.

Useful link

[UC IPM program for grape](#)

Tian Tian, Area Viticulture Advisor
titian@ucanr.edu or 661-868-6226