

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service
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NEWS **For Immediate Release**

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2016 EQIP Applications Due this Fall

To be considered for funding in fiscal year 2016, applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) will be due at local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) this fall. This will probably be sooner than previous years, according to USDA officials. The exact cutoff date will be released as soon as USDA officials make the final date decision.

“NRCS recognizes that this time table will conflict with harvest and fall field work,” said *Steve Breaker, Le Sueur* USDA NRCS District Conservationist. “So NRCS is encouraging producers to come in sooner, before harvest, rather than later.”

Statewide EQIP practices include, but are not limited to: erosion control structures, waste storage facilities, terracing, pest management, nutrient management, prescribed grazing, Strip tillage, well sealing, closure of animal waste impoundment facilities and animal composting facilities. This list will vary from county-to-county based on local resource concerns.

Heavy rains this spring and summer might have exposed some previously unknown areas of erosion, according to *Steve Breaker*. There may be financial assistance through EQIP to help address some of these problem areas.

EQIP was originally established under the 1996 Farm Bill. It provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to voluntarily address soil, water and related natural resource concerns on private lands.