



2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Don't forget... complete FSA eligibility before application deadline!

Remember...register for SAM before applying for EQIP!

IMPORTANT... register for DUNS number... it's free!

PURPOSE:

This fact sheet provides guidance on the 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) sign-up cut-off deadlines for 2017. The sign-up dates will be earlier in Washington State in 2017 than previous years to account for a stronger focus on conservation planning.

WHAT IS EQIP?:

EQIP is a voluntary, technical and financial assistance program designed to help farmers, ranchers, private forestland owners, tribes and other private landowners/managers improve irrigation efficiency; manage nutrient run-off and/or animal waste; improve the health of native plant communities; and reduce soil loss. In most instances, program participants pay for roughly half of the costs of the conservation measures or practices.

WHAT ARE THE APPLICATION DEADLINES?:

Although applications are accepted on a year-round basis, eligible producers and entities interested will have three cut-off dates to submit their applications for consideration for funding in fiscal year 2017:

- November 18, 2016
- February 17, 2017
- April 21, 2017

WHAT EQIP INITIATIVES ARE INCLUDED IN THESE CUT-OFF DATES?:

The cut-off dates are for general EQIP through Local Working Group funding as well as the EQIP initiatives including the organic, high tunnel, conservation activity plans (CAP), energy, Coordinated Resource Management Plans (CNMP), wildfire recovery, Joint Chiefs, air quality, and sage grouse initiatives. For more information about these initiatives, please refer to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation website.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO BEFORE APPLYING FOR EQIP?:

Each applicant must establish themselves as a USDA customer and complete all Farm Service Agency (FSA) eligibility requirements prior to the application cut-off date. Applicants who apply as entities must provide a DUNS number, be registered in the System for Award Management (SAM), and maintain an active registration with current information prior to applying for funding and to remain eligible for payments under a funded contract. For more information regarding SAM and DUNS, or if interested in applying for EQIP funding, contact the local NRCS office.

Washington Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

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