

**EQIP and AMA PROGRAM RANKING PROCESS
RHODE ISLAND (ALL COUNTIES)
FY16**

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA) offer financial assistance to agricultural producers and Non-Industrial private forest landowners to implement conservation practices. Eligible land is determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and is based on an identified resource concern. Eligible producers may apply for financial assistance on conservation practices that will address the identified resource concerns.

Interested applicants may apply in person at the Warwick, RI USDA Service Center. Applicants may also request assistance by telephone, FAX, e-mail, or letter. A signed application must be received no later than the close of business on the application evaluation cutoff date. For more information you can contact our office at:

USDA-NRCS
60 Quaker Lane, Suite 46
Warwick, RI 02886
Phone: 401-828-1300
Fax: 855-924-6853

Eligible Practices and Payment Rates:

See the attachment posted on the website for the applicable program and funding pool (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ri/programs/>).

Application Period:

Applications may be taken at any time. Ranking cut-off will be set by the State Office refer to: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ri/programs/> for more information.

Funding Pools:

Applications for EQIP and AMA will be placed in a funding pool based upon the land use where the identified resource concern(s) will be treated. Participants will compete for funds statewide within each individual fund pool.

FY16 Fund Pools

EQIP	
Cropland	Conservation Activity Plans
Forest	Organic
Livestock - Pasture	Transition to Organic
Oyster Reef Restoration	Energy
Beginning Farmer	Water Quality
Socially Disadvantaged Farmer	High Tunnel
NE Cottontail	RCPP

AMA	
Cropland	High Tunnel

Applications will be placed in a funding pool based upon the land use where the identified resource concern(s) will be treated. If the application contains multiple land uses, the application will be placed in the funding pool that covers the predominant cost of the application. Applicants may choose to apply in more than one funding pool (if applicable) if the practices in the applications can operate independently of each other. Applications in the Beginning Farmer or Socially Disadvantaged funding pools will contain all the practices being applied for.

Ranking: Scoring of all eligible applications will be done after the application ranking period has ended. Scoring of the applications will be done according to the scoring system posted on the RI NRCS webpage for the appropriate funding pool(s). Applications will be selected for plan development and contracting in ranked order according to the score as funds allow. In the event of a tie score, the assign tracking code feature in ProTracts (the NRCS) will assign random numbers to applications to be used as a tiebreaker.

Priority Resource Concerns: The Rhode Island Local Working Group (LWG) determined the primary resource concern to be: Water Quality and Water Quantity (EQIP ONLY)

Funding:

The NRCS Rhode Island Local Work Group will allocate the available EQIP and AMA funds based on the numerical ranking system set forth on the website. All ranking will be conducted in ProTracts. If insufficient funds are available to fund all eligible applicants, applications will be held and may be funded with additional funds that may be received later during the fiscal year, or deferred to the next ranking period.