

Assistance Helps Farmers, Ranchers Conserve Natural Resources

Application deadline for financial assistance Nov. 17

GAINESVILLE, Fla., Sept. 20, 2017 — Florida farmers, ranchers and forest owners can apply until Nov. 17 for financial and technical assistance from USDA's [Natural Resources Conservation Service](#) (NRCS) [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) for fiscal year 2018 funding. Although applications are accepted on a continuous basis for all programs, funding selections are typically made once a year.

Through EQIP, agricultural landowners may receive financial and technical assistance to improve soil, water, air, plants, animals and related resources. Eligible land includes cropland, rangeland, pastureland, private non-industrial forestland and other farm or ranch lands. The application deadline also applies to the following EQIP-funded initiatives:

- [Organic Producer Initiative](#)
- [Seasonal High Tunnels](#)
- [Energy Initiative](#)
- [Pollinator Initiative](#)
- [Everglades Initiative](#)
- [Longleaf Pine Initiative](#)
- [National Water Quality Initiative](#)
- [Working Lands for Wildlife](#)
- [Gulf of Mexico Initiative](#)
- [Strikeforce](#)

Begin by visiting your [local NRCS field office](#) and requesting help developing a conservation plan. To learn about technical and financial assistance available from NRCS, go to [Getting Started with NRCS](#)