

Natural Resources Conservation Service 200 North High Street, Room 522 Columbus, OH 43215 Voice: 614.255.2472

Email: PublicAffairs@oh.usda.gov
Web: www.oh.nrcs.usda.gov

News Release

Program Contact: John Wilson (614) 255-2480 john.wilson@oh.usda.gov

NRCS Announces Ohio EQIP Application Deadline

COLUMBUS, OH, Oct. 13, 2017 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced Friday, November 17, 2017, as the deadline to submit applications for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in Ohio.

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers protect the environment while promoting agricultural production. With EQIP, NRCS conservation experts provide technical assistance to implement environmentally beneficial conservation practices on working agricultural land.

Financial assistance is now available in a variety of agricultural categories such as cropland, forestry, pasture operations, high tunnels, organic, and many more listed on the Ohio NRCS website under "EQIP Application Deadlines."

To participate in USDA conservation programs, applicants should be farmers or farm or forest landowners and must meet eligibility criteria. Applications signed and submitted to NRCS by the November 17 deadline will be evaluated for fiscal year 2018 funding.

Applications for EQIP submitted by entities, such as agricultural producers applying as a corporation, must have a DUNS (Data Universal Numbering System) number and an active SAM (System for Award Management) registration status when applying, a process that may take several weeks. Applications cannot be processed without this information. Information on obtaining a DUNS number and registering with SAM is posted here.

To learn more about EQIP or other technical and financial assistance available through NRCS conservation programs, visit <u>Get Started with NRCS</u> or visit your local <u>USDA Service Center</u>.

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