


Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment:
 Natural Resources Conservation Service's Environmental Quality
 Incentive Program (NRCS – EQIP)

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In Fiscal Year 2017 NRCS offered a statewide funding pool for Agroforestry and Woody Crop Establishment



United States Department of Agriculture Priority

Why?

- USDA Agroforestry Strategic Framework, Fiscal Year 2011-2016
- USDA Departmental Regulation #1073-002: USDA Policy for Agroforestry
- 2014 Farm Bill supports specialty and locally grown crops
- Opportunities for organic, limited resource, beginning, socially disadvantaged, and Veteran farmers
- Practices are effective at addressing GHG mitigation and climate change



Recent Interest from Landowners

Why?

- Increased interest across the state, especially regarding installation of woody crops
- Applications have not fit well in "traditional" fund pools in the past



Funding – FY 17

- Specific statewide fund pool
- 1% of total General EQIP dollars
- Forestland fund pools reduced from 7% of total General EQIP dollars to 6%
- Last year, this formula would equal approximately \$157,000
- FY 17 = 16 applications statewide, estimated costs have not yet been calculated
- Other initiative funding may be considered in the future



- Planned practices MUST address a resources concern AND follow applicable Conservation Practice Standard(s)
- Per EQIP Policy, cannot change to a more intensive land use
- "Core" Practices
 - Alley Cropping (311), Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380), Silvopasture Establishment (381), Riparian Forest Buffer (391), Multi-Story Cropping (379), Hedgerow Planting (422), and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)
- "Supporting" Practices
 - Footnote: When applied within the Agroforestry subaccount, payment is only authorized in association with (311) Alley Cropping, (380) Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment, (381) Silvopasture Establishment, (391) Riparian Forest Buffer, (379) Multi Story Cropping or (612) Tree/Shrub Establishment.

Program Policy

- **Soil Erosion:** sheet, rill, wind, concentrated flow
- **Soil Quality Degradation:** organic matter depletion, compaction, subsidence
- **Water Quality Degradation:** pesticides, nutrients, sediment
- **Fish & Wildlife Inadequate Habitat:** food, cover/shelter

Resource Concern Examples

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- Example: Producer wishes to convert 5 acres of HEL cropland to elderberries
 - Practices
 - 490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
 - 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment
 - 484 – Mulching
 - 327 – Conservation Cover
 - Resource Concern(s) – Soil Erosion, Soil Quality, Water Quality, Air Quality, Fish and Wildlife Habitat
 - Refer to Additional Criteria for the resource concern(s)
 - Refer to 612 Practice Specifications for detailed planting requirements

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- National points determined by NHQ
- State points based on implementation of 5 agroforestry practices and the associated Conservation Practice Physical Effects by select resource concerns + GHG benefits of each practice.
- Local points based on:
 - COMET-Planner evaluation that approximates the GHG reduction of planned practices
 - Diversity of woody plants species planned for planting
 - Historically underserved and Veteran farmers

Ranking



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QUESTIONS?

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