

NEWS RELEASE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Release No.: 092718-01

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USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Accepting 2019 EQIP Applications

LITTLE ROCK, Sept. 27, 2018 – Farmers and landowners in Arkansas have until Nov. 2, 2018, to submit applications to receive financial assistance to implement conservation activities through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for the 2018 program year. Applicants can sign up at their local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service field service center.

A **Nov. 2, 2018**, deadline is set for:

Conservation Activity Plans

High Tunnel Systems

National Organic Initiative

National On-Farm Energy Initiative

Working Lands for Wildlife (available in Ashley, Baxter, Benton, Carroll, Drew, Faulkner, Fulton, Hempstead,

Logan, Marion, Nevada, Newton, Pulaski, Randolph, Searcy, **Sebastian**, Sharp, St. Francis, Stone and

Yell Counties)

Buffalo Slough-Cache River National Water Quality Initiative (portions of Greene and Lawrence counties)

StrikeForce (Arkansas, Bradley, Chicot, Clark, Colombia, Dallas, Desha, Drew, Hempstead, Howard, Jackson, Lafayette, Lawrence, Lee, Mississippi, Monroe, Nevada, Newton, Ouachita, Phillips, Randolph, Searcy, Sevier, St. Francis, Woodruff, Ashley, Clay, Conway, Craighead, Crittenden, Franklin, Fulton, Independence, Izard, Jefferson, **Johnson**, Lincoln, Madison, Miller, Montgomery, Poinsett, Polk, **Scott**, **Sebastian**, Sharp, Stone, Union, and Van Buren counties)

StrikeForce Keeping it in the Family (Columbia, Hempstead, Howard, Little River, Nevada, Ouachita and Union counties)

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative

Caney Creek (portion of Cross County)

Middle Strawberry (portion of Sharp County)

Upper Bay Macon (portions of Desha and Lincoln counties)

Cache Willow/Podo (portions of Craighead, Jackson and Lawrence counties)

Tupelo Bay Beaverdam (portion of Faulkner County)

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Individuals and other entities actively engaged in agricultural production are eligible to participate in EQIP. EQIP offers a continuous application sign-up. However, to be considered for funding under the 1st batch period, sign-up applications must be received by Nov. 2. An application deadline for other EQIP initiatives, will be announced soon.

All applications will be evaluated for funding based on a state and nationally developed procedure to optimize environmental benefits. Applications ranking highest in a funding category will be funded according to priority and is subject to availability of program funds.

For more information, visit <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov/> or contact the local USDA/NRCS field service center.

The FY 2019 EQIP implementation schedule is:

EQIP - 2019 Signup Number 1 Implementation Schedule:				
Funding Category	Application Deadline	Ranking Deadline	Preapproval Begins	Obligation
Conservation Activity Plans	Nov. 2, 2018	Nov. 9, 2018	Nov. 12, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
National Organic Initiative	Nov. 2, 2018	Nov. 9, 2018	Nov. 12, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
High Tunnel Systems	Nov. 2, 2018	Nov. 21, 2018	Nov. 26, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
Working Lands for Wildlife	Nov. 2, 2018	Nov. 21, 2018	Nov. 26, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
National On-Farm Energy Initiative	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 17, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
NWQI	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 17, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
StrikeForce	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 17, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
MRBI - Caney Creek	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 21, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
MRBI - Middle Strawberry	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 21, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
MRBI - Upper Bay Macon	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 21, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
MRBI - Cache Willow/Podo	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 21, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019
MRBI - Tupelo Bay Bea-verdam	Nov. 2, 2018	Dec. 14, 2018	Dec. 21, 2018	Jan. 31, 2019