



NRCS EQIP Program Helps Growers Get Started With IPM

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). EQIP provides cost share and incentive payments to implement conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. Through EQIP, growers can request integrated pest management (IPM) training and incentive payments for adopting IPM techniques. Only growers who have not previously participated in a recognized IPM training program are eligible for this training and incentive program. After acceptance into the program, growers work with an extension educator for a 3-year period and receive incentive payments for each of the 3 years.

The incentive payments to growers for IPM adoption depend on crop value. The objective for these payments is to encourage adoption of pest monitoring, thresholds, disease forecasting tools, cultural controls, biological control and reduced-risk pesticides among other IPM techniques available. The incentive payments are listed below:

- Silage or grain corn: \$25 per acre
- Shade tobacco: \$500 per acre
- Broadleaf tobacco: \$100 per acre
- Vegetable crops: \$100 per acre
- Small fruit or orchard crops: \$100 per acre
- Nursery crops: \$300 per acre
- Greenhouse crops: \$500 per acre



USDA NRCS service centers throughout Connecticut process the applications to sign-up for EQIP. Growers need to contact their nearest service center to request information about the EQIP IPM incentive program and to determine if they are eligible. More information on this and other NRCS programs can be found at the following websites:

NRCS Information:

- EQIP Fact Sheet
<ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/CT/eqip/eqip-factsheet.pdf>
- EQIP Sign-Up and Application Information
<http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/eqip.html>

- Find a Connecticut Service Center
<http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/directory/>
- Connecticut NRCS Website
<http://www.ct.nrcs.usda.gov/>

IPM and NRCS Links:

- NRCS and IPM Working Together - NE IPM Center
<http://northeastipm.org/nrcs.cfm>
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - Center for Agricultural Partnerships
<http://www.agcenter.org/progfarmbilleqip.html>
- "More Integrated Pest Management Please" NRDC Issue Paper February 2007
<http://www.nrdc.org/health/pesticides/ipm/ipm.pdf>

IPM and NRCS in other states:

- Pennsylvania IPM Program
<http://paipm.cas.psu.edu/65.htm>
- Michigan State University
<http://www.ipm.msu.edu/farmbill.htm>
- Success Stories around the Nation
<http://northeastipm.org/nrcs/resources.cfm#ongoing>

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