

NRCS Air Quality Financial Assistance

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Today's Topics

- Current NRCS Air Quality Initiatives
- Existing financially assisted NRCS practices – alternatives to burning
- NRCS State & National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
- Partnering on new NRCS Air Quality Initiatives

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiatives in CA #1

EQIP - National Air Quality Initiative

- 2008 Farm Bill - \$150 million targeting AQ/ \$37 million/Year
- 2014 Farm Bill - \$25 million/year targeting AQ
- \$170 million to replace nearly 4,000 non-road mobile diesel engines since 2009 – Rep. Dennis Cardoza amendment instrumental getting the funding in FB
- Crop, Forest, Pasture, Range & Farmstead
- Targets extreme non-attainment NOx (SJV & LAAB got most)
 - Ranked by High HP, Age, Hours of Use

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiatives in CA # 2

EQIP - California Air Quality Initiative for Agricultural Irrigation Engines

- Financially assists removal and replacement of stationary or portable in-use irrigation pumping plants with new electric motors or Tier 4 non-road diesel engines.
- Crop, Pasture, Farmstead & Associated Agricultural Land
- Targets counties designated as EPA “Nonattainment” for the 2008 8-hour Ozone (O₃) NAAQS; “Nonattainment” or predesignated “Attainment (Maintenance Area) for the 2006 or 1997 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS; “Nonattainment” or predesignated “Attainment (Maintenance Area)” for the 1987 24-hour PM₁₀ NAAQS; and/or “Nonattainment” for the 2012 Annual PM_{2.5} NAAQS

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiatives in CA # 3

EQIP - California Air Quality Initiative for Ozone Reduction

- Financially assists implementation of NRCS Nutrient Management & Integrated Pest Management practices – Smart Sprayer Technology
- Crop, Pasture, Farmstead & Associated Agricultural Land
- Targets counties designated as “nonattainment” for the 2008 8-hour Ozone (O₃) NAAQS by the EPA. Financial assistance may also be available to address the air quality resource concerns within areas designated as “unclassifiable/attainment” for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Air Quality Initiatives in CA # 4

EQIP - California Air Quality Initiative for Particulate Matter Reduction

- Financially assists implementation of NRCS practices like Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till, or Reduced Till; Dust Control; Field Operations Emissions Reduction; Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment; & Woody Residue Treatment
- Crop, Pasture, Farmstead & Associated Agricultural Land
- Targets counties designated as “nonattainment” of the NAAQS for particulate matter or predesignated as “Attainment (Maintenance Area)” for the PM10 or PM2.5 NAAQS by the EPA.

Existing financially assisted NRCS practices – alternatives to burning

- **Woody Residue Treatment:** Air emission reductions are achieved by chipping or shredding the materials in lieu of burning them. Material may be incorporated in the soil, used as a dust suppressant on unpaved roads or traffic areas. Resource concerns include emissions of particulate matter.
- **Mulching - Wood Chips:** 2-3 inches of wood chips applied to areas needing mulch. Erosion and sedimentation is reduced and water quality is protected.

NRCS State & National Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

- Contribute expertise to advise NRCS conservation practice standards updates/program delivery
- National awards up to \$2 million for watershed-based, regional, multi-State, or national scope
- State awards up to \$75,000 for farm-based, multi-county, small watershed, or Statewide scope
- Single or multi-year projects (not to exceed three years)
- 50 % of total project cost non-federal match (cash and in-kind)

Partnering on new NRCS Air Quality Initiatives

- CIG projects to demonstrate new conservation technologies?
- Local/regional marketing innovations for wood chip utilization for erosion and sediment control?
- Incorporation of proven new conservation technologies into new or existing NRCS Air Quality Initiatives?
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) proposals to leverage partner technical and financial resources with NRCS programs?

Questions?

CA NRCS Programs Information:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/programs/>