Michigan/Indiana St. Joseph River Watershed Conservation Partnership RCPP-EQIP Eligible Practices & Requirements

Becky Otto

NRCS-MI EQIP Coordinator

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Eligible Practices

- Selected for ability to address the project's natural resource concerns:
  - Primary
  - Water Quantity (groundwater withdrawal)
  - Water Quality (sediment and nutrient loading)
  - Secondary
  - Soil Health
  - At-risk wildlife species

Eligible Conservation Activity Plans

Practice Code	Practice Name
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Written
104	Nutrient Management Plan - Written
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan - Written
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan - Written
130	Drainage Water Management Plan - Written
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition - Written
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plan - Written

Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)

- Participants must hire a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to develop a CAP.
  - The TSP must be listed on the “Tech Reg” website as qualified to write the contracted CAP.
  - http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp/

Eligible Core Practices

Practice Code	Practice Name		Practice Code	Practice Name
327	Conservation Cover		412	Grassed Waterway
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till		442	Sprinkler System
333	Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products		449	Irrigation Water Management
340	Cover Crop		472	Access Control
342	Critical Area Planting		528	Prescribed Grazing
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till		554	Drainage Water Management
386	Field Border		578	Stream Crossing
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover		580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
391	Riparian Forest Buffer		582	Open Channel
393	Filter Strip		590	Nutrient Management
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management		643	Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats

Supporting Practices

Practice Code	Practice Name
382	Fence
410	Grade Stabilization Structure
484	Mulching
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
512	Forage and Biomass Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
572	Spoil Spreading
575	Trails and Walkways
584	Channel Bed Stabilization
606	Subsurface Drain
614	Watering Facility
620	Underground Outlet

These practices cannot stand alone—they are contracted only to support core practices.

Management Practices

Practice Code	Practice Name
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
340	Cover Crop*
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
449	Irrigation Water Management
528	Prescribed Grazing
554	Drainage Water Management
590	Nutrient Management

- **Payments for management practices are limited to a maximum of three separate payments during the term of a single contract.**

*Cover Crop (340)

- Payments for Cover Crop are limited to a max of 5 separate payments during the term of a single contract on the same land unit when the cover crop is planned and applied as a component of a complete conservation system to address resource concerns related to soil health.

Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products (333)

- Current (within the last 12 months) soil test required to determine if there is a need for this practice.

Restoration & Mgmt of Rare or Declining Habitats (643)

- Consult NRCS State Biologist during planning.

Stream Habitat Improvement & Mgmt (643)

- Instream wood and rock placement, rock and wood structures, lunker structures.

Sprinkler System (442)

- EQIP funds cannot be used to increase the area irrigated.
- Irrigation water management must accompany this practice.

Access Control (472)

- Livestock exclusion from sensitive, noncropland areas.
- Access control or fence—not both for the same location.

Prescribed Grazing (528)

- Applies to all lands where grazing and/or browsing livestock are managed during the grazing season considered to be April through October in most years. The primary source of nutrition for the livestock must be from the grazed perennial or annual forage.

- For use with grazing/browsing animals only.

Open Channel (582)

- Used for the restoration of a natural or artificial channel to improve nutrient (phosphorus and nitrate) reduction and ecological function by creating a floodplain bench. Nutrients are reduced in the water through bench saturation before it enters the stream channel.
- Consult the NRCS Area Engineer during planning.

Questions?