## **Background Information**:

Federal funding is available to help agricultural producers transition to an organic system of production! As part of the larger \$300 million USDA Organic Transition Initiative, the Transition to Organic Partnership Program (TOPP) aims to help producers adopt organic management systems in pursuit of certification.

## Program Highlight: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

The EQIP program from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) offers a variety of technical and financial assistance opportunities for farmers and ranchers including the <u>High</u> <u>Tunnel Initiative</u>, an <u>On Farm Energy Initiative</u>, and the <u>Organic Initiative</u>.

## Who is eligible?

\*

**Eligible Applicants:** Agricultural producers with ownership or control of their land; Owners of non-industrial private forestland; Federally Recognized Tribes; Those interested in establishing agricultural/forestry operations; Water management entities.

**Eligible Lands:** Cropland and hayland; Rangeland; Pastureland; Non-industrial private forestland; Other farm or ranch lands; Environmentally sensitive areas.

\* Historically Underserved (HU) participants are <u>eligible for increased payment rates and advanced</u> <u>payments</u> to offset the costs of purchasing goods or services. HU participants include socially disadvantaged, beginning, veteran and <u>limited resource farmers and ranchers.</u>

## What are you eligible to receive?



**Consultation** from a local NRCS conservation planner to develop your conservation plan.

**Technical and financial assistance** for developing conservation plans and for the labor, materials and implementation of management practices in your plan.

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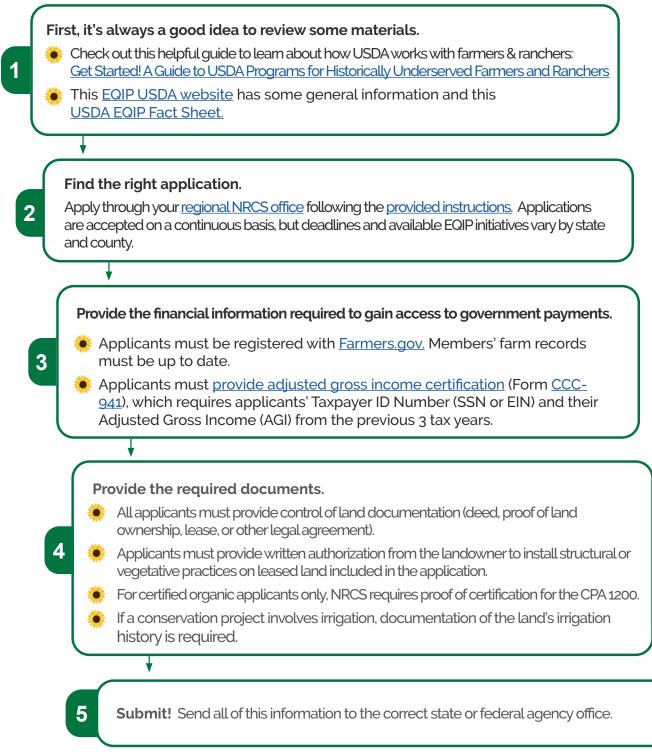












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