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# Conservation Innovation Grants

## Overview

Kentucky Agriculture Science and Monitoring Meeting

Thursday April 5, 2012

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The Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is:

- ✓ a voluntary competitive grant program,
- ✓ intended to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production.

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CIQ was authorized as part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) under:

- ✓ Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, and
- ✓ Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008.

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# AGENDA-KEY POINTS

- Eligibility
- Components
- Announcement Applications
- Final Remarks

# ELIGIBILITY (New Policy)

- Corporation will not be eligible if convicted of a felony criminal violation under Federal or State Law in the 24 months preceding the date of signature.
- Same for a Corporation, if it has unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, and administrative remedies are exhausted.

# Eligibility Information

## **Applicant Eligibility**

Under CIG, EQIP funds are used to award competitive grants to:

- ✓ non-federal governmental
- ✓ non-governmental organizations
- ✓ federally-recognized Indian tribes
- ✓ individuals

# Eligibility Information

## **Project Eligibility**

- ✓ To be eligible for CIg, projects must involve landowners who meet the EQIP eligibility requirements.

Further, all agricultural producers receiving direct or indirect payments through participation in a CIg project must also meet the EQIP eligibility requirements.

Participating producers are not required to have an EQIP contract.

# Eligibility Information

## Matching Funds

Selected applicants may receive CIG grants of up to 50 percent of the total project cost.

Applicants must provide non-Federal funding (matching funds) for at least 50 percent of the project cost. Up to half of the applicant's matching funds (up to 25 percent of the total project cost) may be from in-kind contributions.

# Eligibility Information

## Matching Funds

- Exception:
  - Beginning or Limited Farmers or Ranchers, Indian Tribes, or community-based organizations comprised of or representing these entities.
  - Up to three-fourths of the required matching funds for such projects (up to 37.5 percent of the total project cost) may derive from in-kind contributions.

# Eligibility Information

## Limitations

### EQIP Payment Limitation and Duplicate Payments

Section 1240G of the Food Security Act of 1985, 16U.S.C.3839aa-7, imposes a \$300,000 limitation for all cost-share or incentive payments disbursed to individuals or entities under an EQIP contract between fiscal years 2008 and 2012.

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## There are two CIG Components:

- ✓ National
- ✓ States

# National Component

Applications are accepted from:

- ✓ all 50 States,
- ✓ the Caribbean Area (Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands), and
- ✓ the Pacific Islands Area (Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands).

# National Summary Report

Fiscal Year (FY)	# of grants	Funds Approved (millions)
FY2004	40	\$13.8
FY2005	54	\$19.1
FY2006	63	\$19.3
FY2007	50	\$19.0
FY2008	56	\$18.9
FY2009	52	\$18.0
FY2010	58	\$17.7
FY2011	61	\$29.9
Total	434	\$155.7

# Kentucky Summary Report

Fiscal Year (FY)	# of grants	Funds Approved
FY2004	1	\$354,572
FY2005	1	\$250,000
FY2006	0	\$0
FY2007	1	\$812,998-3
FY2008	0	\$0
FY2009	2	\$594,123
FY2010	0	\$0
FY2011	3	\$1,674,077-5

# Western Kentucky Univ. 2012

- One proposal
- 10 counties
- Nutrient management in regards to soil stability and improvements in soil health.
- Total cost \$123,050.00
  - \$ 61,525.00 federal
  - \$ 61, 525.00 other

# State Component

The intent of the State Component is to provide flexibility to NRCS State Conservationists to target CIIG funds to individual producers and smaller organizations that may possess promising innovations, but may not compete well on the larger scale of the national grants competition.

Offer through a separate announcement.

# State Component

- State conservationist will determine the funding level, with individual grants not to exceed \$75, 000.00
- Applications will go through a review process and forwarded to the State Conservationist, who will make the award selection.

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# State Component

- Categories
  - Water Quality
  - Soil Health
  - Ag Energy

# State Component

- Amount available for support of this program for FY2012 will be approximately \$200,000.00.
- Applications must be received by 4:00 p.m. EST on April 16, 2012.
- Applications may be submitted by: email, overnight mail, or delivery service.

# Announcement Application

- The announcement for this CIG funding opportunity can be found on the following web site: [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) or <http://www.ky.nrcs.usda.gov/>

# Final Remarks

- Project categories include: water quality, soil quality and agriculture energy
- Projects will be single or multi-year, not to exceed three years
- Incomplete applications will be eliminated from competition
- Deadline to submit application is April 16, 2012

# State Component

