

Forestry & the Environmental Quality Incentives Program

What is EQIP?

EQIP is funded through the USDA Farm Bill to provide technical and financial assistance for landowners to address natural resource concerns on their land. Agricultural producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes are eligible for EQIP to receive cost-share for getting a written forest management plan and implementing forestry related practices.

Benefits of a Forest Management Plan

A Forest Management Plan (FMP) is a site-specific plan that is developed by a forester to capture the landowner's long term management objectives. The plan will provide detailed information about species composition, potential harmful pests, and other ecosystem components of the property and surrounding landscape, and related opportunities and limitations.

Forest Management Plans through EQIP

For landowners who don't already have a forest management plan, EQIP provides cost-share to get a plan written by an NRCS Technical Service Provider that meets our standards. See the back page for previous year cost-share rates.

Already have a plan?

Your existing FMP may be adequate to use as an outline to apply for financial assistance to implement the forestry related practices identified in the plan. See the back page for some examples of conservation practices that may be included in an FMP.



Acceptable management plans include:

- Forest Stewardship Plan developed by a certified Forest Stewardship Plan Writer and approved by the Michigan DNR
- Forest Management Plan through EQIP, developed by an NRCS approved Technical Service Provider
- American Tree Farm System Plan meeting the American Forest Foundation 2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability
- Conservation Plans developed by Conservation Planners certified by NRCS.

To receive any financial assistance through EQIP, the first step is to visit your local NRCS field office. They will work with you to determine landowner and land eligibility, and work towards getting into a contract. Once the contract is funded, cost-share payments can be made on completed practices included in the contract (i.e. FMP, other forestry practices). Payments cannot be made for practices completed before the contract is in place.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office, or visit the MI NRCS forestry website.

Oceana County: 1064 Industrial Park Dr.

Shelby, MI 49455

(231) 861 – 5600 x 3

2016 FMP Cost Share Rates*	
Scenario	Cost Share**
FMP less than or equal to 20 ac.	\$ 1065.90
FMP 21 to 100 ac.	\$ 1346.40
FMP 101 to 250 ac.	\$ 2412.30
FMP 251 to 500 ac.	\$ 3478.20
FMP 501 to 1000 ac.	\$ 4039.20
FMP greater than 1000 ac.	\$ 5049.00

* Rates are subject to change each year.

** Higher cost share rates are available for beginning farmers, veteran/beginning farmers, socially disadvantaged farmers. Eligibility for this will be determined by NRCS.

Conservation practices that may be included in a forest management plan	
Practice Name	Description
Brush Management	Management of woody plants including those which are invasive and noxious by manual, mechanical, and/or chemical methods.
Conservation Cover	Establish and maintain permanent vegetative cover to reduce erosion, enhance pollinator and wildlife habitat, and manage plant pests.
Critical Area Planting	Establish permanent vegetation on areas with high rates of erosion where normal practices won't work. Methods may include tillage, grading, or hydroseeding.
Early Successional Habitat Management	Manage early plant succession to benefit desired wildlife or natural communities.
Forest Stand Improvement	The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.
Herbaceous Weed Control	The removal or control of herbaceous weeds with biological, manual, mechanical, or chemical techniques.
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment	Closure, treatment, or rehabilitation of an existing trail that is causing resource concerns.
Stream Crossing	A stabilized area or structure constructed across a stream to provide a travel way for people, livestock, equipment, or vehicles.
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management	Maintain, improve, or restore the physical, chemical, and biological functions of a stream and its associated riparian zone. Providing suitable habitat for desired aquatic species.
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Treatments to stabilize and protect banks of streams, constructed channels, and shorelines.
Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establish woody plants by planting seedlings or cuttings, or by direct seeding.
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Provide and manage upland habitats and connectivity within the landscape for wildlife.