

EQIP dollars available for Plymouth County farmers

Plymouth County farmers can sign up for dollars for conservation practices through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

Funding information is now available at the NRCS Field Office, 1100A 12th St.

S.W. in Le Mars.

The EQIP program provides funds which address conservation needs for protecting soil and water resources.

The dollars are available for various types of manure management structures in order prevent runoff into

streams, ponds and rivers.

This includes funds for addressing the conservation needs of feedlots of less than 1,000 animal units which: 1) are required to settle solids before runoff enters water sources; 2) cannot allow runoff effluent to cause a water quality violation; and, 3) may or may not be required to obtain a permit, depending on EPA and IDNR's determination of the manner in which the effluent is released.

The EQIP program provides money for vegetative filter strips, sediment basins which separate solids from liquids, diversion structures, and total containment facilities.

Farmers also may sign up for EQIP funds for no-till farming incentives, grazing management systems, terraces, cover crops, and organic

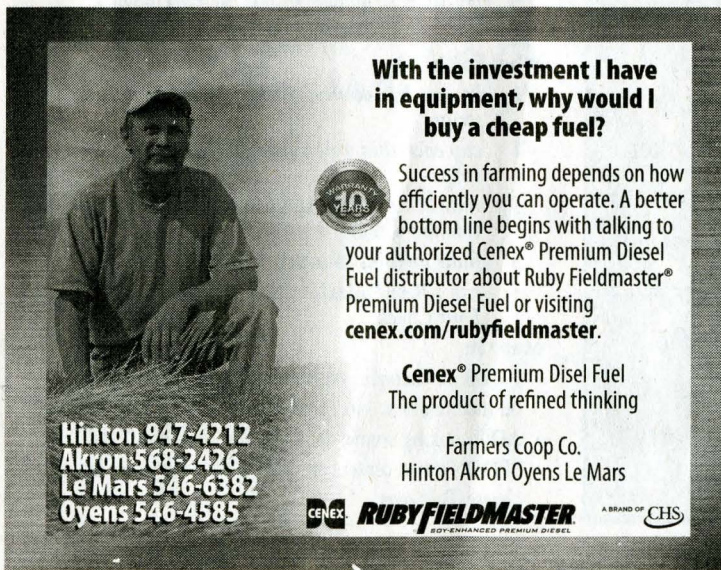
farming practices. Higher payment rates are available for beginning farmers and for producers who are defined as 'historically underserved.'

The EQIP program utilizes contracts which are one to five years in length.

Payments for installation and application of conservation practices are based on set 'payment rates.'

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program provides a good way for farmers to reduce their costs for adopting practices which protect soil and water resources.

For more information, farmers are encouraged to contact the Le Mars NRCS Field Office at (712) 546-8858 ext. 3.



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