



# Financial Assistance Opportunities- Irrigation Projects

## Farm Bill Programs

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



# EQIP-Eligibility

- EQIP policy requires that land must have been irrigated two out of the last five years in order to be eligible for an irrigation-related practice.
- ALL acres under the planned system must have a valid water right.



## EQIP-Eligibility contd.

- Financial assistance is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to replace one micro-irrigation system with another.
- financial assistance is not allowed for electrical power hook-up including hard wiring or any other device which provides the same function (i.e. generators, solar panels, power poles, power lines, transformers, switches), or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter.



# Resource Issues

- Water Quality-sediment, nutrient export-surface and groundwater
- Soil Erosion-Irrigation Induced-eliminated or reduced to tolerable levels
- Irrigation water use efficiency
- Energy improvements



# Applications

- Continuous Sign-up for EQIP
- Cut-off dates where applications received are assessed, planned, and evaluated.
- FY15 Application cut-date-mid November.



# Application Evaluation

- EQIP is a competitive program
- Receive many more applications than get funded
- Applications are first screened, then those that screen high are ranked in their applicable category based on land use.
- In FY14, Idaho received approx. \$12M in EQIP funds, but had approx. \$50M in ranked applications



# Practices Available

- Irrigation Systems-sprinklers, micro, surface
- Irrigation Pipeline
- Structures for Water Control
- Pumping Plant
- Irrigation Water Management



# Payment Rates

- Program payment rates are based on the estimated incurred costs and associated with practice implementation. This negates the need for collection of receipts or invoices for payment purposes.
- Estimated incurred costs are based upon the typical costs of components and activities associated with practice implementation.





# CSP

- **Stewardship Threshold Requirement**
- ***If you can check two or more of the statements for each land use you have in your farming operation, you may be a good candidate for CSP.***
- **Cropland:**
- Fields are managed with few signs of erosion or soil being carried to field edges or water bodies.
- Crop residues remain on fields after harvest, or cover crops are planted.
- Grass or woody buffer areas intercept field runoff prior to entering streams, ditches, lakes, etc.
- Nutrients are applied according to land grant university recommendations.
- Areas on your farm are actively managed for wildlife habitat.
- If you irrigate your cropland, water application is scheduled based on soil moisture monitoring and/or evapotranspiration monitoring.

# CSP Enhancement Activities

- **Water Quantity Enhancements:**
- [WQT01](#) - Irrigation system automation
- [WQT03](#) - Irrigation pumping plant evaluation
- [WQT05](#) - Remote monitoring and notification of irrigation pumping plant operation
- [WQT07](#) - Regional weather networks for irrigation scheduling
- [WQT08](#) - Decrease irrigation water quantity or conversion to non-irrigated crop production



# Questions??

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