



Are you Interested in Establishing a Stand of Trees? Would you like to Improve the Health and Vigor of your Existing Woods?

If you own a woodlot in West Virginia that is at least five acres in size, West Virginia's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Forestry Program may be for you. EQIP is a way for landowners to receive technical advice from professional foresters and financial assistance to install forestry practices on their lands.

Am I Eligible?

The eligibility criteria for West Virginia's EQIP Forestry program include:

- Owning or managing a minimum of five acres of woodland
- Having a Forest Stewardship Plan or being willing to have a forestry practice plan developed
- Note: Those who have an existing forest stewardship plan will receive additional points in the ranking process*
- Restricting livestock from the forested land
- A USDA customer service record with the Farm Service Agency

*If you do not have a Forest Stewardship Plan, the West Virginia Division of Forestry (WVDOF) may be of assistance in creating a such a plan.

USDA-NRCS and West Virginia's Division of Forestry have established a partnership to provide technical and financial assistance to forest owners.

How Do I Apply?

Applications for the EQIP Forestry program are available at your local USDA Service Center in the NRCS Office. While applications are accepted throughout the year, a selection period will occur approximately once per year, typically in the fall or winter. EQIP is a competitive program; all applications are ranked and evaluated against other applications. Contact your local NRCS Office for more information. Information is available online at: <http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> and <http://www.wvforestry.com/>

What is Available?

The Forestry EQIP practices include:

- Forest Stand Improvement
 - Crop Tree Release
 - Thinning
 - Cull Tree Removal
 - Grapevine Removal
 - Regeneration Cut/Release
 - Combination Improvement
 - Control of Woody Invasives in Woodland Areas (Tree-of-Heaven Control, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive and Bush Honeysuckle)
- Access Control and associated Woodland Exclusion Fencing
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Tree/Shrub Pruning

NOTE: EQIP program managers have put the following contract practice limits in place:

Practice	Component(s)	Minimum Treatment Acreage/ Units	Maximum Treatment Acreage/ Units
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	Crop Tree Release, Area Wide Thinning, Cull Tree Removal (Chainsaw), Cull Tree Removal (Chainsaw and Chemical), Grapevine Removal (Hand Cutting), Grapevine Removal (Chemical), Combination Improvement, Regeneration Cut, Regeneration Release	5	50
Forest Stand Improvement (666)	Tree-of-Heaven Control, Multiflora Rose, Autumn Olive and Bush Honey-suckle Control	1	50
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)		1	50
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660)	Pruning Softwoods and Black Walnut	1	50
Access Control (472) and Fencing (382)		-	2 miles of fence

For more information contact:

Contact your local NRCS Office:

Contact information:

<http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/index.html>

http://www.wv.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/fb_08_FY_2009_Programs/eqip_09/09_eqip.html

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