



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
State Office  
100 USDA, Suite 206  
Stillwater, OK 74074-2655  
Telephone (405) 742-1204

---

May 27, 2003

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK 440-3-11**

**SUBJECT: PGM – Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher Information**

**Purpose:** To provide information regarding the definitions and certification process for a Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer or Rancher.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2003

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (FSRIA) and the current Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) final rule provide for specific enhancements for individuals considered to be a Limited Resource or Beginning Farmer or Rancher. The EQIP final rule definitions for these two status categories are as follows:

**Beginning Farmer or Rancher** - an individual or entity who (1) has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years, and (2) will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

**Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher** - (1) a person with direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$100,000 in each of the previous two years, and (2) has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50% of a county median household income in each of the previous two years.

All of the information needed to determine Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher status for each state and county may be found at:

<http://www.ssi.nrcs.usda.gov/customdata/index.htm>

Local offices will need to be familiar with the status criteria as it applies to their local service area to be able to assist potential Beginning or Limited Resource farmers or ranchers with EQIP contract development. An on-line tool will be available soon for individuals to use to determine if they meet these qualifications. The web site address to access the tool will be forwarded to all field offices as soon as it becomes available. A sample press release entitled "EQIP Limited Resource and Beginning Farmer Enhancements" is available to be edited to meet local needs at:

<http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/Forms%20For%20Download/2003EQIPLimResBegFarm.doc>

Beginning or Limited Resource Farmers or Ranchers will self-certify as to their status on the new version of form CCC-1200. The new forms include block 7a. "Limited Resource Producer and Beginning Farmer Certification" for the self-certification. The new versions of form CCC-1200 and the CCC-1200 Appendix will be forwarded to all offices in a subsequent bulletin.

For questions or comments relative to this bulletin, contact Kevin D. Norton, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs), at (405) 742-1236, or Lanny R. Miller, Resource Specialist, at (580) 336-5515.

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist