

Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

2.1.20

USDA PROGRAM COST SHARE GUIDELINE (East of Hudson)

Background

The USDA offers many voluntary conservation programs to farmers nationwide. Some of these programs currently include the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), the Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA), the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP). By enrolling in these programs, farmers gain access to technical and/or financial assistance through the USDA to implement a variety of conservation practices. Program objectives may include soil and water conservation; assisting with transitions to organic farming; land conservation; forest management; and wildlife habitat improvement. Levels of available funding are influenced by the Farm Bill, vary regionally and usually require a cost share from the landowner or other funding source.

WAC Cost Share Eligibility

Watershed Agricultural Council Participants with approved, active Whole Farm Plans (WFPs) may be eligible for WAC to fund the participant's share of the practice cost not covered by USDA. Eligible practices must be approved in the Participant's WFP and offer a solution to an existing, on-farm water quality problem identified by WAC planning staff.

Any WAC Participant applying for a USDA Program must meet all USDA eligibility requirements and follow all necessary application procedures required by USDA.

If the WFP is over cost guideline, the Participant Cost Share Guideline (#1.0.09) also applies.