

# USDA Assistance for Minority Farmers

## What Assistance is Available?

- Short-term contracts to assist farmers and/or land-owners with applying practices such as conservation tillage, buffers, nutrient management, animal waste storage, barnyards, and more than 100 other practices.
- Technical assistance to help farmers carry out the practices
- Practice payments to reduce the cost to the farm operation

## What is the Advantage for Minority Farmers?

- High payment rate
- Advance practice payments of up to 30% for materials for construction, when work can begin immediately

## How do I know if I Qualify as a Minority Farmer?

- The applicant or the operator must be an agricultural producer engaged in the production of livestock or other agricultural products and must have produced at least \$1,000 annually on the applicant's farming operation
- Minority farmers include African Americans, American Indians or Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, and Asians or Pacific Islanders
- Owners of farms who are not the operator may apply

## What Farmers May Not Qualify?

- Farmers who only board horses or only have horses for pleasure
- Farmers who have had a previous EQIP contract cancelled based on a lack of adequate performance
- At least half of the ownership of the operation must meet the minority farmer criteria



## How Does a Farmer Apply?

- Contact a local USDA NRCS office, found at [www.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov), under "Find a Service Center"
- Request a conservation plan
- Complete an application for one of the cost share or incentive programs

## When Does a Farmer Apply?

- All programs have a continuous sign up
- Apply early; contracts are awarded until funding is gone



[www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov)

For Spanish language assistance call  
1-866-232-0690