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Water Resources with NRCS

Katie Woodruff | 12/10/2024

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Our Mission:



The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our partners and customers, we identify natural resource concerns such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop solutions to restore and protect these resources.



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Programs



- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, or improved wildlife habitat.
- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**
 - Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns.
- **Other Programs**
 - Wetland Reserve Easements, Agricultural Conservation Easement
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
 - Conservation Innovation Grants
 - Conservation Incentive Contract



Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS)

- ‘Conservation Implementation Strategies’ are derived from the Long-Range Plans and lay out the technical and financial needs for a specific resource concern for up to five years. More specifically, they describe the primary resource goals, proposed solutions and actions, necessary funds and technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluating methods as well as implementation timeline and partner roles.

CIS for the Coquille office:

- Gorse
- Forest Management Planning
- Prescribed Fire Management Planning
- Local Foods and Hightunnels
- Tide Gate Replacement
- Cranberry Irrigation Automation



Cranberry Irrigation

Specific Resource Concerns: Water Quantity and Inefficient Energy

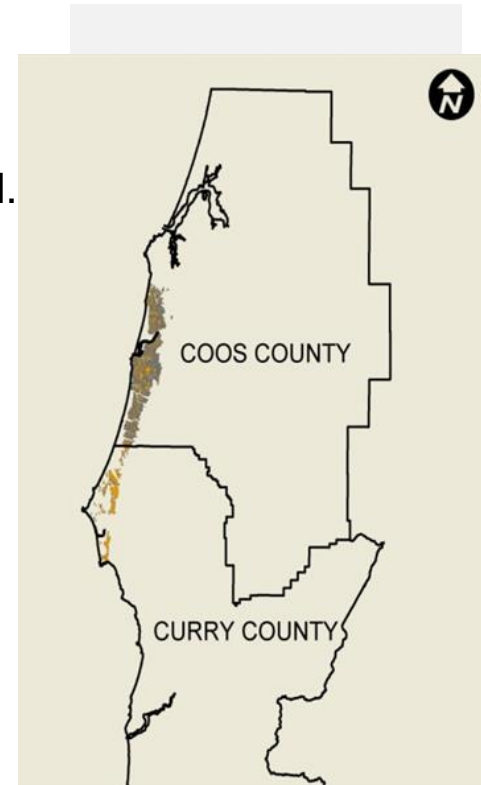
Excess or inefficient water delivery (timing and amounts) in cranberry irrigation and frost protection systems is the priority concern.

SOLUTION: Applied water at precise amounts when & where required.

- We had 7 applications for 2024. Will we have more in the following years?

Proposed Practices:

- 449 Irrigation System Evaluation
- 442 Irrigation System Automation
- 442 Irrigation System Sprinkler, Solid Set System Renovation
- 449 Irrigation Water Management
- 587 Structure For Water Control
- 441 Micro irrigation Retrofit Automation
- 533 Pumping Plant
- 430 irrigation Conveyance Pipeline
- 587 Structure For Water Control



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Two step process

Frist step is to have a valuation done, and then apply to have the appropriate equipment installed.

Program:	EQIP
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Planner:

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Highlights of EQIP 2024

- 4 High Tunnels funded
- 1 Forest Management Plan
- 3 Forestry Health Projects including 1 gorse removal
- 6 Cranberry Irrigation Projects, 5 inventories and 1 implementation
- 4 Pasture Improvement Projects including 1 pasture irrigation project with pods
- 1 Tide Gate Replacement and Fish Habitat Improvement
- A total of \$1,294,832 was obligated in EQIP funds over 19 total contracts





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Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



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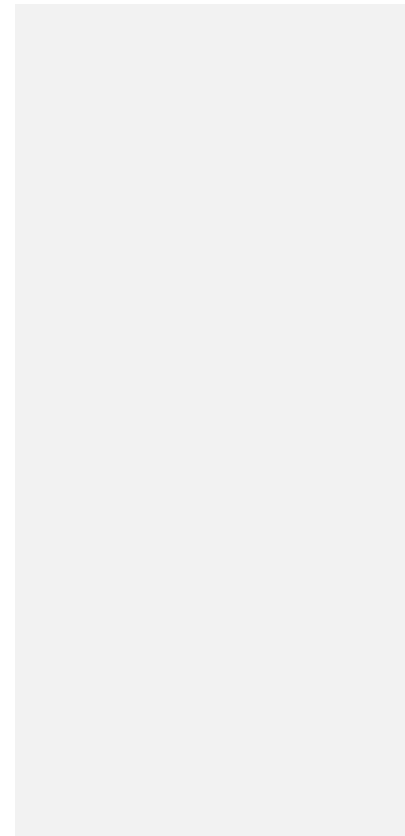
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CSP



Contract payments are based on two components. Maintaining the existing level of conservation, based on assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment, and payments to implement additional conservation activities (think management).

- Can be on crop, pasture, farmstead, or forestry
- New min payment of \$4,000 for 5 years so a total min contract of \$20,000
- Must sign up all land in contract for 5 years
- Could be use for Irrigation Water Management if you want to rent equipment





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Contact



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Questions and Comments?



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