

Animal Agriculture in South Carolina: A Fact Book

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Sources of Funding for Farmers

http://www.epa.gov/earth1r6/6wq/at/nps/f_source.htm

There are several Federal programs designed to help farmers finance improvements in waste management. USEPA and USDA each offer programs and the two together offer joint programs.

USEPA Funding Sources

§319 Clean Water Act, Nonpoint Source Grant Program - This is a State-operated water quality improvement program. States are required to develop an Assessment Report (identification of the water quality problems) and a Management Program (the strategy). The grant program is intended to implement the milestones of the Management Program such that water quality problems identified in the Assessment Report are addressed and water bodies are returned to their designated uses. State Nonpoint Source Programs can take many forms and use a combination of local projects and statewide efforts and programs to implement solutions. If you have a water quality problem in your area you are interested in working on, first contact your State Nonpoint Source Agency to discuss your idea and learn more about their particular funding cycle and current priorities. While developing a project proposal, consider the Watershed Approach, leveraging of funds and the abilities of various partners, cost effectiveness, and how well the project really addresses the root cause of the water quality problem. For more information on the Nonpoint Source Program, see the national Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program website, at www.epa.gov/owow/NPS/.

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program - Under this program, EPA provides grants or “seed money” to all states to capitalize state loan funds. The states, in turn, make loans to communities, individuals, and others for high-priority water-quality activities. As money is paid back into the revolving fund, new loans are made to other recipients that need help in maintaining water quality. While traditionally used to build or improve wastewater treatment plants, loans are also used increasingly for: agricultural, rural, and urban runoff control; estuary improvement projects; wet weather flow control; and alternative treatment technologies. Financial Assistance (<http://www.epa.gov/OWM>)

The Hardship Grants Program for Rural Communities - This grant program is designed to help small, disadvantaged rural communities address their wastewater needs. The Hardship Grants Program is designed to complement the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program, which allows states to make loans to communities and individuals for high-priority water-quality projects. Financial Assistance (<http://www.epa.gov/OWM>)

EPA/NASA Joint Program on Ecosystem Restoration - Seeks research proposals to address fundamental concepts of ecosystem rehabilitation in the context of the larger watershed. This competition emphasizes fundamental research on important scientific principles related to watershed rehabilitation. National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (NCERQA)

Environmental Education (EE) - The purpose of the Environmental Education grants is to provide financial support for projects which design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques. Eligible applicants include local, tribal, or state education agencies; colleges and universities; nonprofit organizations; state environmental agencies; and non-commercial educational broadcasting agencies. Award amounts are up to \$25,000 regionally and \$25,000 to \$250,000 nationally. There is a non-Federal government match required of 25 percent. The approximate application due date is December/January each year with selections announced each summer. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed project is new or significantly improved, has the potential for wide application, and addresses a high priority environmental issue. Projects MUST focus on one of the following: improving environmental education teaching skills; educating teachers, students, or the public about human health problems; building state, local, or tribal government capacity to develop environmental education programs; educating community through community-based organization; or educating the general public through print, film, broadcast, or other media. Contact nearest EPA Regional Office.

Environmental Justice (EJ) - The purpose of the Environmental Justice grants is to provide financial assistance to eligible community groups and Federally recognized tribal governments that are working on or plan to carry out

projects to address environmental justice issues. Eligible applicants include any affected community group, non-profit organization, university, or tribal government. Award amounts are up to \$20,000 granted. There is no Federal government match required. The approximate application due date is February each year with selections announced each June. Applicants must demonstrate how the proposed project will improve the environmental quality of the community by: having wide application or addressing a high priority issue; enhancing skills in addressing EJ issues and problems; establishing or expanding information systems for communities; facilitating communication, information exchange, and community partnerships; motivating the public to be more conscious of EJ issues; or leading to action to address those issues. Environmental Justice Information (<http://es.inel.gov/program/initiative/justice/ej-fs2.html>)

EPA Research Grants - Available in 1997 for topics including: Exploratory Research; Ecosystem Indicators; Issues in Human Health Risk Assessment; Endocrine Disruptors; Ambient Air Quality; Health Effects and Exposures to Particulate Matter and Associated Air Pollutants; Drinking Water; and Contaminated Sediment. The list might differ from year to year. Information, forms, etc. may be obtained by consulting the appropriate EPA Web Page. National Center for Environmental Research and Quality Assurance (NCERQA)

USDA Funding Sources

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - The EQIP provides cost sharing funds for landusers to implement conservation practices on their operating units. The program requires funds to be spent implementing practices prescribed in an approved conservation plan on land located in high priority targeted watersheds. Contracts for funding implementation of practices will be developed for 5 to 10 years. Contact your local NRCS office to apply. EQIP Fact Sheet—1996 Farm Bill Conservation Provisions, NRCS

Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) - The WRP provides funds for agricultural producers to enroll acreage into 30-year and permanent easements for wetland restoration. It provides 75 to 100 percent cost sharing for permanent easements, 50 to 75 percent cost sharing for 30-year easements, and 50 to 75 percent for restoration cost share agreements to help pay for the restorations. Contact your local NRCS office to apply. Wetlands Reserve Program Q&A—1996 Farm Bill Conservation Provisions, NRCS

Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) - This new program will help landowners improve wildlife habitat on private lands by cost sharing the development of habitat for upland wildlife, wetland wildlife, endangered species, fisheries, and other wildlife. Contact your local NRCS office to apply. WHIP Fact Sheet—1996 Farm Bill Conservation Provisions, NRCS

Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easements - This program authorizes the Federal government to purchase floodplain easements. Contact your local NRCS office to apply.

Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) - FIP provides cost sharing funds for implementing practices that develop or restore forested lands according to an approved forest management plan. Contact your local NRCS office to apply. Forestry Incentives Program (FIP) Fact Sheet—1996 Farm Bill Conservation Provisions, NRCS

Farm Services Agency (FSA): ([FSA Homepage](#))

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) - The CRP protects highly erodible and environmentally sensitive lands by enrolling the land into CRP contracts which pay the landowner to plant the land in grass, trees, or other acceptable permanent cover and keep it in that long-term cover for 10 years or more. USDA, Farm Service Agency, CRP Information

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES): Fund For Rural America (<http://www.reeusda.gov/fra/>)

Fund for Rural America Program - The Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 established an account in the Treasury of the United States to provide funds for rural development programs and a competitive grant program to support research, education, and extension activities. To obtain program application materials, please contact the Proposal Services Unit, Grants Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; USDA/CSREES at (202) 401-5048. These materials may also be requested via Internet by sending a message with your name, mailing address (not e-mail), and phone number to psb@reeusda.gov which states that you want a copy of the application materials for the Fund Program. The materials will then be mailed to you (not e-mailed) as quickly as possible. Fund For Rural America (<http://www.reeusda.gov/fra/>)

USDA and EPA Joint Funding Sources

Agriculture in Concert with the Environment (ACE) - The primary purpose of this grant program is to promote the adoption of sustainable agriculture practices and reduce the use of highly toxic herbicides and other pesticides. Establishing a harmonious relationship between agriculture and the environment offers the opportunity for multiple gains on all sides—for the farm owner, farm workers, consumers, and communities as a whole. For more information or application forms, contact your regional host institution as listed on the Internet web site shown. Agriculture in Concert with the Environment (ACE) <http://es.inel.gov/new/funding/ace/ace.html>

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program (SAREP) - This grant program is to fund research that will lead to reduced environmental stress from agricultural practices. Important research in pursuit of this goal includes: 1) Studies on the development and adoption of environmental-friendly farming practices and systems and 2) Studies that identify, evaluate, and interpret indications of agroecosystem health. For more information or application forms, contact your regional host institution as listed on the Internet web site shown. RFP: Southern Region Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education -Due 9/3/96 (<http://pprc.pnl.gov/pprc/rfp/archives/sare96s.html>)