

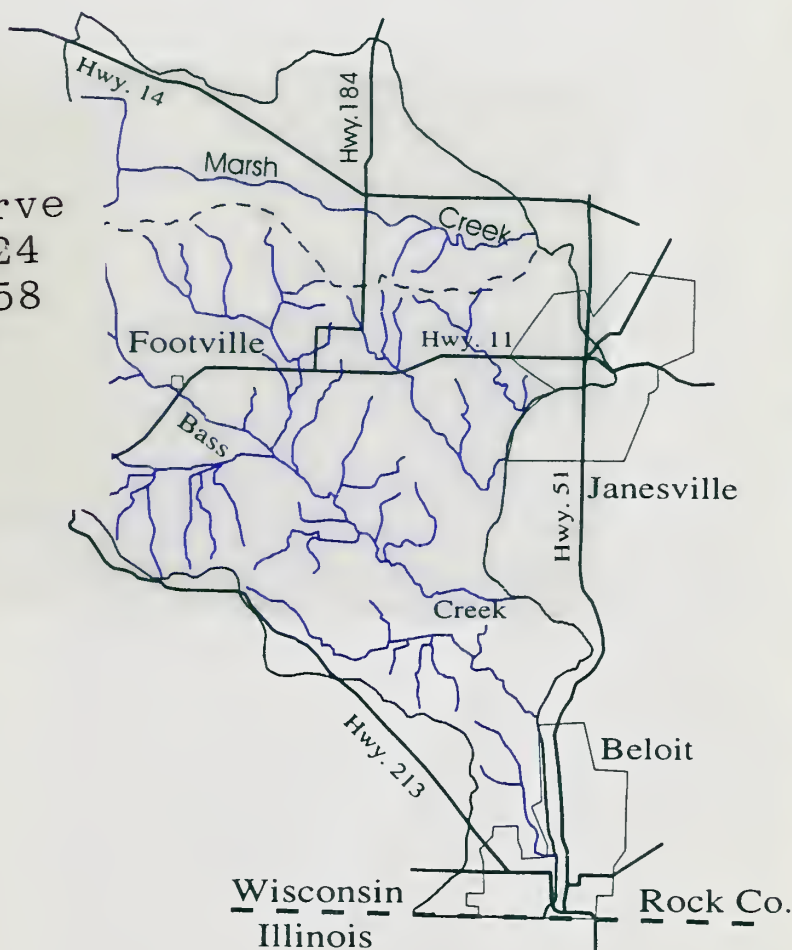
USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

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JUN 23 1998

*Bass Creek and Marsh Creek
Watersheds
Rock County, Wisconsin*

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What is EQIP?

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a new voluntary USDA program to help landowners establish conservation practices to protect soil, water and other natural resources. EQIP focuses technical, educational and financial assistance primarily to private landowners in locally-identified priority areas. It also offers assistance statewide for significant conservation concerns.

EQIP offers landowners cost-sharing and technical help to install or implement structural, vegetative, and management practices through 5- to 10-year contracts.

Other USDA programs, such as the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and state and local programs offer additional tools for producers to care for our private lands - a shared commitment of public and private interests to solve our natural resource concerns.

What Types of Conservation Practices Are Eligible?

Landowners work with local NRCS or county land conservationists to develop 5-10 year contracts providing cost-sharing, and for some practices, incentive payments as well.

- grassed waterways
- filter or buffer strips
- manure management practices
- tree planting/timber management
- wildlife habitat management
- streambank stabilization
- wetland restorations
- many more structural or management practices

Payments

Landowners can be reimbursed for up to 75% of the cost of the practices needed. Incentive payments may be made to encourage a producer to try certain land management practices such as nutrient management, manure management, and wildlife habitat management. These incentive payments may be provided to encourage producers to try farm management practices they may not otherwise use without the program incentive.

Maximum payment is \$10,000 per person per year, with a \$50,000 maximum for the life of the contract.

Who is Eligible?

Any person who produces agricultural commodities, including livestock, crops, orchards, pasture or other products, and who owns or controls the land, is eligible to participate.

Any land that is used to produce agricultural commodities, such as cropland, pasture, forest or other land on which crops or livestock are produced, is eligible.

Large confined livestock operations (>1,000 animal units) are not eligible for cost-sharing on animal waste storage or treatment facilities. However, technical and financial assistance for other resource issues may be available.



Bass Creek and Marsh Creek Watersheds

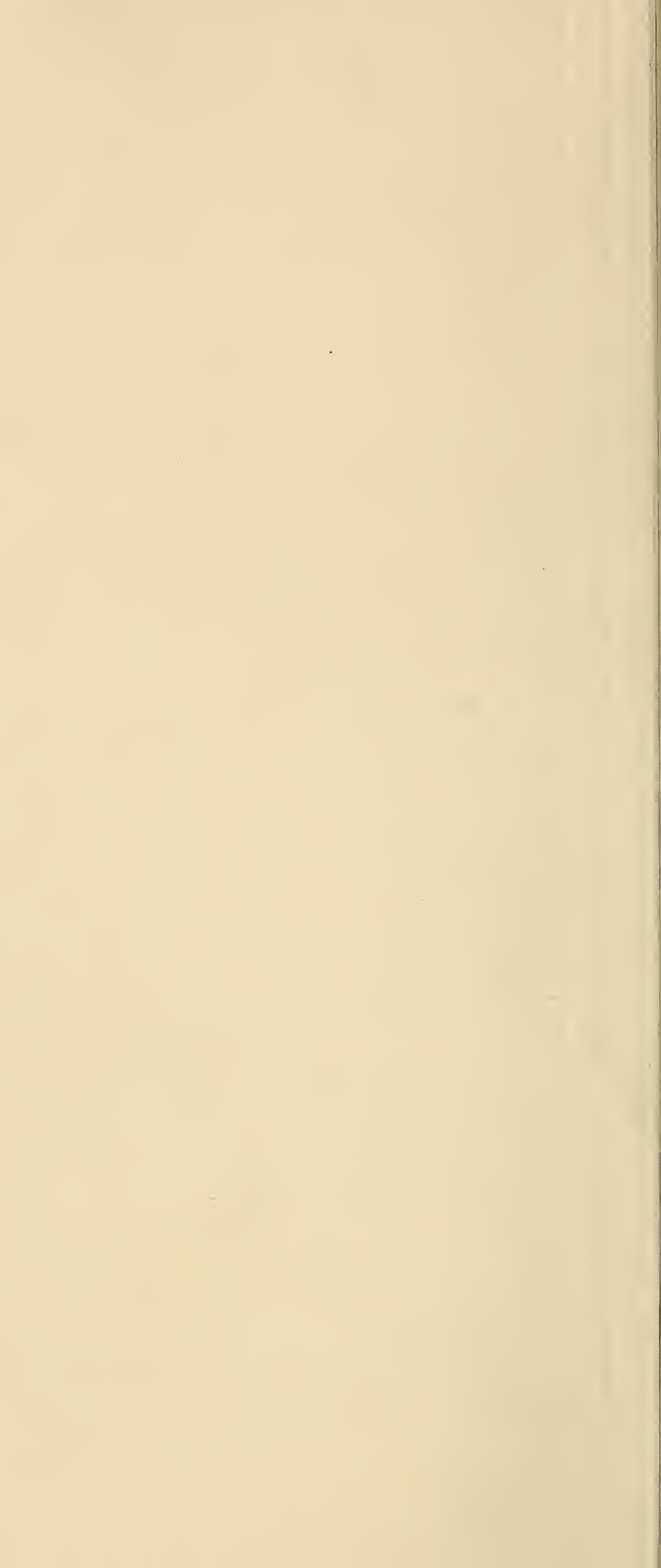
Bass Creek and Marsh Creek Watersheds are two of 21 watersheds selected this year as an EQIP priority area in Wisconsin. The Bass Creek and Marsh Creek EQIP Projects will receive at least \$750,000 in funding over a five year period, starting in 1998. Substantial additional funding will also be available through CRP, WHIP, and WRP.

Why Participate?

The Bass Creek and Marsh Creek Watershed Projects will provide technical and financial assistance to landowners within the watersheds for a wide variety of environmental concerns. These projects give you, the landowners, the opportunity to address concerns such as manure management, erosion, surface and groundwater protection, wildlife habitat improvement, tree planting and timber management, wetlands restorations, etc. The success of this program is in your hands, as the landowners of the Bass and Marsh Creek Watersheds.

What is Our Goal?

A primary goal is to reduce sediment and nutrients flowing into all receiving waters in Bass and Marsh Creeks. Additional priorities include wildlife habitat enhancement, timber management and groundwater protection.



Need More Information?

What types of conservation practices are you interested in implementing? Contact:

USDA Service Center
440 N. US Hwy 14
Janesville, WI 53546-9708

NRCS: 608-755-2187

FSA: 608-754-6617

A cooperative project with:

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
Rock County Land Conservation Department
Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources
University of Wisconsin Extension

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