



USDA-CSREES 2006 National Water Quality Conference

[Funding Conservation Education in the Conservation Title of the Next Farm Bill](#)

Funding for conservation practices was greatly expanded in the 2002 Farm Bill compared to the 1996 Farm Bill. However, funding for education about those practices, provided under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) in the 1996 bill, was eliminated in the 2002 bill. Several Land Grant Universities developed significant education partnerships with state NRCS staff under EQIP Education between 1997 and 2002. NRCS and the University of Minnesota developed and delivered statewide programs of workshops, publications, and software in the areas of nutrient and manure management, and grazing management. This partnership, expanded to include state agencies, was able to facilitate rapid adoption of new state and federal feedlot rules in 2000 and 2003, as well as assist many producers to meet requirements of practices under EQIP. Farmers and agricultural professionals benefited by hearing a coordinated message from the partnership of university and agencies. Since 2002, without the Conservation Title funding, this education partnership has diminished. Preparation of the 2007 Farm Bill presents an opportunity for Land Grant Universities, working with CSREES, to reinvigorate the partnership on conservation education that existed between NRCS and the Cooperative Extension Services under EQIP Education.

Author: Les Everett