

Transition Project & the NRCS EQIP Organic Initiative

Presented by

Sarah Brown, Organic Specialist, Oregon Tilth & NRCS

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Transition Project

- Producer needs assessment
 - National and OR-specific
 - Transitioning, certified, and conventional
- ‘Transition to Organic 101’- OSU Small Farm Conference
 - Certification details and process
 - Economics of organic transition
 - Programs and services for support producers



Transition Project

- Transitional Producers Education and Exchange Network (TPEEN)
 - ~20 transitioning producers
 - Support from mentor farmers, certification staff, NRCS, and partners
 - Outreach/information sessions
 - Webinars on specific technical topics



Transition Project

- Strengthen supply chain
 - Buyer roundtable
 - Explore markets for transitional products within large institutions
- Explore and promote adoption of state-funded transition cost-share program in Oregon
- Media op-eds to raise awareness



Program Contact Information:

Sarah Brown

Organic Conservation Program Manager

503-779-6557

Sarah.brown@por.usda.gov



NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Technical and financial assistance to help plan and implement ***conservation practices that address natural resource concerns*** and for opportunities to improve soil, water, plant, animal, air and related resources on agricultural land



EQIP Organic Initiative

- Eligibility-certified organic, transitional, and exempt producers
 - Submit organic certificate or Self-Certification
- Producer payment limit- \$20k annually / \$80k entire contract



EQIP Organic Initiative

- Competitively ranked
 - but not against conventional producers!
- Year-round sign-up period
- 2014 ranking deadlines vary by state
 - Oregon: 1/17 and 3/21



What are NRCS resource concerns?



Soil Erosion



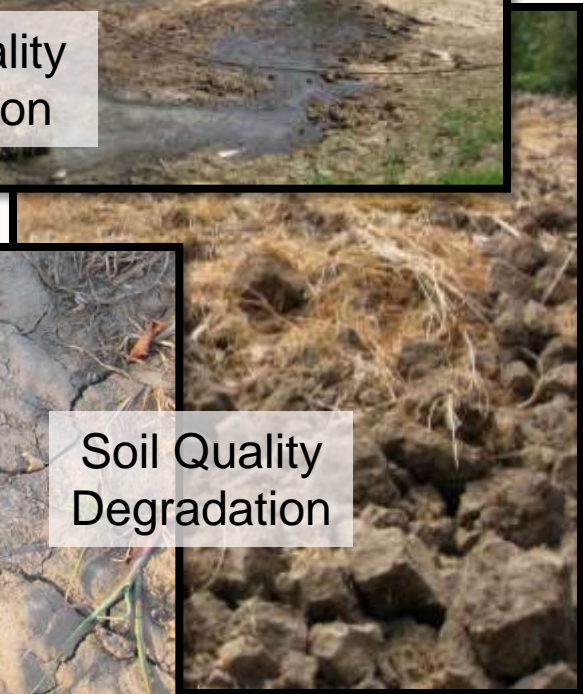
Water Quality Degradation



Degraded Plant Condition



Inadequate habitat for wildlife



Soil Quality Degradation

What are NRCS 'conservation practices'?



**** Available Practices vary by State ****

Some of the practices & approx. payments* available:

- Cover Crop (\$130/ac)
- Hedgerow (\$1.80-5/ft)
- Conservation Cover (\$145-350/ac)
- Nutrient Mgmt (\$400-700/farm)
- Crop Rotation (\$11-176/ac)
- Mulch (\$200-600/ac)
- Micro-irrigation (\$5,300/ac)
- High Tunnels (\$2.87/sq. ft)
- Roof Runoff (\$6-25/ft)
- Brush Management (\$300/ac)
- Compost Facility (\$.30-\$3/sq. ft)

***2014 approx. payments from OR. Costs will vary based on operation and producer. Contact your local NRCS office to inquire on actual costs.**



Financial Assistance Cost Lists

- EQIP payments based on typical costs for implementation
- Beginning Farmer, Limited Resource Producer, and Socially Disadvantaged are eligible for an increased payment rate of 25%- ASK!
- Many practices have multiple payment scenarios/rates-ASK!
- Some practices have organic and/or small farm payment 'rates'-ASK!





Questions?

