

The local workgroup that sets priorities for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and recommends special projects for cost-share assistance to local farmers and ranchers will meet in Imperial Monday, Dec. 14.

The local workgroup for the Upper Republican NRD area will meet at 1 p.m. MT, Dec. 14 in the Upper Republican NRD conference room, 511 East 5th, Imperial.

EQIP is the U.S. Department of Agriculture's primary cost-share assistance program for farmers and ranchers who implement conservation practices on their land.

While the program is administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the priorities for the EQIP program are locally determined by a local workgroup.

The local workgroup would appreciate input from local producers and farm organizations.

The workgroup will review the practice list and ranking criteria for EQIP applications and will recommend the acreage limitation for incentive payments and the cost-share rates. The group will also discuss possible special initiatives.

Some of the initiatives that the state NRCS office has asked local workgroups to consider include: invasive species control measures, cooperative projects with weed management areas, vegetative treatment areas for smaller animal feeding operations and permanent retirement of irrigated land.

The group will also determine the percentages of EQIP funds to be allocated for specific resource concerns.

All interested parties are invited to attend the local workgroup meeting. For additional information contact the NRCS office in Imperial at (308) 882-4263 extension 3 or e-mail [nadine.bishop@ne.usda.gov](mailto:nadine.bishop@ne.usda.gov).