

307.10 National Air Quality Initiative

Initiative Name and Acronym National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI)

Initiative Description/Summary

The Agricultural Act of 2018 Section 2207 (16 U.S.C. Section 3839aa) authorizes program support to eligible producers to implement practices that address air quality concerns from agricultural operations. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), National Air Quality Initiative (NAQI) is designed to help producers address agricultural air emissions of particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), ammonia (NH₃), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), volatile organic compounds (VOCs), odorous sulfur compounds (OSCs), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Questions and Contact Information

Please refer all programmatic questions referring to the NAQI to the FAPD SharePoint for questions. The FAPD SharePoint can be found here: https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/nrcs_programs/fapd/SitePages/Home.aspx

Request to Participate

States with significant air quality resource concerns are invited to submit *air quality plan* in EQIP NAQI. The *air quality plan* will be submitted to the FAPD SharePoint in conjunction with the State Resource Assessment (SRA) process. States are encouraged to collaborate on the *air quality plan* for regional air quality priorities. The *air quality plan* will include at a minimum, the following information:

- 1) Priority type (national nonattainment, regional air quality, or State air quality)
- 2) Geographic extent (e.g., States and counties) of the initiative area
- 3) Air quality resource concerns to be targeted in the initiative area
- 4) Priority pollutants to be addressed
- 5) Reasons for the importance of the agricultural air quality issues in the initiative area
- 6) Any existing or potential air quality regulatory requirements related to the specific agricultural air quality issues to be addressed
- 7) Discussion of whether the geographic extent of the initiative areas includes a nonattainment or maintenance area for the priority pollutants to be addressed
- 8) Description of the proposed strategy to address the agricultural air quality issues, including a discussion of the overall goal to be achieved, what is the expected timeline if a multiyear commitment is being proposed, and what are the interim or annual milestones to measure success
- 9) Proposed core air quality practices to be utilized in the initiative and any supporting practices with the justification
- 10) Amount of funding requested by State
- 11) External partners, if any, and their expected role in the initiative

Priority for funding consideration will be based on the following:

- 1) Mitigation of pollutants or precursors which contribute to nonattainment of National Ambient Air Quality Standards
- 2) Air quality regulatory compliance related to agricultural sources
- 3) Participation with external partners

ProTracts Subaccount Requirements

States approved for NAQI will follow the guidance provided below for ProTracts.

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The following subaccounts will be established in ProTracts to support NAQI in each State approved for the initiative:

- "Air Quality National Non-attainment" with an account type of "Air Quality National" for proposals approved for national nonattainment funds.
- "Air Quality Regional" with an account type of "Air Quality Priority" for proposals approved for regional funds.
- "Air Quality State" with an account type of "Air Quality National" or "Air Quality Priority" depending on the funds source utilized.

States will evaluate and fund applications for air-quality-related projects using the appropriate subaccount. States may establish additional air-quality-related subaccounts using other program funds but will attach an account type of "Air Quality State."

Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CART)

Please refer to National Instruction 440-310 Exhibit Q, "EQIP" for guidance on land use, State eligibility, and ranking of the National Air Quality Initiative.