Maine Healthy Soils Program
NRCS EQIP Top-Off Incentive Program
Questions and Answers Summary

Written Questions Deadline	**October 21, 2026,** no later than 12:00 noon, local time Submit all questions via online submission
Application Deadline	**November 6, 2026,** no later than 12:00 noon, local time. To apply, visit our program webpage.

The Question and Answer Summary below includes all questions asked and answered during the Information Sessions held on September 30, 2026, October 7, 2026, and October 17, 2026 and all written questions submitted via email through the written question deadline of 12:00 noon on 10/21/2026.

- Where can I access materials and information for applying to this grant?
  - Instructions on how to apply are provided in the Request for Applications (RFA) document on the Maine Healthy Soils Program website.
- I have a project through PASA that works through NRCS EQIP, is that contract eligible for this program?
  - No, unless the specific contract in the 1155 form references NRCS EQIP.
- Are we eligible to be paid for practice codes that have not yet been completed and inspected by USDA?
  - Yes, you will be required to submit 1245 forms verifying that the work was complete for any advanced funds.
- In a nutshell, we get our 1155 forms from NRCS, plug the information into the invoice, and send you the invoice and documentation outlined in the RFA to be added to the payment list?
  - Yes
- If contract items are going to be completed between applying and receiving funds, how should we code them in the invoice form.
  - Code those contract items as 'planned' and submit 1245 verification upon completion.
- If I had a project with contract items completed in December 2021, is that eligible for this program?
  - No
- Is this program going to be opened yearly?

  - This program will be opened as funds allow.
- Does this program pay for the difference between what NRCS paid me and what I verifiably spent on the project?
  - No. The program pays according to the payment rates outlined in your contract. The payment rates for each contract item in your contract are usually 75% - 90% of what NRCS determines the actual cost of the contract item to be. This program pays out the remaining 10% - 25% of that NRCS determination. This means if NRCS paid you $75 for a project they determined to actually cost $100, then you would be eligible for a maximum of $25 from this program, even if the actual cost to you was, say, $150.
- What years are eligible for this program?
  - Any contract item verifiably completed January 2022 and forward is eligible, even if the contract start date originated prior to January 2022.
- What documentation is required?
  - Please review the RFA for all documentation requirements.
- Where is the assumed total cost written down in the 1155 forms?
  - The assumed total cost, or actual cost as determined by NRCS, is back translated internally on the ARDTIP27 invoice request form. You only need to enter the requested information from your 1155, and the form will calculate your maximum eligible payment.
- Are any payments deferred?
  - Yes, payments for work to be completed in 2028 are deferred until verification of completion (1245 form) is submitted to the RFA coordinator for 'planned' work in 2026/27.
- If we do not have a contract open with NRCS currently, but did have one within the eligible timeframe (January 2022 and forward), are we eligible to apply for funds for that contract?
  - Yes, you will need to submit 1245 forms for all practice codes.
- Do any practice codes take precedent over the others for payment?
  - No. All eligible practice codes are of equal priority.
- If practice codes were funded through the NRCS AMA program, are they eligible for inclusion?
  - No.