

EQIP / EA SRC

**Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Edwards Aquifer (EA)
State Resource Concern (SRC)**





Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) EQIP/EA SRC

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals. Through EQIP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management conservation practices on eligible agricultural land. NRCS administers EQIP. The Texas Priority Areas, or SRCs target significant resource concerns with conservation partners that cross multiple county and NRCS resource team boundaries. The Table below lists the EA SRC selected beneficial practices for the EA SRC.

NRCS Practices Within “Zones” of the Edwards Aquifer System

PRIMARY FOCUS

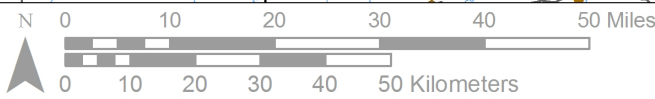
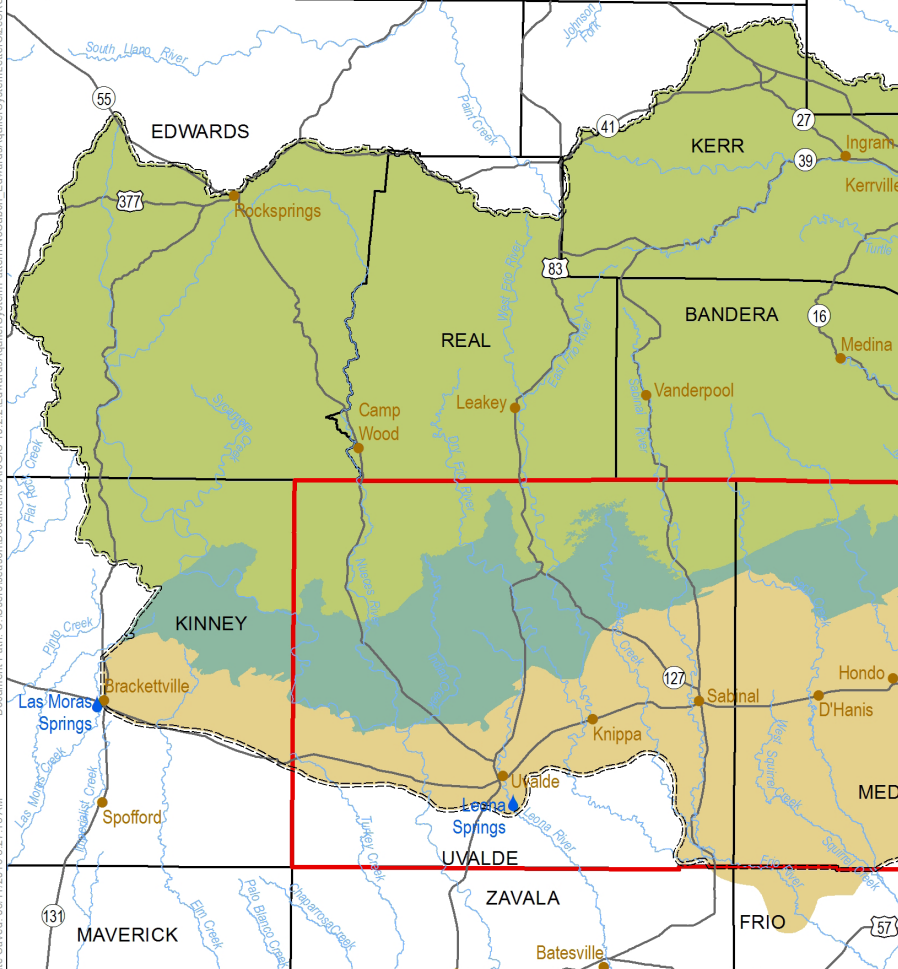
Contributing & Recharge Zones	Artesian Zone	Contributing, Recharge & Artesian Zones
550 Range Planting	351 Well Decommissioning*	319 On Farm Secondary Containment*
390 Riparian Herbaceous Cover	449 Irrigation Water Well Management	
391 Riparian Forest Cover	441 Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation	
528 Prescribed Grazing	442 Irrigation System, Sprinkler	
314 Brush Management		

SECONDARY FOCUS

Contributing & Recharge Zones	Artesian Zone	Contributing, Recharge & Artesian Zones
512 Forage & Biomass Planting	372 Combustion System Improvements	329 Residue & Tillage Mgt. - No -Till
386 Field Border	533 Pumping Plant	345 Residue & Tillage Mgt. - Mulch -Till
393 Filter Strip		340 Cover Crop
412 Grassed Waterway		
580 Streambank & Shoreline Protection		
600 Terrace		
638 Water & Sediment Control Basin		

*** EAA funding contingent upon practice meeting current EAA regulations.**

Edwards Aquifer System



Disclaimer: This map was created for demonstrative use by the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) and is not intended for other purposes. This map is to be used as an informational tool only; it is not suitable for projects requiring survey accuracy; data accuracy is not guaranteed.

Reference Scale: 1:1,000,000

Coordinate System: NAD 1983 StatePlane Texas South Central FIPS 4204 Feet
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
 Datum: North American 1983
 False Easting: 1,968,500.0000
 False Northing: 13,123,333.3333
 Central Meridian: -99.0000
 Standard Parallel 1: 28.3833
 Standard Parallel 2: 30.2833
 Latitude Of Origin: 27.8333
 Units: Foot US



**EDWARDS AQUIFER
 AUTHORITY**

- Major Edwards Aquifer**
- Streams**
- Lakes**
- Cities**
- Highways**
- County Boundaries**

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For 2016, the EAA is providing reimbursement funding for “Primary Focus” practices located within the designated zones of the EAA’s jurisdictional boundary as shown in the previous table. EAA funding is in addition to NRCS EQIP funding for the EA SRC program. EAA funding reimbursement for each project will depend upon the number of applicants but could represent up to a maximum reimbursement amount of 20% of the constructed cost. The EA SRC is anticipated to be a five (5) year program. The EA SRC is inclusive of incidental practices needed to complete comprehensive conservation plans for properties such as an on-farm irrigation supply line or cross fencing.

This program has three major objectives – Water Quality, Water Quantity, and Climate Change.

1 WATER QUALITY

a. Practices for improving water quality in the contributing and recharge zones are selected to increase soil organic matter content, stabilize topsoil through establishment of drought tolerant grasses, improve plant and soil health, and reduce sediment loading to streams.

b. Decommissioning substandard Edwards wells and providing secondary containment of fuel storage within the Edwards SRC boundary will protect the aquifer from surface pollutants.

2 WATER QUANTITY

Practices in the artesian zone are prioritized to improve irrigation water use efficiency of Edwards' wells and to reduce water demands by improving soil health.

3 CLIMATE CHANGE

Practices that conserve energy, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote carbon sequestration in the soil are encouraged within the entire SRC boundary.

The EAA discussed the goals and practices of the Edwards Aquifer (EA) SRC with the leadership of agricultural organizations within the region including some Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Farm Bureau, the Nueces River Authority, and the Bandera County River Authority and Groundwater Conservation District. Each of these entities provided letters of support for the practices selected.

Eligibility and Deadline for NRCS SRC EQIP Participation

Detailed EQIP program information for topics listed below can be found at the following link:

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/tx/programs/financial/eqip/>

- **How EQIP in Texas Works**
- **How to Apply for the EQIP Program**
- **Texas EQIP Fact Sheets**
- **2016 Texas State Priority Areas and Initiatives (SRCs)**

To be eligible for EAA funding, the applicant must be approved by the NRCS for EQIP funding, demonstrate the practice is complete, provide the EAA access to the site Conservation Plan, and enter into a reimbursement contract with the EAA. The EAA contract form can be downloaded from the EAA website:
www.edwardsaquifer.org/recharge-zone-protection/easrc





Points of Contact

For questions regarding the SRC Program, please contact:

NRCS STAFF

- ***Elisha Kuehn, Assistant State Conservationist***
Field Operations
(325) 944-0147 or elisha.kuehn@tx.usda.gov
- ***Mark Freeman, Program Manager***
(325) 944-0147 or mark.freeman@tx.usda.gov

EAA STAFF

- ***Jim Boenig, PE, Director of Aquifer Protection***
(210) 222-2204, ext. 302 or jboenig@edwardsaquifer.org
- ***Clayton Rollins, Environmental Coordinator***
(210) 222-2204, ext. 306 or crollins@edwardsaquifer.org

Additional Assistance

Additional funding assistance for the installation or improvement of efficient irrigation systems that are completed in 2016 will also be available for SRC applicants through the EAA's ***Groundwater Conservation Grant Program***.

Information regarding this opportunity will be provided late spring 2016. For questions regarding the EAA's grant program, please contact:

- ***Javier Hernandez, Water Resources Manager***
(210) 222-2204, ext. 139 or
jhernandez@edwardsaquifer.org
- ***Isabel Martinez, Conservation Coordinator***
(210) 222-2204, ext. 314 or
imartinez@edwardsaquifer.org



The EAA is a political subdivision of the State of Texas that was created to manage, enhance, and protect the Edwards Aquifer system. The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) is the sponsor of this Edwards Aquifer (EA) EQIP SRC program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) with the purpose to protect the quantity and quality of water recharging the Edwards Aquifer and enhance the efficient use of water resources vital to the region.



United States Department of Agriculture