

Conservation Practice Standard

Water Conservation System

Evaporative Cooling Pad

What is an Evaporative Cooling Pad?

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has approved a new conservation practice, commonly known as an Evaporative Cooling Pad that will help reduce water and energy use in Florida nursery operations and in existing greenhouses or high tunnels. It can also be used for cooling livestock and poultry facilities.

This Water Conservation System is a conservation practice standard used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Reduce water use
- Reduce energy use
- Improve plant productivity and health
- Provide water for livestock or poultry

Benefits

The new system will help meet cooling needs quicker while saving energy and money. The cooling pad helps conserve water by recirculating, reusing, recycling or redirecting water for other uses.

Eligibility

Florida nursery, livestock or poultry owners who are interested in enrolling in an EQIP are eligible to apply for NRCS assistance for this conservation practice.



(Left) Conventional hog-hair evaporative cooling pad with no water recycling system. (Right) New, efficient cellulose evaporative cooling pad with water recycling system.

How to Apply

Interested nursery, livestock or poultry owners may contact a local NRCS office to inquire how to incorporate this new “cooling pad” water conservation system practice into their Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application and/or EQIP plan.

NRCS accepts EQIP applications year-round and funding is provided through a competitive process. Florida evaluates applications for annual funding cycles. If you apply after the current application cutoff date, your application will automatically be deferred to the next funding cycle.

New to USDA?

If you are new to working with USDA, you will need to establish your Farm Record with the Farm Service Agency (FSA). Establishing a Farm Record requires several forms and documents, so make an appointment with your FSA office as soon as possible.

More Information:

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