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**The Realized Effectiveness of Incentivized Conservation Programs:  
Farmer perspectives on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program in Vermont**

At a time when extreme weather events and other effects of climate change are increasing in severity and frequency, it is imperative that Vermont farmers increase the adaptive capacity of their operations with economically feasible adaptation strategies. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) provides financial assistance to farmers who want to make structural improvements or implement best management practices in order to increase the resiliency and minimize the environmental impact of their farms. Given that EQIP is one way to overcome farmers' economic barriers to adoption of conservation practices and that enrollment is voluntary, it is important to determine the benefits and opportunities as well as the challenges and barriers farmers encounter when participating in EQIP. Few studies examine the realized effectiveness of EQIP at a regional level; this study aims to fill that gap. A survey was conducted to learn more about conservation practices that Vermont farmers are implementing, document their experiences (or choices not to engage) with EQIP, and make suggestions for program improvements. Responses were collected electronically and in person. Survey results, implications, and intended applications of the results will be discussed.