The background features a large, light blue, semi-transparent logo of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The logo includes the letters "USDA" in a large serif font, with a stylized green and blue landscape graphic below it. At the bottom of the logo, the text "United States Department of Agriculture" and "Natural Resources Conservation Service" is visible in a smaller, light blue font.

Steps to Acquire Funding for a High Tunnel Thru the USDA/NRCS Environmental Quality Incentive Program

**What you need to know Before you
apply for funding:**

**Footprint set aside for High Tunnel
MUST have proof of recent crop
history: Grain crops or vegetables–
(NO Flowers- NO Turf Grass)**

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- **Contact your nearest USDA / NRCS Service Center**
 - **Make an appointment to meet with a Soil Conservationist to help you get started**

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• Discuss with your Soil Conservationist the goals for your operation and what resource concerns you want to address:

• Need for longer growing season

• Erosion issues

• Weed suppression

• Etc.

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Know what your goals are for the high tunnel:

- **Personal use**
- **Market vegetables**

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FRESH!

What type and size of High Tunnel will fit your needs?



What infrastructure will you need to be successful?



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Will there be a natural resource concern with the addition of your high tunnel?

- **Increased runoff from the roof to surrounding area**
- **Muddy area in front of the entrance**

Do you have a plan to address any of these possible issues?



**Property must be on record with
USDA/Farm Service Agency and
have an assigned Farm and
Tract# to fill out the application.**

**All eligibility will be verified by
your Soil Conservationist**

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You must provide a copy of a deed showing ownership of property or have signed documentation proving you have control of the land to build a high tunnel on that property by the owner for five years(with proof owner has right to sign!)

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**All information in regards
to required city or county
permits are responsibility
of client**

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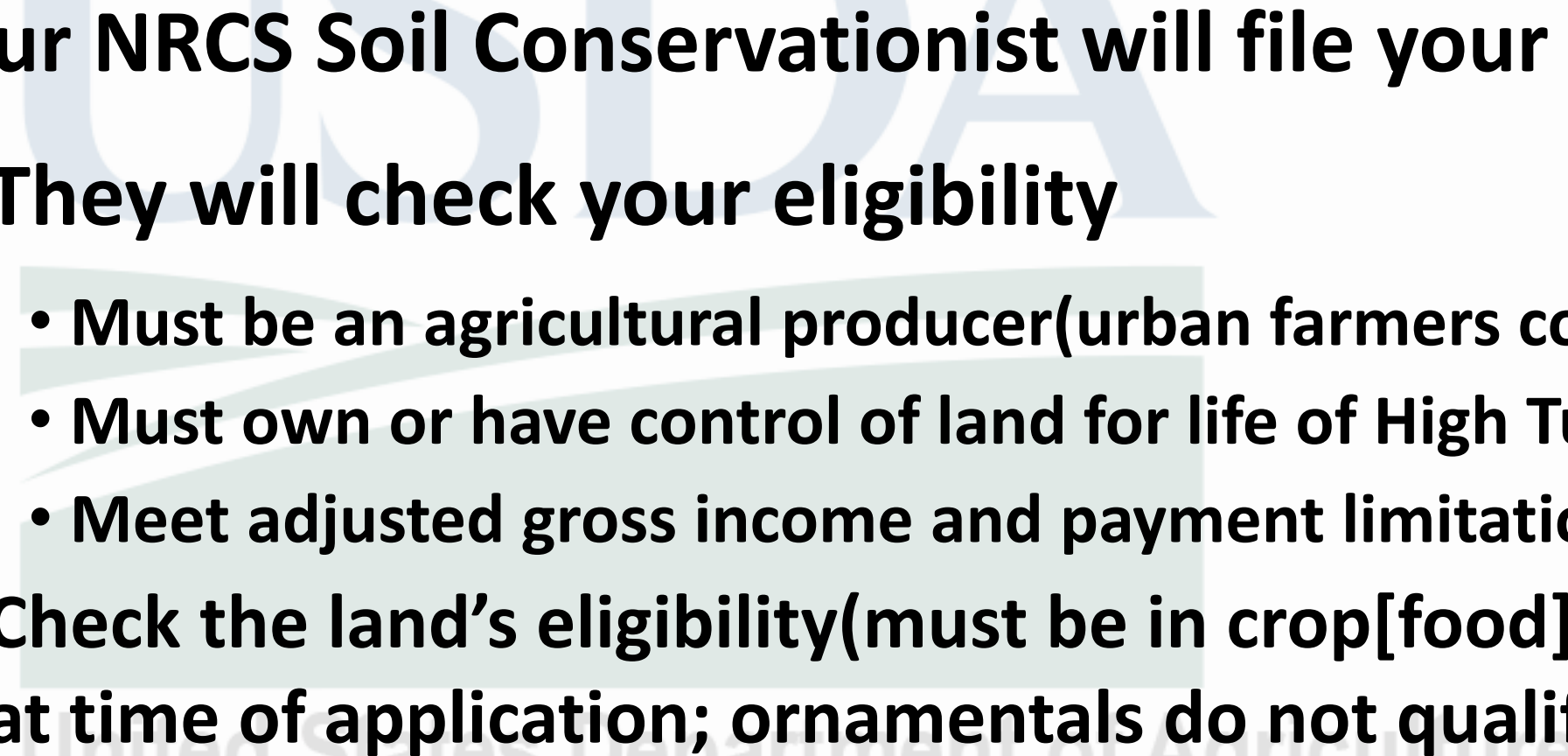
- If you decide that you want to pursue financial assistance through the USDA/NRCS, and you are eligible, your Soil Conservationist will help you apply for funding through:

- **Environmental Quality Incentive Program
(EQIP)**

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Within 30 days after handing in an application, clients need to provide to their Soil Conservationist the type and size of high tunnel for which they are applying

Field verification is completed by your Soil Conservationist and remember: Size eligibility is based on the field verification

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- The background of the slide features a large, light blue watermark of the USDA logo, which includes the letters "USDA" in a large serif font, with "United States Department of Agriculture" and "Natural Resources Conservation Service" in smaller text below it.
- **Your NRCS Soil Conservationist will file your paperwork**
 - **They will check your eligibility**
 - **Must be an agricultural producer(urban farmers count!)**
 - **Must own or have control of land for life of High Tunnel(5 years)**
 - **Meet adjusted gross income and payment limitation provisions**
 - **Check the land's eligibility(must be in crop[food] production at time of application; ornamentals do not qualify)**

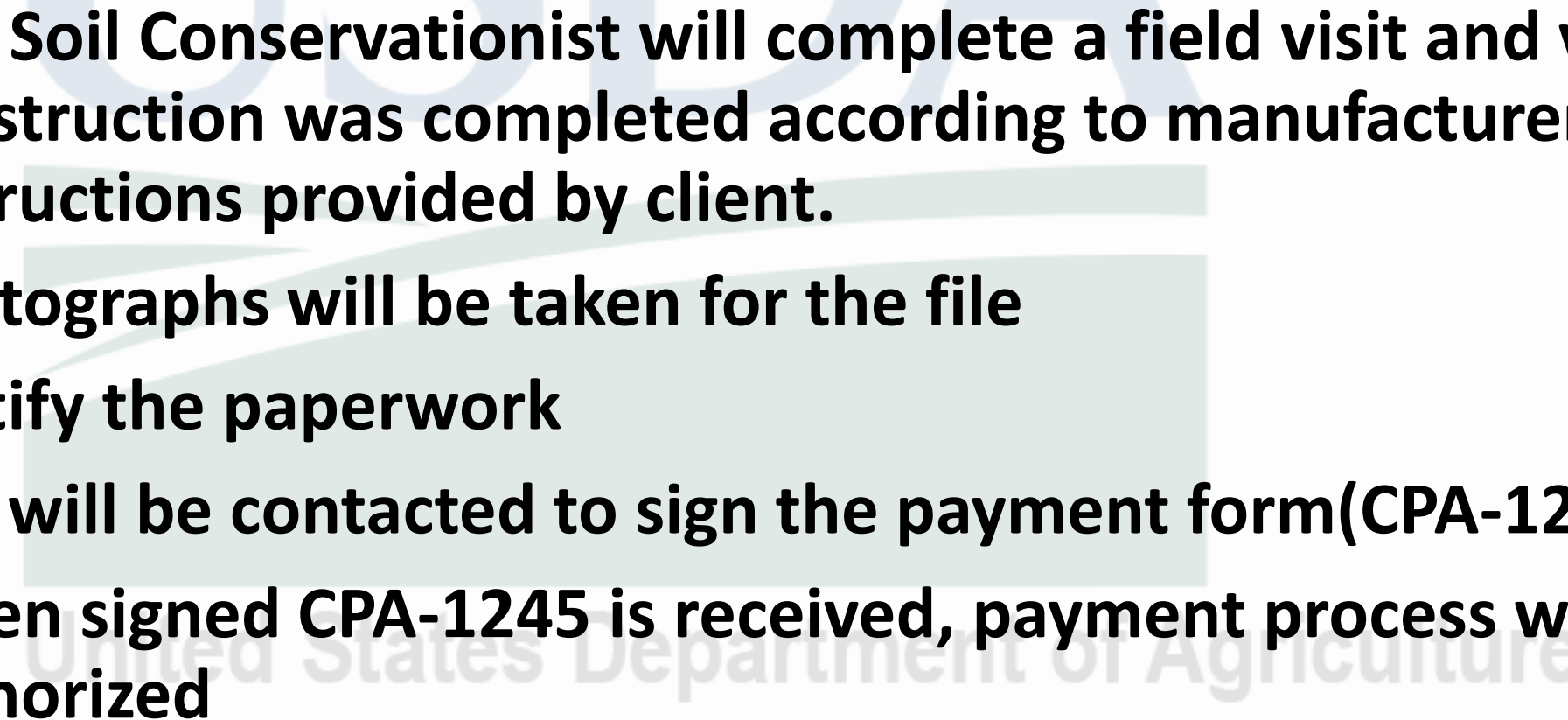
- **Applications are ranked according to State resource concerns addressed**
- **If your application is preapproved, NRCS will offer you an EQIP contract to receive financial assistance towards the purchase of a High Tunnel.**
- **You Must provide a completed 1199a Direct Deposit Form which will be kept on file by your Soil Conservationist**

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You will then meet with your Soil Conservationist:

- **They will verify all eligibility requirements are met and confirm that you understand your responsibilities as a USDA/NRCS contract holder**
- **You will sign your Conservation Plan, Contract, Appendix and Schedule of Operations**
- **You will have 12 months to purchase your high tunnel**
- **Upon completion of construction of the High Tunnel you will contact your NRCS Soil Conservationist to make appointment for construction checkout**

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- **The Soil Conservationist will complete a field visit and verify that construction was completed according to manufacturer's instructions provided by client.**
 - **Photographs will be taken for the file**
 - **Certify the paperwork**
 - **You will be contacted to sign the payment form(CPA-1245)**
 - **When signed CPA-1245 is received, payment process will be authorized**

Realistic Contracting Timeline

- **You can apply for EQIP financial assistance at ANY time**
- **Each year by Mid-November the applications that are on file will go through the ranking process for that funding period**
- **By early spring preapprovals are awarded**
- **Applicant decides whether or not they want to continue with the process**
- **By end of August Conservation Plans and contract documents will be completed**
- **Applicant signs Conservation Plan and Contract Documents and can proceed with purchase and construction of their new High Tunnel!**

**Remember: USDA/NRCS
requires that you must
maintain your high tunnel for
5 years (knowing that most high tunnel
plastic covers lifespan is <5 years).**

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QUESTIONS?

- Farm Bill Programs (Environmental Quality Incentive Program) available to producers to offset the cost of installing sound conservation practices that provide environmental benefit to many.
- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program that helps agricultural producers in a manner that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible goals.
- Through EQIP, agricultural producers receive financial and technical assistance to implement structural and management conservation practices that optimize environmental benefits on working agricultural land.
- The purpose of the High Tunnel is to assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner.

Follow NRCS Missouri

Website: www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov



Twitter: NRCS_Missouri



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**GovDelivery: Text NRCS MOEvents to 468311
or enroll through Missouri NRCS website**



**USDA is an equal opportunity
provider, employer and lender.**

**Anyone interested in more information or
in applying for a High Tunnel through EQIP can contact
your local NRCS Resource Conservationist.**