

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## 2012 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for:

Practice Standard 798 – Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops

### Supplemental Criteria

1. The practice must be sited on cropland.
2. Crops grown within the tunnel must be planted directly into the natural soil profile – raised beds of natural soil can be used but the use of tables, benches, growing racks, portable pots or hydroponics is not eligible.
3. Electrical, heating and/or mechanical ventilation systems are allowed, but are not part of the least cost alternative and must be installed at the expense of the participant. Likewise, any additional structural costs required to support such systems are not included in the payment rate.
4. Participants must purchase, plan, design, and construct the tunnel structure in accordance with the commercial manufacturer's recommendations.
5. As a minimum, the structure must make use of 6-mil greenhouse-grade UV resistant polyethylene cover.
6. These are intended to be "seasonal" structures which are not designed to sustain a snow load. The participant will be responsible to decide if the plastic will be removed at the end of the growing season.
7. High tunnels must be maintained for a minimum of four years. Participants are responsible to repair and/or replace any materials damaged by wind, snow and other weather conditions for the entire four year period.
8. Per National policy the maximum payment for this practice is capped at **2,178 square feet per agricultural operation**. The payment cap for MN is  $\$1.89 \times 2178 = \$4117$  or HU cap at  $\$2.26 \times 2178 = \$4923$  per agricultural operation.