MO 2014 EQIP-NSHTI

Environmental Quality Incentives Program National Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative Policy

January 21, 2014

This Policy is based on the Interim Final Rule (IFR) for EQIP, published 1/15/09 in Vol. 74, No. 10 of the Federal Register, 7 CFR Part 1466.

Financial assistance is available through the EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative for eligible applicant(s) who request EQIP financial assistance to install a (798) Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops, in accordance with NRCS (798) Interim Conservation Practice Standard (CPS). In addition, financial assistance for supporting practices offered under the EQIP Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative is also available to eligible applicant(s) to install supporting practices for the planned Seasonal High Tunnel or an existing Seasonal High Tunnel that was previously installed with or without EQIP financial assistance.

Planned conservation practices must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice, as indicated on the NRCS-CPA-1155 or -1156. All practices must also meet the minimum criteria in the Conservation Practice Standard (see the Missouri eFOTG) and the criteria listed below. Extents above the minimum necessary to meet practice criteria are not eligible for payment. Note: Payment for some practices is only authorized when used in conjunction with another practice, as detailed in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO), with or without payment. The applicant is responsible for the installation, use, and maintenance of all components required in the conservation management system.

Management Practices - Management practice payments are only available on acres where the practice option has not been previously applied &/or utilized, AND where there will be a higher level of management required for the requested practice option. Management payments are NOT authorized if the conservation practice option has previously been implemented on the acres in the application, with or without financial assistance. A management practice payment is only authorized ONCE per acre within the length of the contract period for that conservation practice.

Structural Practices - Structural practices include conservation practices that are either structural or vegetative, and have a multi-year lifespan. Structural practices involve the establishment, construction, or installation of site-specific measures. Payments are established as a one-time payment. The landowner must be a signatory to a contract which has EQIP funds used for any structural practice.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment 1/	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 2/	Lifespan (Years)
342	**Critical Area Planting**						
	Structural			Acre			10
	Grass or Grass/Legume Mix			Acre	$181.70	$233.60	

1 See the (342) Critical Area Planting conservation practice standard and (723) Vegetation Establishment, Herbaceous Seeding Specification.

362	**Diversion**						
	Structural			Feet			10
	Small (< 2 CY/FT)			Foot	$2.44	$3.13	
	Medium (2 - 2.9 CY/FT)			Foot	$5.23	$6.73	
	Large (≥ 3 CY/FT)			Foot	$7.10	$9.13	

1 See the (362) Diversion conservation practice standard.

412	**Grassed Waterway**						
	Structural			Acre			10
	< 35 ft. Top Width			Acre	$2,214.10	$2,892.74	
	< 35 ft. Top Width with Checks			Acre	$2,852.60	$3,713.70	
	35 - 55 ft. Top Width			Acre	$2,363.60	$3,084.90	
	35 - 55 ft. Top Width with Checks			Acre	$3,086.10	$4,013.90	
	> 55 ft. Top Width			Acre	$2,954.80	$3,845.10	
	> 55 ft. Top Width with Checks			Acre	$3,635.40	$4,720.10	

1 Payment does not include vegetation establishment. Critical Area Planting (342) is required in conjunction with this practice.

2 See the (412) Grassed Waterway conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment 1/	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 2/	Lifespan (Years)
430	**Irrigation Pipeline**						
	Structural			**Feet**			**20**
	Microirrigation Pipeline			Foot	$1.89	$2.43	

1 *The pipeline shall be used to reorganize an existing irrigation system OR to replace a temporary water conveyance system (to convey water from a well or reservoir to the irrigation system).*

2 *(449) Irrigation Water Management is required in conjunction with this practice.*

3 *This practice is only available on land that has been irrigated 2 of the past 5 years prior to application for assistance.*

4 *See the (430) Irrigation Pipeline conservation practice standard.*

441	**Irrigation System - Microirrigation**						
	Structural			**Acre**			**15**
	Seasonal High Tunnel Microirrigation System			Each	$473.00	$608.00	

1 *(449) Irrigation Water Management is required in conjunction with this practice.*

2 *This practice is only available on land that has been irrigated 2 of the past 5 years prior to application for assistance.*

3 *See the (441) Irrigation System - Microirrigation conservation practice standard.*

449	**Irrigation Water Management**						
	Management			**Acre**			**1**
	IWM for Seasonal High Tunnel			Each	$314.00	$404.00	

1 *Payment is authorized on existing irrigated acres when EQIP funds will be used to apply one or more of the following practices: (430) Irrigation Pipeline or (441) Irrigation System - Microirrigation.*

2 *Practice is only available on land that has been irrigated 2 of the past 5 years prior to application for assistance.*

3 *Practice is only authorized for one payment per acre within the contract period.*

4 *See the (449) Irrigation Water Management conservation practice standard.*

484	**Mulching**						
	Management			**Acre**			**1**
	Natural Material Weed Control, Seasonal High Tunnel			Sq Ft	$0.01	$0.02	
	Synthetic Material Weed Control, Seasonal High Tunnel			Sq Ft	$0.05	$0.07	

1 *Practice is only authorized for one payment per acre within the contract period.*

2 *See the (484) Mulching conservation practice standard.*

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment 1/	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 2/	Lifespan (Years)
798	**Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops**						
	Structural	2,178 Sq Ft	2,178 Sq Ft	Number			4
	Seasonal High Tunnel			Sq Ft	$3.51	$4.51	

1 The practice extent allowed for High Tunnels contracted through EQIP is limited to a maximum of 2,178 square feet per agricultural operation. The practice payment limit will be applied to the maximum extent allowed per agricultural operation, not per structure.

2 In accordance with this requirement, NRCS must subtract any previously-contracted (798) Seasonal High Tunnel amounts from the 2,178 square foot set maximum for the duration of this interim practice pilot; only the (798) square footage 'remainder' is available for the current High Tunnel Initiative. For example, if the current applicant has a previous EQIP contract for a 1,500 sq.ft. Seasonal High Tunnel the applicant will have a current (798) maximum square foot available of only 678 sq.ft (2,178 sq ft max minus previous 1,500 sq ft = 678 sq ft max for current (798) application)

3 This is a one-time payment for Seasonal High Tunnel constructed using manufactured kits and in accordance with the "Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops" interim conservation practice standard.

4 See the (798) Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops interim conservation practice standard.

620	**Underground Outlet**						
	Structural			Feet			20
	UGO ≤ 5 in. Diameter Pipe with Risers			Foot	$2.02	$2.60	
	UGO 6 in. Diameter Pipe with Risers			Foot	$2.36	$3.04	
	UGO 8 in. Diameter Pipe with Risers			Foot	$3.09	$3.97	
	UGO 10 in. Diameter Pipe with Risers			Foot	$6.09	$7.83	
	UGO ≥ 12 in. Diameter Pipe with Risers			Foot	$8.11	$10.43	
	Blind Inlet			Foot	$39.88	$51.27	

1 See the (620) Underground Outlet conservation practice standard.

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Maximum Payment 1/	HU Maximum Payment	Practice Unit/ Payment Unit	Payment Rate	HU Payment Rate 2/	Lifespan (Years)

Footnotes and Acronym Information

1/ Maximum Payments set a maximum payment cap on specific conservation practices where identified in this Policy. Where maximum payments are identified for practices within this policy applicants cannot exceed the maximums through multiple offers/contracts on different acres when those acres are controlled by the same applicant(s) (where 'control' means possession of the land by ownership, written lease, or other legal agreement as generally indicated on FSA's EZ156 &/or Producer Farm Data Report forms). HU Maximum Payments refers to the maximum contract payment for Historically Underserved Farmers (Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers as defined in the 2009 EQIP Interim Final Rule). NOTE: While there is no restriction on the number of applications that may be submitted by an applicant for financial assistance under this policy, all current fiscal year contracts funded under this policy will count towards the maximum payment identified in this policy where acres are controlled by the same applicant(s).

2/ HU Payment Rate refers to the payment rate for Historically Underserved Farmers (Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers as defined in the 2009 EQIP Interim Final Rule). It is the applicant's responsibility to provide adequate documentation AT THE TIME THEY SIGN THE CPA-1200 that supports their BF or LRF request or have checked the SDF box before the applicant can apply for these HU funds; applicants who do not meet these requirements, or who do not provide the requested documents in a timely manner (generally within thirty days of signing the CPA1200 application) will NOT be eligible for Historically Underserved funds.

This Program Policy is approved for use in Missouri

J.R. Flores — January 21, 2014

Missouri State Conservationist — Date