



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

February 24, 2014

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA300-14-1

SUBJECT: LTP – PRAIRIE POTHOLE WETLAND AND GRASSLAND RETENTION
PROJECT

ACTIONS REQUIRED: TO STATE OFFICE BY MARCH 21, 2014

PURPOSE: To provide guidance for administration of the Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Project (PPWGRP) funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) during fiscal year (FY) 2014.

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2015

Attached to this bulletin are:

- National Bulletin 300-14-17 Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Project
- Attachment A – Prairie Pothole Wetland and Grassland Retention Project Guidance with Map
- Attachment B – NRCS EQIP PPWGRP National Screening Criteria Worksheet – FY14
- Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Master Copy
- Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Example 1
- Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Example 2
- Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Example 3

Iowa will be following guidance from NB300-14-17 with the following additional guidance. This project is only offered in the Prairie Pothole Region in north central Iowa as shown in Attachment A. This project is also offered in the Prairie Pothole Region of North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. Iowa has \$500,000 through EQIP for FY14 for this project.

The attached National Screening Criteria Worksheet is to be used for all applications for this project. All medium and high applications are to be ranked in ProTracts. The screening tool gives high priority to contracts including core conservation practices or for Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs).

Applications for cover crop with no core practices are to include Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) in the Toolkit Conservation Plan. If selected for funding, these applications will contract cover crops without 645 in ProTracts. Additionally, the Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet is to be completed.

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The Iowa Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Worksheet and Toolkit Conservation Plan are used to demonstrate the implementation of the core practice Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645). A master copy and three examples of this completed worksheet are attached.

National Office has provided a waiver to allow for financial assistance payments of up to five (5) years for four (4) conservation practices to realize the full potential of the practice and to reach desired quality criteria. These four (4) conservation practices include:

- Forage Harvest Management (511)
- Prescribed Grazing (528)
- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644)
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)

In the screening tool the planned implementation of any of these practices will place the application in a high category.

To improve consistency across state lines, the core practice scenarios will be the same in all four (4) states. Therefore, there are additional scenarios that have been added in Iowa for the core practices. Also for the core practices, some Iowa scenarios for these have been removed specifically for this project. A PPWGRP scenario booklet will be provided at a later date by the State Office (SO).

The National Bulletin has a list of core and supporting conservation practices. Conservation Practice Range Planting (550), a supporting practice, will not be offered in Iowa.

The FY14 cost list for this project will be uploaded by the SO to ProTracts for each county in the project area. The cost list will be sent in a separate e-mail to the district conservationist with a copy to the area office. These files will be used as the Toolkit cost list. Save the appropriate cost list spreadsheets on each computer that utilizes Toolkit in F:\FOTG\Section_1.

Ranking information will be entered into ProTracts by the SO.

Deadlines for this project will be:

- March 21, 2014 – First Batching Date
- April 11, 2014 – Ranking Deadline for First Batching Date
- April 18, 2014 - Second Batching Date (if funding allows)
- May 9, 2014 – Ranking Deadline for Second Batching Date

I look forward to implementing this national project in the prairie pothole region in Iowa.



Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachments