

NB_450_12_2, FY 2012 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Conservation Activity Plans

National Bulletin: 450-12-2

Date: November
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Subject: TCH - FY 2012 Environmental Quality Incentive Program
Conservation Activity Plans

Action Required By: December 23, 2011

Purpose. To update guidance for State Conservationists (STC) on Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs), and transmit current and revised CAPs for FY12.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2012

Background. The EQIP CAP program was first adopted in FY09. As part of the CAP evaluation process we continue to receive feedback on how to improve the CAP process for NRCS as well as the client and the technical service provider (TSP). Based on NRCS and TSP feedback some changes have been made to existing CAPs.

Explanation. The FY12 CAPs and criteria for each CAP are attached.

The key changes for FY12 include the following:

1. A few of the CAPs have a "Plan Template" included in addition to the existing CAP criteria document. The templates were developed to provide a more direct outline of the essential information that is to be included in the plan and provide better documentation for the NRCS field office. Based on the feedback this year we will expand or revise the template process for FY13. The following CAPs have "Plan Templates" for FY2012:
 - a. 106 Forest Management Plan
 - b. 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan
 - c. 124 Landscape Agricultural Energy Management Plan
 - d. 134 Transitions from Irrigation to Dryland Plan
 - e. 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition (Cropland and Grazing Templates)
 - f. 154 Integrated Pest Management-Herbicide Resistance Weed Plan
2. The 138 Conservation Plan to Support Organic Transition and 106 Forest Management Plan templates were developed as forms that can be filled out with drop-down lists where needed as an additional feature to evaluate.
3. As in 2011, the criteria for TSPs to complete portions of the Environmental Evaluation Worksheet (CPA-52) have been eliminated. The entire CPA-52 for CAPs will be done by NRCS. The TSP proficiencies in the Technical Service Provider Registry (TechReg) were revised in 2010 to reflect this change. This should encourage more TSPs to seek certification to do CAPs and this places responsibility for the CPA-52 solely with NRCS.
4. The 122 Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan has additional tables added to document the energy audit and display energy and air quality benefits. This table or a similar table with the same information is to be used in the delivered plan.
5. Some of the CAPs have revised criteria to be more focused on the subject of the CAP.
6. In CAPs, where appropriate, an option was added in the "NRCS Deliverables": If a conservation plug-in version is provided to NRCS, a hardcopy of the plan, conservation plan map, and soils map are not required.

States shall file the CAPs they plan to offer in Section III of the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) titled "Conservation Activity Plans–Technical Criteria" not later than December 16, 2011.

Contact. If you have any questions, please contact the national agronomist at (202) 720-3783.

/s/

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[Attachments](#)