

# Technical Service Providers

January 31, 2012

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Programs Update

# EQIP Funding



# TSP Goal



# PRACTICE PAYMENT SCHEDULE

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# PAYMENT SCHEDULE

- Nationalize and automate payment schedules
- Primary objective to achieve more consistency in scenarios and costs
- Multi-State approach based on modified Economic Research Service (ERS) Farm Production Regions



# KEY CONSIDERATIONS

- Program driven process – **not** a planning tool
- Will not capture total costs (i.e., risk, permit costs, administration, etc.)
- Payment percentage – State Conservationist Decision
  - Except for national initiatives (traditional is 75% and HU is 90%)
- Continue working with State Tech Committee and Local Work Groups
- Initial focus is on most common practices nationally

- Top 15 practices in 2010 - regional costs applied and will be available to obligate contracts on November 1, 2011
- Other practices continue using 2011 approved payment schedules until they can all be regionalized for 2013
- Current manual system to record and document schedules will be maintained in 2012
- Automated system for implementation of 2013 contracts

Brush Management (314)

Cover Crop (340)

Fence (382)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512)

Forest Stand Improvement (666)

Heavy Use Area Protection (561)

Integrated Pest Management (595)

Irrigation System, Sprinkler (442)

Nutrient Management (590)

Pipeline (516)

Prescribed Grazing (528)

Pumping Plant (533)

~~Shallow Water for Wildlife (646)~~

Upland Wildlife Habitat  
Management (645)

Watering Facility (614)

- Start with “typical” or most commonly used scenarios
- Multi-disciplinary teams agree on maximum of 12 scenarios for each practice
- Cost team created national component cost dataset for estimating costs on a regional basis
- Cost team provided data to populate scenario cost
- Regional teams further reduce scenarios to maximum of 8

# FY2012 Practice Payment Schedule for EQIP & WHIP

- Similar look and feel to last year
- Added payments for recently adopted conservation practices
- Added payments for management practices
- Included a column for “Initiatives” with the traditional and HU rates
- 2013 schedule will be regional
- Differences are:
  - Scenarios/activities
  - Payment unit

# Practice Specific Changes

- Conservation Crop Rotation (328)
- Herbaceous Weed Control (315)
  - All land uses except cropland
- Integrated Pest Management(595)
  - No longer used for weed control to establish the primary conservation practice
- Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed (329)
- Salinity and Sodic Soil Management (610)
  - Perennial vegetation will be established through Forage and Biomass Planting (512)
  - Management payment

- Seasonal High Tunnels (798)
  - Offered only through the Organic Initiative or the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
- Waste Facility Closure (360)
- Roofs and Covers (367)
  - Separated from Waste Storage Facility
- Watering Facility (614)
  - Payment based on gallons instead of each
  - Gallons will be based on SD-ENG-47

CONSERVATION  
ACTIVITY  
PLAN  
(CAP)

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- Utilizes financial assistance (FA) instead of technical assistance (TA) funding through an EQIP contract
- EQIP payment will be made to the producer for development of a conservation plan by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP)
- Under no circumstances will an NRCS employee develop an EQIP funded CAP
- CAP is a single-stand alone contract
- One CAP per land unit
  - Exception: AgEMP and CNMP

Practice Code	Conservation Activity Plan (Practice Payment Name)	<b>Required</b> to be offered:
102	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	All States
104	Nutrient Management Plan	All States
106	Forest Management Plan	All States
110	Grazing Management Plan	Optional
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan	All States
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan	All States
122	Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Headquarters (AgEMP)	All States
124	Agricultural Energy Management Plan-Landscape (AgEMP)	All States
126	Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan	Air Quality States
130	Drainage Water Management Plan	All States
134	Conservation Plan Supporting Transition from Irrigation to Dry-land Farming Plan (Only for use in approved AWEPP project areas)	AWEPP States
138	Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition	All States
142	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan	Optional
146	Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan	Optional
150	Oil Spill, Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC)	Pilot States
154	Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan	Optional

# CAP Application

- Applicant/producer signs the NRCS-CPA-1200
- Contract developed with the applicant to provide payment for the CAP
- Producer contacts the TSP to begin plan development
- Operator is responsible for paying the TSP
- CAP must meet the specific plan criteria found on Field Office Technical Guide, Section III, Conservation Activity Plans

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/technical/fotg>

- ❑ Criteria varies by plan type
  - Definition
  - Plan Criteria
  - Deliverables

**NOTE:** We have very few TSP's certified in SD to write CAPs.

## Agriculture Energy Management Plan, Headquarters Criteria - Practice/Activity Code (122) (No.)

### 1. Definition

A Headquarters Agricultural Energy Management Plan (Headquarters AgEMP) contains the strategy by which the producer will explore and address his/her on-farm energy problems and opportunities.

### 2. Headquarters AgEMP Criteria:

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of AgEMP.

#### A. General Criteria

1. A Headquarters AgEMP shall be developed by certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs). In accordance with Section 1240 (A), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) program provides funding support through contracts with eligible producers to obtain services of certified TSPs for development of a Headquarters AgEMPs. The specific TSP criteria required for the Headquarters AgEMP development is located on the TSP registry (TechReg) web site at: <http://techreg.usda.gov/>

#### B. The Headquarters AgEMP plan shall address and document the following elements:

1. Background and site information;
2. Energy audit for the Headquarters' Operation
3. Energy conservation practices planned;
4. Reference documents.

#### C. Headquarters AgEMP Element Specific Criteria

1. The Headquarters AgEMP will address specific elements. The Headquarters Audit will meet the Type 2 Audit minimum criteria established in the *ANSI/ASABE S612 July2009 Performing On-farm Energy Audits* standard. The degree to which these elements are addressed in the development and implementation of a site-specific Headquarters AgEMP is determined by the General Criteria in Section A and the specific criteria provided for each element of the Headquarters AgEMP are identified below.
2. Background and Site Information - This element provides a brief description of:
  - a. Name of producer
  - b. Facility location(s) and mailing address
  - c. Type and size of the operation
  - d. Producer concerns
3. On-farm Energy Audit: This element determines and documents current energy usage, over the past annual cycle, and provides cost-effective alternatives and

- Elements:
  1. Background and site information
  2. Manure and wastewater handling and storage
  3. Farmstead safety and security
  4. Land treatment practices
  5. Soil and risk assessment analyses
  6. Nutrient management
  7. Feed management
  8. Other utilization options
  9. Record keeping
- National template to address each of these elements

