

Part 411 – Technical Service Provider Assistance Policy

IA411.2 Policy

B. Training

The NRCS establishes the minimum requirements associated with certification of individuals who will approve the development and/or design and implementation of elements of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP). Candidates for Technical Service Provider (TSP) certification and re-certification in Conservation Planning must also meet any additional qualifications and requirements established by the State Conservationist.

Technical Service Provider Training Waivers

The request for an exemption waiver from one or more TSP requirements should be made to the TSP Coordinator. The request for a waiver must include documentation of education, training, technical experience, knowledge of NRCS policy and procedures, and other information as requested by the TSP Coordinator. The State Conservationist may grant course equivalency waivers for NRCS formal training courses.

Iowa-Specific TSP Training by Entities Employing TSPs

Additional TSP certification requirements may be established by national NRCS policy. Such requirements may require attendance at NRCS delivered State-specific, classroom workshops and courses prior to TSP certification. Entities employing TSPs, and wishing to develop and provide in-house training in lieu of said TSPs attending Iowa-specific CNMP workshops and courses, should make a request to the TSP Coordinator.

The State Conservationist will determine the equivalency of such courses developed by individual entities based on the following criteria:

- Coordinator's personal interview with the Entity's representative,
- Submitted documentation of each training specialist's education, training, technical experience and knowledge of NRCS policy and procedures,
- Expertise of the training specialist(s) in training, performance and development, and
- Submission and subsequent approval of lesson plan and training materials by the TSP Coordinator.

Prior to developing alternative Iowa-specific workshops or courses, the entity is required to send one or more training specialist(s) to the nationally required Iowa workshop or course. The TSP Coordinator must approve the credentials of any training specialist proposed by the Entity to develop or present the training materials. The NRCS personnel may attend and review training workshops developed and presented by the Entity. Approval for said workshop or course may be rescinded should NRCS determine that it does not meet the needs of Iowa TSPs.