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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-56

SUBJECT: LTP—Environmental Quality Incentives Program—Fiscal Year 2013 Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring

Action required by: June 14, June 28 (Field Offices [FOs])
July 3 (Area Offices [AOs])

Purpose. To provide guidance for administering the fiscal year (FY) 2013 Edge-of-Field Water Quality Monitoring (EOFWQM) funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Expiration Date. September 30, 2014

Background

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has established new EOFWQM conservation activities to address three primary purposes: (1) evaluate conservation system performance, (2) validate and calibrate models, and (3) inform on-farm adaptive management.

Per direction in national bulletin (NB) 300-13-25, NRCS national headquarters (NHQ) requested each state to submit one National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) 12-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC-12) watershed for consideration in EOFWQM. Funds for monitoring and data collection through EOFWQM are provided by NHQ.

Considering recommendations from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Kansas NRCS submitted the NWQI HUC-12 watershed Headwaters Grasshopper Creek (102701030202) for possible selection for EOFWQM. The watershed was selected for FY2013. The majority of the watershed is in Brown County with small portions in Atchison and Jackson Counties.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, Volkman

Eligible Land Uses, Resource Concerns, and Conservation Practices (CPs)

The eligible land uses, resource concerns, and CPs are available in Attachment 1.

The NRCS developed the following new EOFWQM conservation activities:

- Conservation Activity 201—EOFWQM—Data Collection and Evaluation
- Conservation Activity 202—EOFWQM—System Installation

Conservation activities are the actions necessary, using acceptable tools and protocols, to identify, inventory, assess, evaluate, or otherwise measure the presence and extent of a natural resource concern and how to address the natural resource concern through one or more CPs. Information gathered as a result of these actions must be essential to the development of a plan that furthers the purposes of the program, including a plan that addresses the adoption or adaptation of CPs in order to achieve a conservation benefit.

Screening Criteria

No screening criteria will be used for EOFWQM.

Program Contracts System (ProTracts) Tool

The ProTracts fund code is “NWQI Monitoring.”

National ranking questions are consistent for all EQIP applications and all questions will be used for this program. Refer to Bulletin KS300-13-19 for additional guidance on answering national questions.

A copy of the state and local ranking questions are provided in Attachment 2.

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) are not supported through this program; therefore, all ranking questions related to CAPs shall be answered so no additional ranking points will be awarded.

Deadlines

Although applications for EQIP are accepted continuously, the FY2013 application evaluation period cutoff date for applications is June 14, 2013.

FOs will have conservation plans and application ranking completed by June 28, 2013.

AOs will ensure peer reviews of rankings have been completed by to July 3, 2013.

NHQ will be pulling a list of ranked applications from ProTracts on July 5, 2013. No additional consideration will be allowed after this date.

Funding decisions will be made by NHQ and a list of selected applications will be sent to the states no later than July 26, 2013.

All approved applications must be obligated by August 26, 2013.

Additional information

Additional information and policy related to the EOFWQM can be found in NB 300-13-25.

Contact: Please forward feedback and questions, through established channels, to Chad G. Volkman, Resource Conservationist, at 785-823-4568 or chad.volkman@ks.usda.gov.

(Signed)

DANIEL H. MEYERHOFF
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Attachments