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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-25

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program— Guidance to Ensure 60 Percent Obligation of Financial Assistance Funds to Address Livestock—Related Resource Concerns

Purpose. To provide guidance for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) financial assistance (FA) funds that address livestock–related resource concerns

Expiration Date. September 30, 2014

The Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) requires that for each of the fiscal years (FYs) 2008 through 2012, 60 percent of the funds made available for payments under the EQIP program must be “targeted at practices relating to livestock production.” Prior to FY 2012, the Natural Resources Conservation Service typically obligated enough funds to be within the statute requirement. However, in recent years, the percentage of funds reported obligated in livestock-related EQIP contracts declined to a level very close the 60 percent requirement. Each FY the agency will implement procedures to make sure this Farm Bill requirement continues to be achieved, and that funding for this program purpose does not fall below the required obligation level of 60 percent. With the extension of the EQIP to 2014, this percentage of EQIP funds to be devoted to livestock remains a requirement.

The State Office Programs Staff will monitor EQIP obligation levels throughout the FY to ensure that livestock-related contract obligations do not drop below the previous year’s level and are at or near the 60 percent requirement.

Program Contracts System requires designations of livestock or non-livestock be entered in the application screen prior to ranking.

The supervisory district conservationists or district conservationists will ensure that all EQIP applications are assigned the appropriate livestock designation including the appropriate designation for Conservation Activity Plan applications.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, C. Nelson, Volkman

The field offices will select livestock when the crop type “forage/hay” is used. Although there may be situations where a producer is growing forage or hay for sale and does not actually own livestock, the ultimate use of forage and hay is exclusively for livestock and therefore directly related to livestock production.

Assistant state conservationists for field operations will verify that the appropriate livestock/crop designation has been selected during the peer review process, prior to obligation.

Contact: Please forward feedback through established channels to Corey L. Nelson, Resource Conservationist, at (785) 823-4580 or corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov.

(Signed) JAMES J. KRUEGER, ACTING FOR

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State Conservationist