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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-12-31

SUBJECT: LTP–Organic Initiative Threshold Score Period 1—Fiscal Year 2012

Action required by: February 6, 2012 (Area Office [AO])
February 8, 2012 (State Office [SO])

Purpose. To provide the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Organic Initiative threshold ranking score for application period 1 and clarify the Program Contracts System (ProTracts) management of the Organic Initiative Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

Background. Kansas Bulletin KS300-12-16 identifies that national headquarters (NHQ) will establish a threshold ranking score for each application period for the Organic Initiative.

The national threshold score is 400. This threshold score was developed by comparing a baseline application that addressed multiple resource concerns against the nationally developed ranking questions. The threshold score was established to capture as many applications as possible while still providing assurance of environmental benefit.

Action Required. For all FY 2012 Organic Initiative applications received through February 3, 2012, any application that is submitted, eligible, and achieves a minimum ranking score of **400 points** will be set to preapproved by close of business (COB) February 6, 2012, by the assistant state conservationists for field operations (ASTCs-FO). The ASTCs-FOs should notify Corey L. Nelson when preapprovals are made. Subject to the availability of funds, the SO will approve applications for funding no later than February 8, 2012.

(more)

DIST: A, S, F, C. Nelson

NOTE: Preapprovals may be made prior to February 3, 2012, on those applications that meet this threshold.

All eligible applications below the threshold score from period 1 will be considered for funding during the second application period.

Threshold scores for the second and third ranking period will be established in future bulletins.

CAPs

Kansas Bulletin KS300-12-16 also identifies the ProTracts application type for CAP applications. In order to ensure the appropriate rules for the organic payment limitation are applied correctly, all CAPs for the Organic Initiative must be associated with the ProTracts application type of "Plan-Organic."

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

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist