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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-12-14

SUBJECT: LTP–Wetlands Reserve Program Fiscal Year 2012 Easement Compensation and Application Ranking Date

Purpose. Announce Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) for easement compensation for all Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) acquisitions and date for ranking WRP applications that have ranking worksheets completed

Expiration Date. September 30, 2013

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will pay for the purchase of a permanent WRP easement according to the lowest of the following three values: (1) the fair market value of the land proposed for easement based on the Uniform Standards for Professional Appraisal Practices (USPAP) appraisal or an area-wide market analysis or survey, (2) the geographic area rate cap, or (3) the landowner offer. For purchase of a 30-year WRP easement or a 30-year contract with an Indian tribe, NRCS will pay 75 percent of the value of a permanent easement.

For FY 2012 the GARC value will be the offer to the landowner unless the landowner submits a lower offer. An area-wide market analysis was completed as part of the FY 2012 easement compensation process to support the 2012 GARC values. Individual appraisals of properties will not be completed.

The FY 2012 WRP GARC map with easement purchase values is posted at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/support_info.html. A copy of the GARC rate map should be provided to landowners interested in making an application for WRP.

With WRP being a continuous sign-up program, applications are received and processed throughout the year. WRP applications submitted to the State Office that have had preliminary reviews, site visits, and ranking worksheets completed, and the landowners have reviewed and returned the ranking worksheets, will be ranked for tentative approval for FY 2012 enrollment on **February 22, 2012**. In addition, applications that have a WRP ranking worksheet score of 50 or greater will be tentatively approved for WRP enrollment throughout the FY for as long as WRP funds remain available.

In order to be approved for funding, all landowners will need to be compliant for highly erodible land and wetland conservation (HEL/WC) and adjusted gross income (AGI) for FY 2012. Field offices should work with landowners to insure HEL/WC and AGI certifications have been updated prior to February 22, 2012.

Contact: Jeffrey L. Gross, Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, at 785-823-4550, or Lynn E. Thurlow, Soil Conservationist, at 785-823-4548.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

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