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February 12, 2013

## KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-43

### **SUBJECT: LTP–Wetlands Reserve Program Application Acceptance, Fiscal Year 2013 Easement Compensation, and Application Ranking Date**

**Purpose.** Announce applications can be accepted for the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Geographic Area Rate Caps (GARCs) for easement compensation for WRP easement acquisitions, and date for ranking WRP applications that have ranking worksheets completed.

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2014

The enactment of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 extends WRP to September 30, 2013. This will reinstate enrollment opportunities for WRP. Field offices can accept new applications for WRP

Compensation for a permanent easement will be determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) utilizing 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 (GARC), or (3) the landowner offer. Compensation for a 30-year WRP easement or a 30-year contract with an Indian tribe will be 75 percent of the value of a permanent easement.

For FY 2013, 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 2013 easement compensation process in lieu of individual appraisals.

The FY 2013 WRP GARC map with easement purchase values approved for use by National Headquarters is posted at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/wrp/support\\_info.html](http://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 can be received and processed throughout the year. With the extension of WRP through the American Taxpayer Relief Act, new applications can now be accepted. New applications need to be dated after January 1, 2013, the effective date of re-authorization of the WRP program. WRP applications that have been submitted to the State Office which 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 2013 enrollment on **April 1, 2013**. In addition, applications that have a WRP ranking worksheet score of 50 or greater will be tentatively approved for WRP enrollment throughout the remainder of the FY for as long as funds are available.

(more)

DIST: A, F, S, Thurlow

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In order for a landowner to submit an application for funding consideration, all landowners listed on the deed of ownership will need to be compliant for highly erodible land and wetland conservation (HEL/WC) and adjusted gross income (AGI) for FY 2013. Field offices should work with landowners to ensure HEL/WC and AGI certifications have been updated with the Farm Service Agency prior to April 1, 2013.

**Contact:** Lynn E. Thurlow, Acting Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, at 785-823-4548.

*(signed)*

ERIC B. BANKS  
State Conservationist