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KANSAS BULLETIN NO. KS300-13-7

SUBJECT: LTP–Environmental Quality Incentives Program— Conservation Activity Plans

Purpose. Provide guidance for support and management of Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) conservation activity plans (CAPs) during fiscal year (FY) 2013

Expiration Date. September 30, 2014

Kansas allows the use of 12 approved CAPs to support priorities through EQIP (see Attachment A). For FY 2013, all CAP applications will be ranked in Program Contracts System (ProTracts) and approved as funding is available with all other eligible applications. For each of the offered CAPs, the payment will only be made to the producer for development of a plan by a certified technical service provider (TSP). The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) national TSP Web site (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp>) contains lists of individuals certified to develop approved CAPs for Kansas. Payment schedules, payment percentages, and practice payment rates for CAPs will be provided in the EQIP practice payment schedule issued by a separate bulletin.

The following requirements must be met in order for applicants to be eligible for CAP contracts:

1. CAPs must meet the minimum requirements of the CAP planning criteria
2. CAPs must be completed by a certified TSP
3. All CAPs must be ranked
4. All CAPs must be supported in a single stand-alone program contract with plan development scheduled during the first 12 calendar months after obligation.
5. For Agricultural Energy Management Plan (AgEMP)—Headquarters conservation practice (CP) 122, the application must address all land in the participant's ag operation (all farm operations identified by the Farm Service Agency [FSA] database).

(more)

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

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Modification of CAP contracts to reschedule and allow completion of the conservation plan beyond the first year is NOT permitted.

The ProTracts application type of “Planning” or “Plan-Organic” must be associated with each EQIP or Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) CAP application. ProTracts will not allow CAP applications to be approved or obligated without a ranking score.

NOTE: Eligible producers may submit applications for development of multiple CAPs; however, only one CAP contract may be developed on an eligible land unit (e.g., field) at the same time. Multiple CAP contracts on the same land unit is prohibited except for Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) and AgEMP CAPs, where multiple CAP plans maybe approved and implemented on the same land unit.

Field offices must ensure that approved EQIP contracts do not allow duplication of payments for the same planning services in program contracts (i.e., contracts with both 100-series practice payments financial assistance and 900-series technical assistance payment for the same planning services on the same land).

Contact: Forward questions through established channels to Corey L. Nelson, at (785) 823-4580, or email corey.nelson@ks.usda.gov.

(Signed)

ERIC B. BANKS
State Conservationist

Attachment