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Date: November 13, 2006

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-7-3

SUBJECT: LTP -Duplicate Payments for CSP and Other Programs

Purpose. To provide guidance to ensure consistency in determination of payment duplication between CSP and other cost-share programs.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

ACTION REQUIRED BY DECEMBER 29, 2006

District Conservationists are required to carry out the actions contained in National Bulletin 300-7-1 (http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/NB/NB_300_7_1.htm). The following direction is being provided to help ensure consistency in the determination of payment duplication between the Conservation Security Program (CSP) and other NRCS cost-share programs.

The NRCS has taken a very conservative stand on this issue. The key sentence in the national bulletin is "Payments from CSP and another USDA program for activities or practices that fall under the definition and purposes of a conservation standard, regardless of the degree of management intensity or the addressed resource concern, are considered duplicative."

Therefore, all CSP contract enhancement activities and new practice payments will be compared with EQIP and WHIP contract practices to determine whether duplicate payments are planned in FY 2007 and beyond, or if duplicate payments have occurred from FY 2004 - FY 2006.

If duplications are discovered for 2007 or beyond, they can be resolved by eliminating the payment that caused the duplication, and maintaining the payment for the contract that was in place first. For duplications discovered for previous year contracts, NRCS will send a letter requesting a recovery of those funds. A sample letter is attached for your use.

The attached spreadsheet indicates which CSP enhancements are considered duplicative of our regular practice standards. This list is not intended to be all-inclusive. There may be other practices or situations that could result in duplicate payments.

Nutrient Management Enhancements, with the exception of the one for organic crop certification, will be considered as a duplicate payment for cases where the participant is receiving payments for 590-Nutrient Management under another program. This will be the determination even when the CSP enhancement exceeds the practice standard.

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Pest Management Enhancements will be considered as a duplicate payment for cases where the participant is receiving payments for 595-Pest Management under another program. This will be the determination even when the CSP enhancement exceeds the practice standard.

Grazing Management Enhancements, with the exception of the ones for organic certification, NUTBAL use, and seminar attendance, will be considered as a duplicate payment for cases where the participant is receiving payments for 528-Prescribed Grazing under another program. This will be the determination even when the CSP enhancement exceeds the practice standard.

Habitat Management Enhancements and Atmospheric Resource Quality Management Enhancements will need a case by case review. Practices have been listed on the attachment that indicates opportunities for potential duplication.

If you have any questions regarding a determination of payment duplication, please contact Chad Dunnahoo or your Area Program Liaison.

R. L. "GUS" HUGHBANKS
State Conservationist

Attachments