



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

SUBJECT: ADS – Regional Assistant Chief Review
Concurrence of Farm Bill Contracts

Date: DEC 21 2006

TO: State Conservationists
Directors, Pacific Basin and Caribbean Areas

File Code: 120

This memorandum establishes Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 policy and procedures for the review and concurrence of Farm Bill applications. Further guidance for the Regional Assistant Chiefs (RACs) review and concurrence of agreements, grants, contracts, and similar documents will be forthcoming.

The RAC review and concurrence policy includes: Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), Ground and Surface Water Conservation (GSWC) and Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA): RAC concurrence is required for EQIP, WHIP, GSWC and AMA long-term contracts with an NRCS cost-share of \$150,000 or greater. Conservation Security Program (CSP), Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI), Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) agreements and contracts are excluded from the RAC concurrence process.

The Farm Bill Program Application Questionnaires (attached) must be completed, and signed by the **State Conservationist/Area Director**. This questionnaire has been updated for Fiscal Year 2007. In order to streamline the process, please send **electronically**, the completed and signed questionnaire to your respective Regional Program Analyst. No other documentation is needed.

Please be advised. In order to continue to streamline agency operations, the following categories/ documents no longer require RAC review.

Options to Purchase:

Easement & Warranty Deeds for Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP), Wetland Reserve Program (WRP), Grassland Reserve Program (GRP), and Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP): State Conservationists/Area Directors **will NOT** be required to submit quarterly summary reports to their respective RAC.

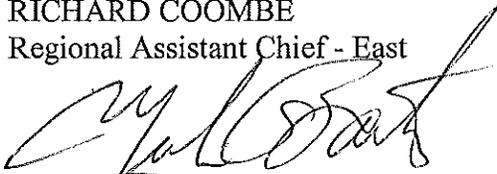
Project Agreements: State Conservationists/Area Directors **will NOT** be required to submit quarterly summary reports.

Federal Contracts:

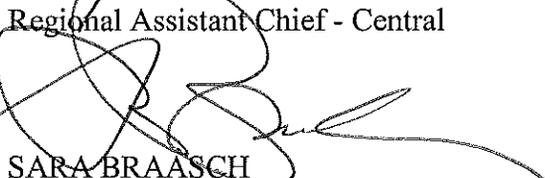
Contracts (Architectural and Engineering, Construction, and Service): State Conservationists/Area Directors will **NOT** be required to submit quarterly summary reports to their respective RAC.



RICHARD COOMBE
Regional Assistant Chief - East



MERLIN BARTZ
Regional Assistant Chief - Central



SARA BRAASCH
Regional Assistant Chief - West

Attachments

cc:

Arlen Lancaster, Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Dana D. York, Associate Chief, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Tom Christensen, Deputy Chief for Programs, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Lawrence Clark, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

Katherine Gugulis, Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning and Accountability, NRCS,
Washington, D.C.

William Puckett, Deputy Chief for Soil Survey and Resource Assessment, NRCS,
Washington, D.C.

Kevin Brown, Deputy Chief for Management, NRCS, Washington, D.C.

**FY2007 Farm Bill Program
Application Questionnaire**

State Conservationists/Area Directors will review EQIP, EQIP-GSW, AMA and WHIP applications for \$150,000 or greater (NRCS cost-share) to ensure compliance with technical and programmatic requirements. This evaluation form shall be used to document each application being submitted for concurrence and funds obligation by the Regional Assistant Chief (RAC).

Section 1. Application Information

Farm Bill Program _____ Application Number _____
NRCS cost: _____
Applicant's Name _____
State _____ Location (County) _____

Section 2. Potential Concerns / Issues

A. Does the proposed contract address all natural resource concerns on farm unit / tract?
Yes _____ No _____

If **no**, please explain:

B. Does the proposed contract include any controversial issues (political, social, environmental, etc.) or have potential for interest by a Congressional Member or staff that the RAC needs to be aware of?
Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

If **yes**, please describe:

Section 3. Animal Waste Storage or Treatment Facilities

If the proposed contract includes cost share for implementing animal waste storage or treatment facility, please complete this section. If not, leave this section blank.

A. Has the CNMP been developed?
Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

If **no**, please indicate the date the CNMP will be in place: _____

B. If the CNMP has not been developed, does this proposed contract include an incentive payment to have one developed?
Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

Amount: \$ _____

C. Does the contract address the entire agricultural waste system?

Yes _____ No _____ N/A _____

If no, please explain:

Section 4. State Conservationist Certification

I have completed a review of this application and hereby certify that all information is entered into ProTracts and is in full compliance NRCS technical, programmatic, and administrative requirements. I further certify that this application was ranked in accordance with program regulations and will optimize environmental benefits, address national priorities, and treat state/local resource concerns as identified in consultation with the State Technical committee and/or Local Work groups.

State Conservationist / Area Director

Date

Please Print Name

Section 5. Regional Assistant Chief Concurrence

Based upon my review of the above documentation and the certification by the State Conservationist / Area Director, I concur in funding this contract.

Regional Assistant Chief

Date

Please Print Name