



Natural Resources Conservation Service
316 W. Boone Ave. Suite 450
Spokane, WA 99201-2348

phone 509-323-2900
fax 509-323-2909
web site www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov

Date: May 4, 2009

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-9-11

SUBJECT: Application Information and Signature on New CPA-1200

Purpose. Provide requirement for obtaining applicant information and signatures on the current version of the CPA-1200, including self certification for Historically Underserved applicants, and for the use of this information in the ranking process and contract development for EQIP or WHIP.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2009

The implementation of the new farm bill program rules resulted in the addition of a self certification option for Socially Disadvantaged Farmer or Rancher, along with the previously included self certifications for Beginning Farmer or Rancher and Limited Resource Farmer or Rancher. These applicants are collectively referred to as “Historically Underserved” (HU). All applicants that are being considered for the FY 2009 EQIP or WHIP funding cycle must complete questions 1-11 and sign a copy of the new CPA-1200. The new version is “NRCS-CPA-1200 - OMB 0578-0013 expiration 9/1/2009.”

A socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher is a member of a socially disadvantaged group. There is no validation process for participants who self certify as belonging to a socially disadvantaged group. A socially disadvantaged group is a group whose members have been subject to racial or ethnic prejudice because of their identity as members of a group without regard to their individual qualities. These groups consist of the following:

- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Asians
- Blacks or African Americans
- Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders
- Hispanics.

Note: Gender alone is not a covered group for the purposes of NRCS conservation programs.

An internet link is provided on the CPA-1200 that provides the information needed for an applicant to determine their status for any of these three applicant types. This link is <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/> Individuals or entities may certify under any of these three categories. In cases where an entity is certifying as a Beginning Farmer or Limited Resource Farmer there are requirements for the members of the entity to also meet the definition. There are currently no such requirements for members of an entity that is certifying as a Socially Disadvantaged Farmer.

The information obtained through this new CPA-1200 form will be used by NRCS field staff to answer the state ranking question #6. It will also be used to determine the selection of conservation practice scenarios from the payment scheduled identified as "HU." The HU payment scenarios will be used in the development of contracts for all program participants who have self certified as any of these three applicant types.

If you have questions regarding this process, please contact your Area Program Liaison.

ROYLENE RIDES AT THE DOOR
State Conservationist