

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

These protocols are to be used with the Idaho cost lists to determine the appropriate costs to use in the development of contracts that involve the cost sharing of conservation practices. The appropriate District Conservationist is responsible for ensuring that NRCS planning and contracting policies for the appropriate program are followed.

Costs shown for practices or components on the cost list represent all costs associated with their application, including (but not limited to) transportation, materials and appurtenances, labor, and installation unless specified as otherwise within these protocols or on the cost list itself. Installation of used equipment is allowed providing that equipment is completely refurbished according to the National Engineering Manual part 521 and purchased for the purpose of project construction. Please note the recent Idaho supplement to this section in regards to Center Pivots, pumps and motors. Used materials that are “on hand” and not purchased will not be paid for. Cost share will not be allowed for installation of used equipment that does not meet this requirement, based on the judgment of the District Conservationist in consultation with appropriate staff.

Tribal Lands with Tribal Owner/Operators Cost List – This cost list is for Tribal lands with Tribal owners or operators only.

Calculating Average Costs for Job Estimates: Many practices are size dependant. When an average cost could not be established as a line item, but a per unit average cost could be established, the statement (Job Est. \$X.XX per XX Ave. Cost) was added. In this situation, follow the following example: If “Job Est. \$450 per hp ave. cost” is on cost list, multiply \$450 X horse power needed (lets say 30 hp) = \$13,500 . \$13,500 is entered as the AC or average cost in the contract. This item will then be treated as an average cost.

Ineligible Costs: THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COST-SHARE OR INCENTIVE PAYMENTS:

- Treatments to control insects, diseases, rodents, and nematode, unless authorized for a particular practice
- Weed control measures, unless authorized for a particular practice
- Mowing pastures, chopping or shredding residues from crops "for insect control", unless authorized for a particular practice
- Costs of supplemental requirements, such as abstaining from harvesting, protection from fire or grazing and similar provisions for which no payment is authorized
- Non-USDA fees such as permit fees
- Loss or reduction in revenue from the land
- Practices installed solely for production purposes
- Engines and motors

Exception: Permanently installed engines and/or motors that are required as an integral part of a conservation practice and which addresses air quality resource concerns in non-

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

attainment areas may be eligible; as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

- Pumps and pumping equipment

Exception: Permanently installed pumps and pumping equipment that are required as an integral part of an animal waste storage system, tail-water recovery system, or as part of a conservation management system that primarily addresses irrigation induced erosion, water quality, or water conservation may be eligible as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

Portable pumps and pumping equipment for providing stock water may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist.

- Electric power hook-ups

Exception: Electric power hook-ups which address multiple resource concerns and utilize a renewable power source “and” are an integral part of a livestock or wildlife water delivery system where other power sources are impractical or energy conservation measures are in place. No power supply which requires the stringing of poles is authorized.

- Dry wells
- Boundary fences

Exception: Boundary or property line fences may be eligible, as determined by the NRCS Designated Conservationist, ONLY if:

(1) the fence is an integral part of a conservation management system, such as a planned grazing system that facilitates improved management of grazing land, or protects certain areas from livestock when it is necessary for proper use of the area, or
 (2) the area adjacent to the boundary fence is vital to the success of the conservation management system

- Producer’s transportation costs, unless authorized by a particular practice
- Providing land or the right to use water
- Rent or other costs of using land
- Extents greater than technically needed to meet the minimum practice standards
- Water supplies for human consumption. (Residential use water supplies are not cost shareable)
- Livestock buildings

Exception: Buildings as determined by the Designated Conservationist to be a necessary component of an animal waste system. Cost sharing will be prorated to that portion of the building solely used for animal waste handling or to achieve the water quality purpose.

EQIP Special Project – Energy Conservation: These funds are only for the conversion of an existing sprinkler system that can be converted from conventional power to fully gravity power with the exception of small amounts of other power sources to move the system. The contract may only contain water control structures and pipelines. There is a special ranking sheet for these projects. These applications will compete with each other on a statewide basis.

EQIP Special Project – Species of Concern: These funds are only for contracts that contain practices that provide a direct benefit to species of concern. Cost share is

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

generally 75%. There is a special ranking sheet and special cost list for these contracts. These applications will compete with each other on a statewide basis. These projects require a letter of support from the appropriate agency that oversees the recovery of the species to be considered. That letter should confirm that all practices will have a direct beneficial affect on the species being considered.

PRACTICE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE

Management Practices: It has been determined that the purpose of management practices is to introduce and educate a producer on the particular methods and actions needed to adopt a new style of management activity. Management practice incentives are not associated with a particular land unit as is a structural practice. However, this does not mean that in contracting these practices, a specific land unit on which the management will be applied does not need to be documented. It is necessary to document this information in order to determine compliance with the contract. All management practices are limited to a maximum of 3 years per person or entity. An exception to the 3 year maximum participation rule may be granted in limited circumstances when the resource environment that the practice was originally planned for is significantly different. For further guidance, contact the EQIP program manager for more information.

Animal Waste Systems (Waste Storage Facilities and associated practices): There will be no “cap” placed on the total cost share for animal waste systems in FY 2006. All contracts with waste storage systems will include the development of a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) if one does not already exists that addresses the safe use of animal wastes.

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (100): Cost sharing for consultant developed CNMP’s will be limited to one plan per contract. This is an incentive payment only.

Irrigation Systems (442): There will be no “cap” placed on the total cost share for irrigation systems in FY 2006. Please note that “irrigation system” is the cost per acre for the hardware only. It does not include any structures, pumps or pipelines. **BIG CHANGE – CONVERSION FROM SURFACE TO SPRINKLERS WILL BE ONE ESTABLISHED COST PER ACRE (\$700 PER ACRE) FOR THE HARDWARE REGARDLESS OF WHAT TYPE OF SPRINKLER – NRCS IS INTERESTED IN RESULTS, NOT HOW THEY ARE ACHIEVED.** These must be planned separately. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to replace one sprinkler irrigation system with another.

Irrigation System, Micro-Irrigation (441) –Costs for delivery pipelines and associated structures needed to get water to the field(s) where the system is installed are not

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

included, and must be specified as separate components when necessary. Electrical power hook-up including hard wiring or any other device which provides the same function (i.e. generators, solar panels, etc.) is not eligible for cost-share. Cost share for components that have a useful life of less than 3 years may not be cost shared; ie, temporary drip tape that will not be recovered and used multiple years. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to replace one micro-irrigation system with another.

Irrigation System, Surface or Subsurface (443) – With the exception of surge irrigation systems and valves and hydrants, most components such as pipelines and structures for conventional surface irrigation systems are listed separately under appropriate component practice codes and names. Replacement of one surface irrigation system with another should not be cost shared unless there are significant benefits to identified resource concerns. Electrical power hook-up including hard wiring or any other device which provides the same function (i.e. Generators, solar panels, etc.) is not eligible for cost-share. Cost share is not allowed for power poles, power lines, transformers, switches, or any other component associated with bringing power from the source to the electrical panel and/or phase converter. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation.

Irrigation Land Leveling (464) – Cost share for this practice will be limited to a maximum of 100 acres per contract. Cost share is not allowed for conversion of non-irrigated areas to irrigation, or to facilitate conversion of sprinkler or micro-irrigation systems to surface irrigation. Cost share is limited to a maximum of \$125 cost share per acre (\$250/Ac. @ 50%).

Mulching “Straw” (484) – This practice applies only to straw mulching of irrigation furrows. Cost share payments will not be made for isolated mulching of headlands or furrow ends.

Nutrient Management (590): Nutrient management plans have flat rates paid per acre but have the following caps:

Animal Waste (0 to 40 Acres)	ac	10	FR	100
Animal Waste (41 to 100 Acres)	ac	5	FR	100
Animal Waste (> 100 Acres)	ac	2.50	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (0 to 40 Acres)	ac	5	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (40 to 100 Acres)	ac	2.50	FR	100
Commercial Fertilizer (> 100 Acres)	ac	1.00	FR	100

Pest Management (Noxious Weeds – 595): Cost sharing (a flat rate incentive payment) is available for noxious weed control only for noxious weed identified by the State of Idaho and occurring in non-cropland areas only at a maximum of \$5,000 per year per person or entity for a maximum of three years. The noxious weeds must not be infesting

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

more than 25% of the total field acreage and there must be some expectation that control of the weed can be accomplished. The acres cost shared **MUST BE ONLY FOR THE ACRES THAT WILL BE TREATED, NOT THE ENTIRE FIELD.**

Pest Management (Bio-Fumigants – 595): This new practice is for sugar beet and potato fields only. It is limited to 160 acres per year per individual or entity for a maximum of three years.

Pest Management (Insect Scouting – 595): This new practice is for insect scouting only. Scouting must be done by an individual that is qualified. Qualified means that the individual has received training in the identification of the insects and the accepted threshold levels that trigger control actions. Information on application of this practice must be entered on Idaho's form and include any information about spraying that took place based on scouting information.

Prescribed Grazing (528): There are two different rates for prescribed grazing:

Prescribed Grazing	Range Site (\$3,500 Max. per Yr.)	ac	2	FR	100
Prescribed Grazing	Pasture Site (\$3,500 Max. per Yr.)	ac	5	FR	100

Please note the difference and the maximum payments of \$3,500 per year. Like all management practices, an individual or entity may only receive payment for 3 years.

Pumping Plant (533) Pumps are now calculated on a horse power basis as shown below

533	Pumping Plant	Variable Speed Drive (replacing an existing working pump) (Job Est. ave. cost \$125/HP)	no	0	AC
533	Pumping Plant	Single Phase, < 5 hp with electrical panel (Job Est. Ave. Cost \$570 per hp)	no	0	AC
534	Pumping Plant	Single or Three Phase pumps 5-10 hp with electric panel (Job Est. Ave. Cost \$520 per hp)	no	0	AC
534	Pumping Plant	Single or Three Phase pumps 15-25 hp with electric panel (Job Est. Ave. Cost \$415 per hp)	no	0	AC
534	Pumping Plant	Single or Three Phase pumps 30 and up hp with electric panel (Job Est. Ave. Cost \$345 per hp)	no	0	AC

Residue Management Practices – Note, practice code 777 – Direct Seeding is not longer valid. For the purpose of limitations and maximum cost share payments, all Residue Management practices will be considered together rather than as separate practices. A person may select one or several Residue Management practice types for cost share. The maximum amount a person or entity may receive in any one year is \$9,000 total for Residue Management practices. The maximum number of years a person

FY 2006 EQIP Cost List Protocol

or entity may participate in a cost share program for payments for a single or grouping of Residue Management practices is 3 years for a maximum cost share payments of \$27,000. **Example:** A person may cost share for NoTill on one portion of the farm and Mulch Till on a different portion of the farm, but cost share is limited to \$9,000 annually and \$27,000 over a three year period.

344	Residue Management	Seasonal	ac	15	FR
329A	Residue Management	No Till	ac	30	FR
329B	Residue Management	Mulch Tillage	ac	15	FR

Subsurface Drain (606) – Use of this practice will be limited to situations where it will not result in loss of protected wetland areas.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) - This flat rate cost will be used only if the cooperators is changing their current primary land use to wildlife. Please note the maximum of \$500 per year.

645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. (\$500 Max) for 3 yrs.	ac	5	FR	100
-----	------------------------------------	--	----	---	----	-----

Use Exclusion (472) – Payments for application of this practice will be limited to use of the practice in riparian areas. Payments will not be provided where adoption of the practice has already occurred.

472	Use Exclusion	Livestock Exclusion (Riparian Only) for up to 3 yrs	ac	35	FR	100
-----	---------------	---	----	----	----	-----

Water Well – Livestock Watering (642) – Maximum depth will not exceed 500 feet for cost share consideration. Dry wells (unsuccessful) will receive no cost share.

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) - This flat rate cost will be used only if the cooperators is changing their current primary land use to wildlife. Please note the \$500 cap per year.

644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt.	Wildlife Wetland Habitat Mgmt. (\$500 maximum or cap.)	ac	5	FR	100
-----	--------------------------------	--	----	---	----	-----