

Iowa Bulletin: 440-22-2

Date: November 1, 2021

Subject: PGM – Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Process Timeline and Program Updates

Action Required By: January 28, 2022

Purpose. To provide the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) timeline and program updates.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2022

Explanation. This bulletin provides EQIP and 2014 Farm Bill EQIP Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP-EQIP) timelines and program updates for FY 2022.

1. EQIP Timeline – The FY 2022 timeline for EQIP and 2014 Farm Bill RCPP-EQIP is as-follows:

October 1, 2021 – Cutoff for batching first sign-up period applications.

October 22, 2021 - Cutoff for batching 2014 Farm Bill RCPP-EQIP applications.

January 28, 2022 – Deadline to rank first sign-up period applications in CART with an accurate cost estimate, the use of the cost estimator is required. Application selection will occur within a week after the ranking deadline.

March 25, 2022 – Obligation deadline for first sign-up period applications.

April 1, 2022 – Cutoff for batching second sign-up period. This is **conditional** and will only be used if additional funds are received or if certain targets are not met.

May 13, 2022 – Deadline to rank the conditional second sign-up period applications in CART with an accurate cost estimate, the use of the cost estimator is required. Application selection will occur within a week after the ranking deadline.

July 1, 2022 – 100% Obligation deadline for all selected applications.

Additional batching periods will be announced as needed.

2. Updates for FY 2022

- A. Iowa has identified 10 high priority practices to receive an increased payment rate equivalent to 90% for the following practices: brush management (314), conservation cover (327), constructed wetlands (656), denitrifying bioreactor (605), saturated buffers (604), silvopasture (381), tree & shrub establishment (612), wetland creation (658), wetland enhancement (659), and wetland restoration (657).
- B. NRCS has reorganized and renamed Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) into three new categories—Conservation Planning Activities (CPAs), Design and Implementation Activities (DIAs), and Conservation Evaluation and Monitoring Activities (CEMAs). NRCS broke these activities out to clarify which phase of the NRCS conservation planning process the TSP or provider will be supporting. Guidance is provided at [FY22 EQIP CPAs, DIAs, and CEMAs](#).

DIST: E & Partners

C. Reminders:

- Use of an organic modifier is required for all organic applications.
- Use of a grazing modifier is required for all pastureland use applications.
- A separate application number with an appropriate cost estimate must be used if the ranking pools use different cost lists.
- 325-High Tunnel System is only offered under FY 2022 High Tunnel. Ranking categories will be used to separate applications into beginning farmer, socially disadvantaged, limited resource producer, and non-HU for selection purposes.
- A workload prioritization worksheet will be completed prior to completing a full CART assessment for a producer requesting assistance through an application for assistance and is eligible for the Non-Farm Bill Targets ranking pool. The applications ranked in the following ranking pools are not eligible for Non-Farm Bill Targets ranking pool: Soil Health, AFO Livestock, Non-AFO Livestock, On-Farm Energy, High Tunnel, MRBI, NWQI, Source Water Protection, Wildlife Habitats, or Prairie Pothole. See enclosure A.
- No payment caps for conservation practices except for 374-Farmstead Energy Improvement Grain Dryer payment scenario in which the payment cap is \$50,000.
- The Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership, Fox River Water Quality Project, Innovative Conservation Agriculture, and Driftless Area Habitat for the Wild & Rare Phase 2 are the only Farm Bill 2014 EQIP-RCPPs offered in FY 2022.
- Additional EQIP information is on the EQIP SharePoint page.

Contact. If you have questions, please contact Rubyana Neely, EQIP coordinator, at (515) 323-2224 or at rubyana.neely@usda.gov.

I look forward to another great year of serving our customers in implementing conservation plans through timely EQIP assistance.



JON HUBBERT
State Conservationist

Attachment A – Non-Farm Bill Targets Prioritization Tool