



United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS AQAC Update

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AAQTF Meeting
Knoxville, TN
April 22, 2015

FY 15 NRCS NAQI

- Significant changes for FY15
 - Can be used to address true agricultural air quality issues, not just nonattainment
 - States apply for funds
 - 10 states submitted Requests to Participate (RtPs) for FY15

FY 15 NRCS NAQI

- 3 funding pools
 - National nonattainment (limited to CA and AZ)
 - CA and AZ submitted national nonattainment RtPs
 - Regional air quality
 - MD/DE and TX/OK submitted regional RtPs
 - State air quality
 - CA, CO, OR, PA, and WA submitted state-level RtPs

FY 15 NRCS NAQI

- AZ - \$1,718,649
- CA - \$20,623,794
- CO - \$1,964,171
- DE - \$98,209
- MD - \$196,417
- OK - \$638,355
- OR - \$932,981
- PA - \$3,289,986
- TX - \$4,419,385
- WA - \$2,946,256

FY 15 RCPP

- 3 projects with air quality as a primary resource concern
 - National funding pool
 - Unlocking Carbon Markets for NIPF Landowners in the Pacific Northwest – OR, WA
 - Regional Grassland Bird and Grazing Lands Enhancement Initiative – MO, NE, KS, IA
 - State funding pool
 - North Central New Mexico Watershed Restoration Project - NM

FY 15 CIG

- \$20 million total
 - \$10 million – Natural Resources Pool
 - Projects benefitting Historically Underserved Producers, Veteran Farmers or Ranchers, or organizations comprised of or representing these individuals or entities (i.e., Outreach)
 - Air Quality
 - Soil Health
 - Aquatic Resources
 - Economics and Sociology
 - Organic Operation Technologies
 - Wildlife
 - Water Quality
 - Nutrient Management and Water Quality
 - Energy Conservation
 - Co-management for Food Safety
 - Herbicide Weed Resistance

FY 15 CIG

- \$20 million total (cont.)
 - \$10 million – Environmental Markets and Finance
 - Greenhouse Gas Markets
 - Environmental Markets for Water
 - Impact Investments in Working Lands Conservation
- Pre-proposals have been accepted
- Full proposals due April 30

GHG and Carbon Sequestration

- US submitted our Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) on March 31 that includes ALL SECTORS and domestic markets
- USDA developing a climate change mitigation action plan to be shared publicly later this year in preparation for the Paris climate change negotiations in December 2015
 - NRCS and voluntary conservation practices will likely be a component of the USDA mitigation plan

GHG and Carbon Sequestration

- Leveraging partnerships will be key to achieving emissions reductions and increased sequestration
 - State, Local, non-profit, for-profit, and many others
 - CA example from last AAQTF meeting
 - COMET-Planner released for CA work
 - \$20 million for conservation, GHG reductions, carbon sequestration

NAQSAT Update

- National Air Quality Site Assessment Tool
- NRCS National Instructions NI-190-309 were published on March 12
 - “NAQSAT will be used to evaluate air quality resource concerns for all livestock and poultry operations by the end of calendar year 2015.”
- Developing plans for appropriate outreach and training for conservation planners
- Example of CIG projects resulting in changes to NRCS conservation delivery ability

New NRCS Air Quality Practice

- Field Operations Emissions Reduction
 - Conservation Practice Standard Code 376
 - Piloted as an interim standard in CA
 - Finalized and approved as a national practice standard in March 2015
 - Awaiting publication in the next release of practice standards
 - States typically have 1 year from publication to adopt

New NRCS Air Quality Practice

- Field Operations Emissions Reduction
 - Promotes reduction in particulate matter emissions from field operations via:
 - Combined tillage operations
 - Precision guidance systems
 - Alternative equipment technology
 - Timing of field operations
 - Modification of crop cultural and harvest methodologies

USDA/EPA Ammonia & Agriculture Workgroup Update

- Work continues on development of case studies to better characterize emissions from agricultural sources in EPA modeling
- Recent discussion of ammonia mitigation strategies for:
 - Land application
 - Animals and feed
 - Animal housing and manure management systems

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