

PIA NRCS LOCAL WORKING GROUP MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order: Date:_____ **Start Time:**_____ **End Time:**_____ **NRCS:**_____ (*initials*)

Introductions:

- Introduction of Local Work Group (LWG) Members

LWG Policy:

- Review USDA-NRCS LWG policy ([see handout](#))

FY2011 Farm Bill Program Overview:

- Ranking Considerations:
 1. General points:
 - Applications with the same land use will compete against each other for funding within the PIA
 - At a minimum, Pasture, Crop, Grazed Range, Forest and AWS/Headquarters are priority land uses and will have separate ranking tools developed
 - All applications in the PIA with the same land use will be evaluated using the same ranking questions (ranking tool)
 - Each ranking tool includes questions from the National, State, and Local level
 - National questions comprise 25% of the total ranking score, Local questions comprise at least 25% of the total ranking score, and the remainder is dedicated to State questions and the efficiency score
 - PIA local ranking questions, by land use, will be a compilation of all the local ranking questions received from the PIA LWG's
 - Local ranking questions that address similar resource concerns will be combined into a single ranking question
 - 2-3 of the local ranking questions for all ranking tools will pertain to the applicant's conservation plan status and prior year contract performance

Review Meeting Outcomes:

- Five outcomes from this meeting are:
 1. Identify priority resource concerns and high priority areas needing assistance from the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 2. Review Local Ranking Questions for FY2015 EQIP ranking tools
 3. Recommend eligible practices for EQIP
 4. Recommend payment rates and cost-share levels for EQIP
 5. Provide written summary of recommendations to the District Conservationist by **June 1, 2015**

Participant Handouts (check those provided):

__LWG Policy; __EQIP Fact Sheet;
__PIA Priority Concerns; __PIA Draft Payment Rate Tables; __Prior Year Ranking Questions

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM

OUTCOMES FOR FY2015 EQIP

- **Identify Local Priority Resource Concerns**
 1. PIA prior year resource concern priorities worksheet ([see handout](#))
 2. Recommend other resource concerns if any
- **Review/Establish 5-7 Ranking Questions**
 1. Review prior year local ranking questions ([see handout](#))
 - In addition to the 5-7 ranking questions, there will be 2-3 local questions addressing an applicant's prior contract history and conservation plan status
 2. Select prior year ranking questions and/or generate new questions ([see handout](#))
 3. Assign points to ranking questions
- **Recommend EQIP Eligible Practices**
 1. Review Draft Practice Payment Table ([see workbook](#))
 2. Recommend adjusts if any (*supporting data requested for all cost changes*)
- **Recommend EQIP Payment Rates and Cost Share Rates**
 1. Review Draft Practice Payment Table
 - Standard cost share rates are likely to be set at the 75% threshold
 - Historically Underserved cost share rates are likely to be set at the 90% threshold