

## National Initiatives FY 17 Considerations



### Initiaives

### Questions

#### AIR QUALITY

- To prevent air quality degradation from pm10 contributions such as that caused from blowing soil. Priority given to fields directly adjacent to major road ways. ----GHG contributions are a concern, but AFO/CAFOs and Dairies will not participate.
- To improve air quality by keeping soil on the field and highly productive.
- Reduce air quality resource concern, in particular PM10 or green house gases to meet air quality compliance requirements (add all eligible practices)
- Yes interested in initiative. - West Palouse

#### ENERGY

- To fund unfunded requests using completed energy audits.
- The Energy Initiative is a unique, multi-faceted “whole-farm” approach assisting landowners by identifying energy resource concerns that can translate to energy savings. Through this initiative, the landowner or operator can apply energy savings practices such as irrigation systems and pumping plants that reduces energy inputs and lowers operation costs. This initiative is especially important to the remaining dairies in the Puget Sound Team. Many of them would benefit from energy audits and installing practices to address their energy needs. The Puget Sound Team also receives more applications than it can fund annually for installed practices identified in an energy audit. Practices like lighting, variable frequency drives, compressors, and milk coolers are popular. The typical farm size is approximately 150 acres and the Puget Sound Team could probably fund 8 of these a year, given adequate funding.
- Increase energy efficiency as it relates to agricultural operations. Typical unit operations will vary dramatically. Whole farm vs. field by field will make a big difference.
- To reduce electricity demand on irrigated farms
- To help address the needs identified by the Energy Audits clients in SW WA have completed. (670) Lighting System Improvement needs to be available in the drop down menu of practices. Energy Initiative is a unique, multi-faceted "whole-farm" approach to assisting landowners by identifying resource concerns that lead to energy savings. Through this initiative, landowners can apply energy savings practices such as irrigation systems, pumping plan upgrades, and tillage management that reduces energy inputs and lowers operation costs.
- Landscape treatment to conserve energy used in dryland on-farm operations in accordance with specialist recommendations in a written energy audit.
- Landscape treatment to conserve energy used in irrigation system in accordance with specialist recommendations in a written energy audit.
- To upgrade irrigation efficiencies and pumping plants through VFD's on irrigated agriculture, solar pumps on rangeland, and no-till and/or high level mulch till on dryland agriculture
- Yes interested in initiative. - West Palouse

#### HOOP HOUSES

- To extend the growing season
- To enable producers to grow crop that they would not be able to do without the High Tunnel protection

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- The high tunnel program has been one of the most successful initiatives in the Puget Sound. Seasonal high tunnels are structures made of metal pipe and covered with plastic or other sheeting. Easy to build, maintain, and move, they provide an energy-efficient way to extend the growing season, reduce or avoid use of pesticides and reduce run-off and leaching of nitrogen. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetable and other specialty crops. In addition, their establishment in the Puget Sound Team provides for additional income and food security for the region. The Puget Sound Team routinely receives more applications than it can fund. The typical farm size is approximately 5 acres and the Puget Sound Team could probably fund 20 of these a year, given adequate funding. The Puget Sound Team recommends no change in the FY15 ranking questions or hold down of \$6,000 per high tunnel.
- Each year SW Washington funds 50% or fewer applications for seasonal high tunnels. Expanding this to reach a wider clientele opens up NRCS services to a new group of customers, many of whom are very interested in doing soil and habitat conservation projects on their small, sustainable farms. Seasonal high tunnels are structures made of metal pipe and covered with plastic or other sheeting. Easy to build, maintain, and move, they provide an energy-efficient way to extend the growing season, reduce or avoid use of pesticides and reduce run off and leaching of nitrogen. Unlike greenhouses, they require no energy, relying on natural sunlight to modify the climate inside to create favorable conditions for growing vegetable and other specialty crops.
- Install Seasonal High Tunnel to extend growing season for locally-produced food commodities.

#### NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE - LANDSCAPE

- To work on stream bank restoration and addition funds for confined feeding areas.  
  
Water quality is the Local Working Group's top priority for FY2017. Water quality issues are also found on livestock farms where animals are adjacent to waterbodies and waterways. The typical farms size for this scenario is 100 acres and the Puget Sound Team could probably fund 5 of these a year, given adequate funding.
- Yakima Basin - need to bring funds here to address water quality and habitat concerns. In concert with Yakima Basin Integrated Plan concepts. Wildlife acres will differ from crop acres. Wildlife could be 1-10 acres. Crop would be more like 40 acres. Treatment acres estimated for crop only. Success of a wildlife program would be dependent on partnership collaboration, in particular YN and local CDs. Unsure of how to quantify units - would it be one along a reach of a stream, or many???

#### ORGANIC

- To improve organic operators resiliency and treat resource concerns
- The EQIP Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under the Locally Led—Local Working Group EQIP program that is open to both organic and non-organic producers.

# LWG January, 2016

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#### JOINT CHEIFS LAND RESTORATION

To fund urban interface area projects and reduce wildfire hazards through education, outreach and program implementation with private forest land owners. Using partners such and TNC, USFS, NRCS, DNR and local government and conservation districts.

To create more resilient landscapes by restoring forest health on a watershed scale

#### SAGE GROUSE

- Continue to fund sensitive habitat improvement and protection through grazing contracts in N.Grant counties and potentially Kittitas counties (Eaton's ranch near Yakima Firing range)
  - To improve sage grouse habitat and increase ranch viability by improving residual cover on rangeland for both sage grouse and livestock forage.
  - Sage Grouse
  - Yes interested in initiative. - West Palouse
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