

## State Technical Committee (Draft Agenda)

Please make plans to join us for a State Technical Committee Meeting set for **March 24, 2011 at the NCDA Agronomic Lab Conference Room. The meeting is scheduled from 900 a.m. to 12 noon.** Our agenda focuses entirely on planning for 2012. Attached is a very rough draft agenda. Matt Flint, ASTC-Technology and I (Greg Walker, ASTC-Programs) have included topics that are of upmost importance as we move forward with the EQIP and WHIP programs.

An issue brief will be presented for each topic below in order to provide relevant information and to help committee members understand program impacts to provide meaningful input. Issues below reflect current issues but not necessarily in priority order.

1. EQIP 2011 expanded to add several Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs). This concept was presented in December 2010. Discussion items include:
  - a) Should NRCS provide cost share to implement the secondary spill containment structures outlined in a CAP plan? (Oil Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan)
  - b) Should NRCS offer the same array of CAPs for 2012?
  - c) Should NRCS pay less than 75% of the typical cost for CAPs?
2. How should NRCS position itself with the new and expanding poultry industry? Waste Storage Facilities are among the highest cost items in the EQIP program.
3. Should NRCS pay to implement IPM strategies to control herbicide resistant weeds? Should NRCS require Herbicide Weed Resistant CAP development as a condition of any financial assistance under EQIP to implement technical scenarios that may reduce HRW risk?
4. Considering that EQIP requests far exceed available funding, should NRCS set different payment rates based on priority practices versus lower priority practices. Should consideration be given to removing some practices from the cost list for 2012?
5. How should NRCS incorporate energy conserving practices into EQIP, considering the broad new standards that have been issued nationally?
6. Should NRCS incorporate precision irrigation/fertigation practices into EQIP?
7. Should NRCS set policy regarding prescribed burning for EQIP and WHIP? Many contracts have to be modified and extended if the prescribed burning does not get carried out timely. Is a limit for contract modifications needed? Should there be a limit on the number of contracts to applicants who have adopted prescribed burning as a resource management practice on other lands?