

North Carolina State Technical Committee Meeting

NCDCA Agronomic Conference Room
4300 Reedy Creek Road, Raleigh, NC 27606

March 24, 2011 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Teleconference Option: Toll Free: 888-677-5727 Passcode: 52759

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Additions to Agenda

3. State Technical Committee Workgroups

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| -Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP) | -Herbicide Resistant Weed Control |
| -Easement Programs (WRP, FRPP, GRP, HFRP) | -Organic Initiative |
| -EQIP | -Wetlands Conservation |
| -Field Office Technical Guide Review | -Wildlife and Forestry (combined) |

4. NRCS Timelines for FY 2012 Program Development

5. Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)

- Should NRCS offer the same array of CAPs for 2012?
- Should NRCS pay less than 75% of the typical cost for CAPs?
- Should NRCS provide program payments to implement the secondary spill containment structures outlined in a CAP plan? (Oil Spill, Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Plan)

6. Soil Conserving Strategies for Herbicide Resistant Weed Control

- Should NRCS provide program payments to implement IPM strategies to control herbicide resistant weeds and conserve soil?
- 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?

7. EQIP Program Payment Rates

- Should NRCS set different payment rates based on priority practices versus lower priority practices for FY '12?
- Should consideration be given to removing any practices from the payment schedule for FY '12?

8. Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy

- How should NRCS incorporate energy conserving practices into its programs considering the "energy audit" CAP and two broad new standards that have been issued nationally?

9. Ag. Water Use Efficiency

- How should NRCS incorporate water saving measures into its programs?

10. Payment Rates for Waste Storage Facilities and Composters for Mortality Disposal

- Waste Storage Facilities are among the highest cost items in the EQIP program. What cost containment measures are recommended?
- How should NRCS position its programs to address the expanding poultry industry?

11. Prescribed Burning

- Should NRCS set new policy regarding prescribed burning for EQIP and WHIP?
- Should there be a limit on the number of consecutive contracts applicants receive?

12. Additional Topics Suggested By the Committee

United States Department of Agriculture



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SUBJECT: CPA- Conservation Planning Emphasis

DATE: March 7, 2011

TO: North Carolina NRCS Employees

FILE CODE: 180

Conservation planning is the foundation of the NRCS technical and financial assistance programs. Therefore NRCS is re-emphasizing the importance of traditional conservation planning in our internal and external business processes.

For FY 2012, all North Carolina EQIP, WHIP and easement program applications will include the screening tool question *“Does the applicant have a current conservation plan (less than five years old) in Toolkit for the requested practices that complies with current NRCS conservation planning policy? As a minimum the plan must be completed on all land in the same Farm Service Agency (FSA) tract and with the same land use that the Conservation Program Contract (CPC) practices would be applied.”*

This means that applications will not be ranked until they are supported by an acceptable conservation plan that is in Toolkit, with maps prepared and other plan requirements met. Field Offices should consult with Districts to determine how the conservation planning efforts will be prioritized.

Conservation plans shall be entered in Toolkit and documentation in the case file will meet all planning policy requirements including:

- identify all the resource concerns occurring on a Tract basis (at a minimum) using the CPA-52
- document the client’s objectives for conserving natural resources
- document alternatives needed to meet the Resource Management System for all resource concerns identified on the Tract using the CPA-52
- develop alternatives to treat the resource concerns, consistent with the client’s conservation objectives
- obtain the client’s decision to implement practices and record them in the conservation plan

If a client is currently treating a resource concern to meet NRCS standards, document that using appropriate job sheets and technical assistance notes. Include the practice in the conservation plan and report it as applied.

If the landowner’s decision is for no action on a resource concern, document that decision in the technical assistance notes and do not include in the conservation plan.

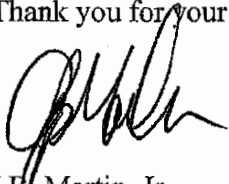
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I want our clients to regard the value of NRCS conservation planning assistance as highly as our financial assistance. Although this renewed planning emphasis may raise some short term challenges, I know in time it will strengthen NRCS service to agriculture, add efficiency to program delivery and improve job satisfaction. The attached timeline has been developed to show a strategy the NRCS North Carolina Leadership Team has developed for implementing the planning emphasis and program activity during the remainder of FY 2011 and the beginning FY 2012.

Thank you for your dedication to helping North Carolina landowners conserve natural resources.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Martin, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

J.B. Martin, Jr.
State Conservationist

Attachment

Area and Field Office Program & Technical Support Activities

Quarter 1 Federal Fiscal Year 2012 October November December		Quarter 2 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 January February March			Quarter 3 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 April May June			Quarter 4 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 July August September		
← CONSERVATION PLANNING & PRACTICE IMPLEMENTATION → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> make decision w/ District whether priority for planning assistance is based on local priorities, or a 1st come-1st serve basis maintain a register of planning assistance requests complete field planning and document plans in Toolkit complete design and specifications assist with implementation conduct checkout and certifications 										
← TAKE FARM BILL PROGRAM APPLICATIONS → <ul style="list-style-type: none"> continuous sign-up... take applications regardless of funds availability turn program applications into on-site conservation planning opportunities enter applications in ProTracts 										
← DEVELOP NEW FARM BILL PROGRAM CONTRACTS →					LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETINGS					
1 st batching cut-off for EQIP and WHIP applications (Oct. 1)		2 nd batching for EQIP and WHIP applications, <u>only</u> if unavoidable			Obligations deadline for all new EQIP and WHIP contracts (April 1)			Technical training		
Food Security Act compliance reviews completed (Nov. 1)		Application batching and ranking for easement programs			Technical training			Contribute to review of draft program materials		
Report TSP fund needs for prior year EQIP and WHIP contracts (Nov. 15)		Technical training			Contribute to review of draft program materials			Develop WHIP HPAP proposals		
Contracts obligated for applications selected in 1 st round of batching (Dec)		TSP funds obligated to prior year contracts (Jan. 31)						Participate in FY'12 program roll-out training		

Tasks and timeframes indicated here are goals, not directives.

State Office Program & Technical Support Activities

	Quarter 1 Federal Fiscal Year 2012 October November December			Quarter 2 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 January February March			Quarter 3 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 April May June			Quarter 4 Federal Fiscal Year 2011 July August September															
	State Office	Upload payment schedules into ProTracts	Update technical training needs assessment	Complete review, ranking and selection of CIGs	Support technical training	Announce application deadlines for FY'12 easement programs	Press release emphasizing " <i>planning key to program access</i> "	Complete CIG agreements w/ recipients (June 30)	Revise technical guidelines for programs, as needed	Press release: NRCS will be seeking proposals for CCPI and CIG	Get input from FOs, AOs and State Tech. Cmt. on strategies, priorities, emphasis, practices, scenarios, limits NRCS should use for FB programs in FY'12	Complete obligation of funds to easement program contracts	Complete review, obtain NHQ approval and release payment schedule for FY'12 EQIP & WHIP	Call for report of TSP funds needed for prior year contracts (late Oct.) and make TSP allocations (Dec. 1)	Support technical training	Support technical training	Deliver FY'12 program roll-out training	Issue CIG and CCPI request for proposals	Instruct FOs to schedule Local Workgroup Meetings during May through mid-Aug	Collect and review WHIP HPAP proposals	Make decisions re: strategies, emphasis, practices, scenarios, limits NRCS will use for FB programs in FY'12. Inform stakeholders.	Complete ranking criteria in ProTracts	Make draft revisions to EQIP & WHIP payment schedules (April)	Test and review ranking criteria	Release draft revisions to EQIP & WHIP payment schedules for review and comments (May)

Tasks and timeframes indicated here are goals, not directives.

<u>Practice Code</u>	<u>Practice Name</u>	<u>Component</u>	<u>Unit Cost</u>
102	CNMP	CNMP	4182.00
104	Nutrient Management Plan	Nutrient Management Plan	1213.56
106	Forest Management Plan	FMP ≥ 10 acres ≤ 50 acres	375.00
106	Forest Management Plan	FMP ≥ 51 acres ≤ 100 acres	562.50
106	Forest Management Plan	FMP ≥ 101 acres ≤ 200 acres	750.00
110	Grazing Management Plan	Grazing Management Plan	1050.00
114	Intergrated Pest Management	CAP, IPM - ≤ 100 acres	1365.00
114	Intergrated Pest Management	CAP, IPM - >100 acres	2520.00
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan	IWM Plan for a single irrigation system	1650.00
118	Irrigation Water Management Plan	IWM Plan for a single irrigation system	1980.00
122	AgEMP	AgEMP - Headquarters	1616.90
138	Plan Supporting Organic Transition	CAP Organic Transition - ≤ 100 acres	1260.00
138	Plan Supporting Organic Transition	CAP Organic Transition - >100 acres	2520.00
150	SPCC	SPCC > 10,000 gallons	1875.00
154	IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed Cons. Plan	CAP, IPM Herbicide Resistance Cons. Plan ≤ 100 Acres	1627.50
154	IPM Herbicide Resistance Weed Cons. Plan	CAP, IPM Herbicide Resistance Cons. Plan - > 100 acres	2730.00