

# State Technical Committee

## March 24, 2011

# Current Policy on Poultry Operations (Expanding Operations)

440-515-08-41 (Deals with erosion control, waste and mortality management)

Operations whereby site grading started on or before October 1, 2007 must have all erosion control issues addressed *before* application is eligible for EQIP ranking. In other words, all necessary erosion control measures would be the responsibility of the operator and required to be complete in order to be *eligible* for additional EQIP assistance for waste or mortality management.

(Operations in business prior to October 2007 are eligible for erosion control as well as waste and mortality management.)

# 2011 Poultry Expansion Policy Discussion

Should EQIP allow new operations to compete against existing operations with waste management resource concerns?

NC Ag Cost Share Program requires operation to be in business at least three years before the operation is eligible to apply to NCACSP.

Should EQIP adopt similar Policy?

Should EQIP utilize ranking tools to assure that older operations are funded first?

# EQIP Payment Schedule

Removing Practices - Discussion

Reducing Payment Percentage – Seasonal High  
Tunnel System (Reduce from 75% to 50%)

# EQIP – WHIP

## Prescribed Burning

**Prescribed Burning** – Maybe one of the best management practices for managing forests and wildlife ecosystems.

**Programs Perspective** – Probably the most common reason to do a contract modification (or cancellation) is due to delays associated with prescribed burning.

Reasons: Weather conditions not suitable

Burn professionals not available

Participants take little to no action in securing burn professionals to carry out contract in timely manner.

### **Additional Issues to consider:**

- 2011 obligating \$800,000 in new WHIP Long Leaf Pine contracts with Prescribed Burning as the primary practice.
- 2011 EQIP Forestry will obligate approximately \$700,000 with Prescribed Burning as a prominent practice included in contracts.
- 2011 WHIP Habitat Priority Areas obligating \$230,000 with Prescribed Burning as likely integral part of the management system planned.

# Prescribed Burning Policy Discussion

Limit contract to one prescribed burn. Contracts lengths of 2-3 years are more manageable than contracts that plan 3 burns over 9 years as an example. Rarely is such a contract fully completed.

Would we place higher ranking on applicants that have burned before OR ones that have never conducted prescribed fire as a management tool?