



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46278

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June 30, 2006

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN 300-6-15

SUBJECT: LTP- EQIP Assistance on Portable Equipment

Purpose: To provide additional guidance and to restate policy for cost sharing on portable equipment through the EQIP program. The contents of this Bulletin are incorporated into EQIP cost share policy immediately.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2006

Background: The initial guidance authorizing cost share for portable equipment through EQIP was distributed to State Conservationists on June 15, 2004. This guidance was incorporated into the EQIP Manual, 440-CPM-Part 515.101 at that time. Clarification of that guidance was issued through National Bulletin 300-5-11 on March 11, 2005. This Indiana Bulletin is being issued to restate that policy and eliminate confusion and potential erroneous payments. This clarification of policy will be entered into State Policy as a supplement to the EQIP Manual by October 1, 2006. The specific instructions are as follows:

- **EQIP Funds are not authorized** to provide cost sharing for equipment to haul, spread, or inject manure at its point of utilization. No such equipment can be paid for through the ProTracts system. If such equipment is planned in **any** EQIP contract item, the contract shall be immediately modified to remove the practice from the contract. The participant must sign this modification. If they refuse to sign, then they can ask for cancellation of their contract. Due to our technical error in planning components of practices which are not eligible for cost share, we will cancel these contracts without cost recovery. If participants have purchased the planned equipment prior to the date of this Indiana Bulletin, then they may be eligible for compensation through Equitable Relief (440-CPM-Part 509). If any equipment is purchased after the date of this Indiana Bulletin, then no cost share in any fashion shall be authorized.
- **EQIP Funds are authorized:** Any equipment (portable or permanent) receiving EQIP cost share assistance must be an eligible component of a structural practice included in the Field Office Technical Guide. Portable pumps and/or portable engines are the only portable equipment authorized for payment through NRCS cost share programs. The State Conservationist has decided that portable pumps or engines shall be approved by the State Conservation Engineer on a case by case basis where the use would result in environmental benefits over a larger geographic area.
- All cost shared equipment will be examined during contract reviews or status reviews to assure it is operated and maintained according to practice standards and contract requirements.

**Contact.** If you have any questions, contact the programs staff at (317) 290-3200: Harold Thompson, Acting Assistant State Conservationist – Programs at ext. 320, Jim Dunaway at ext. 334, or Joe Williams at ext. 311.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY  
State Conservationist

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