



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

January 11, 2007

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN 300-7-11

SUBJECT: LTP- Instructions for Ranking FY07 EQIP Applications when the Energy Conservation Bundle is included in the contract, and Release of Indiana Amendment 2 to the Conservation Programs Manual, 440-V-CPM, Part 515 (EQIP).

Purpose: To change the process and actions necessary to complete ranking in the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) when using the new Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System known as the Energy Conservation Bundle, practice IN200; to release a new FY07 EQIP cost list, and to release revisions to the EQIP Indiana State Guidelines as Indiana Amendment 2 to the Conservation Programs Manual, 440-V-CPM, Part 515 (EQIP).

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

Background: Unforeseen constraints within the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts have made it impossible to pass the Rule Checker portion of ProTracts when the Energy Conservation Bundle, practice IN200 is part of an EQIP contract. To overcome this restriction it is necessary to make changes in the way we will handle including this practice in EQIP contracts.

Practice IN200 Energy Conservation Bundle has been removed from the EQIP and Toolkit practice lists. We intend to continue to offer this incentive for FY 07 and it is now a **component under Cover Crop, 340**. The same requirements and restrictions apply as before. The incentive will just be listed as a component of cover crop.

Producers wishing to take advantage of the Energy Conservation Bundle will now have 340 Cover Crop, with the component "Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System", \$20.00/ac. listed in their contract as one contract item number. If we are also cost sharing on the Cover Crop they would have another separate contract item 340 Cover Crop, with the component Cover Crop, \$15.00/ ac. in their contracts.

In Toolkit, be sure to use the "Energy" narrative to describe the Cover Crop- Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System component. If using Cover Crop with the Cover Crop component, use the standard narrative.

DIST: 0

For existing applications using IN200 it will be necessary to go into Toolkit and change the plan to include Cover Crop using the “Energy” narrative, and then re-upload the plan to ProTracts.

The best way to upload the new plan to ProTracts is to use the delete all items feature in ProTracts then upload the revised Toolkit plan.

New applications will start out using the new method to establish the Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System in the contract.

The EQIP Indiana State Guidelines have been revised to reflect these changes. The attached Indiana Amendment 2 “EQIP Indiana State Guidelines” should be filed in 440-V- CPM, behind part 515 if you keep a hard copy of 440-V-CPM. The EQIP Indiana State Guidelines will be posted on the Indiana web site under Programs, EQIP. It will also be available in the Indiana E-Directives web page at http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual_supplements.html Title 440.

The new cost list, named EQIP_2007_02REV, has been uploaded to ProTracts and should be used for all new applications and those that must be revised to capture the new method to establish the Energy Conservation and Soil Quality Improvement System in the contract. Any contracts using the previous EQIP_2007_01 cost list are still valid as long as they did not include the IN200 Energy Conservation Bundle practice.

All other provisions of the EQIP Indiana State Guidelines and the instructions that were included in Indiana Bulletin 300-7-6 remain in effect.

If you have questions on these changes contact your Area Program Specialist, or Resource Management Specialist.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Attachment