



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

November 8, 2006

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-3

SUBJECT: LTP – Environmental Quality Incentives Program fiscal year 2007 Ranking –
Local Priorities

Purpose: To distribute guidance on establishing the Local Ranking Priorities for the
Environmental Quality Incentives Program fiscal year 2007 Ranking System

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

**Action Required By: December 8, 2006 - Local Ranking Priorities and a list of attendees of
the Local Work Group must be submitted to the Area Office.**

NRCS Indiana will use the National Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Ranking System through ProTracts in fiscal year 2007. The Local Ranking Priorities process will be the same as that used in NRCS Indiana in fiscal year 2006.

The local soil and water conservation district is responsible for convening the Local Work Group following guidance in 440-V-CPM-part 515.32. The Local Work Group should consist of individuals from all public and private entities interested in conservation in the county. At a minimum, members of the following entities should be invited to participate in the Local Work Group:

- NRCS designated conservationist
- Member(s) of the Conservation District board(s) or equivalent
- Member(s) of the County FSA Committee
- FSA county executive director or designee
- Cooperative Extension (board members or manager)
- State or local elected or appointed officials
- Other Federal and State government representatives
 - Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Fish and Wildlife
 - Indiana Department of Natural Resources – Division of Forestry
 - Indiana State Department of Agriculture
 - Indiana Department of Environmental Management – Watershed Specialists
 - US Fish & Wildlife Service Biologists
 - Others
- Others (livestock groups, commodity groups, not-for-profit groups, etc.)

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In fiscal year 2007, the local soil and water conservation district is required to announce the meeting of the Local Work Groups in sufficient time for everyone with an interest to attend. Efforts should be made to extend an invitation to local producer groups, wildlife and forestry groups, not-for-profit groups, etc.

Attached is a list of the eligible resource concerns for FY07 EQIP and/or priority watershed opportunities, collectively referred to as “resource priorities”. Further, the resource priorities are grouped into 9 categories. Resource Concerns are defined in the NRCS General Manual, Title 450, Part 401, Subpart C - http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/GM/gm_450_401_c.htm.

The Local Work Group will convene and identify the top 10 resource priorities in the county, with no more than 2 resource priorities chosen from any one category. For example, if all 4 resource concerns under the Soil Erosion category are of importance in the county, for the EQIP Local Ranking purposes, the Local Work Group will select only the top 2 resource concerns associated with Soil Erosion.

If watersheds are selected as a resource priority, they will count against the 10 available. For example, if 2 watersheds are chosen, 8 resource concerns may be chosen.

Once the Local top 10 resource priorities are identified, the Local Work Group must then rank them in order of importance. The most important local resource priority will receive the highest ranking points and should be designated as #1, followed by the second most important as #2, etc.

The attached list of resource priorities as well as a list of attendees of the Local Work Group meeting must be submitted to the Area Program Specialist, or other Area Staff as designated by the Area Conservationist, by Close of Business on December 8, 2006. Each county’s list will be maintained and archived at the local level for reference during ranking, as well as at the Area level for Quality Assurance purposes.

Further guidance related to EQIP FY07 and establishing planning priorities, deadlines, etc. will be distributed in the near future.

Questions related to this bulletin will be coordinated through Harold Thompson, Assistant State Conservationist – Programs, at (317) 290-3200 ext. 320, or to Shannon Zezula, State Resource Conservationist, at (317) 290-3200 ext. 388.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Attachment

cc: Indiana State Technical Committee