



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

January 24, 2007

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. 340-7-1

SUBJECT: SPA – FY 2007 Activity Codes, Performance Measures, and Goals

Purpose: To provide information and guidance on the 2007 Progress Items and Programs.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

The Agency's annual performance measures provide the link between the day-to-day activities on the landscape and the agency's long-term strategic objectives, as outlined in the NRCS Strategic Plan, 2005 – 2010. Annual measures reflect the annual increment of progress toward the long-term performance targets. These annual measures provide the foundation for the agency's annual performance budget formulation, budget and performance integration reporting, and Program Assessment Rating Tool process. Essential data elements gathered through these measures make it possible to meet agency reporting requirements, from Civil Rights reports to Congressional inquiries.

Data Quality

NRCS has a responsibility to ensure that our data meet high standards for quality. Regular review of performance data by users and oversight staff throughout the year will help ensure the accuracy of Agency performance data. Identifying and correcting data anomalies on a regular basis can minimize the end of year data quality review and attestation task, result in better quality data throughout the year, and improve the utility of agency performance data for a variety of users and uses.

Reporting Frequency

Reporting is relatively automatic for performance data that are harvested from the automated business tools. However, in instances where progress must be entered using PRS screens or program tracking business tools, performance should be updated regularly as reportable items are completed. Agency national level performance reports are issued weekly for top leadership review. These reports contain the performance data for the Fiscal Year (FY) submitted through the prior week. Thus, regular reporting will ensure that leadership is operating based on the most current and appropriate information.

Recurring practices

Recurring practices are reported the year they are first applied for annual measures, recognizing that they will be applied according to schedule in future years for the life of the practice. When recurring practices are revised in the planning process and altered, such that a new plan is developed, and then applied, it is considered newly applied and is also reported. The benefits of all practices applied, recurring or not, will be captured in long-term outcome reporting.

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Performance Measure Numbering System

The annual performance measures are numbered to align with the new agency strategic plan according to the table below:

Measure Number		Strategic Plan Goal
Series	Sub-Series	
0		Multiple Strategic Goals
1		High Quality, Productive Soils
	1.1	Cropland Soil Quality
2		Clean and Abundant Water
	2.1	Water Quality
	2.2	Water Conservation
3		Healthy Plant and Animal Communities
	3.1	Grassland, Rangeland, and Forest Ecosystems
	3.2	Working Lands and Waters for Wildlife
	3.3	Wetlands
4		Clean Air - reserved
5		Adequate Energy - reserved
6		Working Farms and Ranch Lands
	6.1	Viable Agricultural Sector and Natural Resource Quality

The attached Microsoft Excel Workbook provides information on field level measures, including measure number, data entry points, how the measure is calculated, target programs for 2007, and changes from FY2006.

Questions concerning 2007 progress items and target programs should be directed to the appropriate Area Staff or to the ASTC-Operations at (317) 290-3200.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Attachment