

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## Indiana 2008 State Guidelines

EQIP is a voluntary conservation program that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality as compatible national goals. EQIP offers financial and technical help to assist eligible participants to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

### General EQIP Provisions

- **CONSERVATION PLAN:** All EQIP applicants will have an on-site visit completed and a conservation plan will be developed in Toolkit on the acres being offered for application *before* the application is ranked. Required documentation will include a resource checklist (CPA-52) and list of conservation practices that the client has agreed to install if funded.
- **APPLICATIONS:** All applications will be entered in ProTracts and ranked using the [Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool](#) in ProTracts. Ranking will be done in the county in which the producer signs up for the program and that county will manage the EQIP contract. Payment limitations, adjusted gross income (AGI), and producer eligibility **must be** verified before the application status is changed to eligible.
- **APPLICANTS:** Applicants **must** prove control of the land for the contract period to meet basic eligibility requirements. The proof can be a Deed or other evidence of ownership, a lease, or documented historical use of the land. Applicants that are entities must provide Articles of Incorporation, Corporate Charter or By-laws, court orders, or articles of partnership clearly designating who has signatory authority for the entity at the time of application. Where an applicant is importing or exporting manure, they **must** provide a contract/agreement that shows the terms of receiving or exporting for the life of the EQIP contract. When an applicant is not the owner of the land the landowner **must** sign the contract **or** provide *written permission* to install any engineering practices on their land.
- **CONTRACTS:** EQIP contracts are written with a minimum term that ends one year after the implementation of the last scheduled practice, and a maximum term of ten years. Contracts record the details of payments for implementing conservation practices and are legally binding documents. Only practices being implemented with EQIP financial assistance are listed in the contract. Practices must be implemented according to NRCS technical standards.
- **PAYMENT LIMITATIONS:** An individual or entity may not receive, directly or indirectly payments that, in the aggregate, exceed \$450,000 for **all** EQIP contracts entered during the term of the 2002 Farm Bill. The \$450,000 payment limitation will automatically be confirmed during the ProTracts eligibility update. Producers cannot receive a contract for more than the remaining balance of the payment limitation. The payment limitation can be reviewed in Fund Manager.

- **SPECIAL GROUPS:** Limited Resource Farmers and Beginning Farmers are eligible for higher practice payment rates on structural practices. Payment rates for Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers are 15% greater than the established payment rate for other producers. Limited Resource and Beginning Farmers are held to the same payment caps as other producers.
- **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Participants may elect to use a certified Technical Service Provider for EQIP technical assistance. In order to be reimbursed the **Technical Service Provider must be in TECHREG**, and the technical assistance practice code must be in the contract prior to service being provided. Technical assistance can be paid on all 2008 EQIP funded practices.

### Ranking Highlights:

- The Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts will be used to rank all applications. AERT includes National, State and local priorities.
- The state's specific resource concerns are: soil erosion, soil condition, water quality, air quality, plant condition, domestic animals and fish and wildlife concerns specific to Indiana.
- The Local Work Group will identify the local top ten (10) resource priorities from the State list, and then place them in order of importance. The local points will be calculated as follows: The most important local resource priority will receive the highest points; the second most important local resource priority will receive the second highest points, until available points are disbursed to the top ten local resource priorities.
- A portion of the EQIP ranking is based on the applications efficiency score. This score takes into account the degree of cost effectiveness, the treatment of multiple resource concerns, the use of practices that provide environmental enhancements for a longer period of time, and the magnitude of the environmental benefits resulting from treatment of National, State, and local resource concerns

Ranking points are only available for practices that will address existing resource concerns (as defined in the Quality Criteria in Section III, Indiana Electronic Field Office Technical Guide). Practices that a producer wishes to implement on lands that currently meet the Quality Criteria, but will result in greater environmental benefit are eligible for funding but will be ranked accordingly.

- **EQIP livestock practices** such as, but not limited to 313, 359, 561, and 382 will have to meet the following requirements:
- **Confined Livestock Operations:**
  - New confined facilities are eligible for payments **only** where **existing** confined facilities will be closed, for environmental benefits, and moved to a new location. The new facility may include up to a 20% increase in animal units compared to the facility that is closing. The closure (Closure of Waste Impoundments – 360) and the new facility must both be included in the EQIP contract.

- **Grazing Livestock Operations:**
  - As of the date of the application, sites that do not have the species and animal units that the practices are planned for adjacent to an existing livestock operation under ownership of the applicant, do not have resource concerns addressed by those planned practices, and will be ranked accordingly unless the livestock will go from a confined or overstocked situation to a Prescribed Grazing system, with no more than a 20% increase in animal units.
  - This requirement is not intended to prevent using Pasture and Hayland Seeding (512) to convert cropland to pasture or hay. In this case, the cropland could have existing resource concerns like air quality, energy, excessive nutrients, organic matter depletion, or soil erosion that would be addressed by the conversion to pasture or hay and should be ranked accordingly.

### **Funding Highlights:**

- EQIP funding will be distributed according to the following:
  - CNMP and Livestock environmental emergencies 10%
  - Cover Crops-Soil Quality 5%
  - All other applications 85%
- **EQIP Environmental Emergencies, CNMP only, and Cover Crops-Soil Quality:** CNMP-only, Livestock Environmental Emergency(leaking lagoon, failed waste storage facility, etc.), and Cover Crops-Soil Quality will all be funded on a first come, first served basis, without regard to ranking. CNMP only applications will contain only the CNMP. Livestock Environmental Emergencies shall only contain the practices and TA necessary to adequately address the immediate emergency which is being funded. Any reserved funds remaining by the final selection period that are not used for these applications will be used for other applications.
  - "CNMP only", Livestock Environmental Emergency, and Cover Crops-Soil Quality applications will be funded as they come in and are certified as eligible.
  - All other applications will compete for EQIP funds on a statewide basis.
- Applications not funded in a previous selection round will compete for funding in the next available round. This procedure will be used until all EQIP funds have been awarded.
- The Cover Crops-Soil Quality initiative primarily uses cover crops to provide cover and protect the soil. This initiative is offered to provide protection to grazed/ harvested crop residues and damaged pasture land resulting from the drought conditions of this past year. It also includes the use of temporary fence and watering facilities to distribute grazing on crop residues. Applications for funding under this initiative will include only the three practices allowed under the initiative.

### **TSP TA**

- Technical assistance funding (TSP TA) will be available for immediate use on 2008 applications. \$350,000 in TA funds has been reserved. This allows the actual amount of TA to be included in an application and carry right into an approved contract without the need for contract modification.

### **Payment Rates**

- Starting in 2008, contract items that stay on schedule, **without being re-scheduled**, will automatically receive the new payment rates for the current year of the contract. Rates will never be lowered from the initial contract payment rate.

## FY 2008 EQIP Schedule of Events

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
Oct. 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Instructions to promote deferred 07 applications that wish to continue.</li> <li>2. Deferrals promoted by Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>.</li> <li>3. Continuously accept new applications and determine producer eligibility (ag. producer, AGI, payment limitation, entity eligibility and signatory authority, control of land, and LRP or BF status). Change status to "Eligible" if applicable. If not eligible send Eligibility Letter to applicant.</li> <li>4. Bulletin to field with FY08 EQIP instructions.</li> <li>5. News release to public to announce program and cutoff date for 1<sup>st</sup> Round funding.</li> <li>6. Ranking and EQIP criteria posted to web.</li> <li>7. Area begins Quality Assurance review process of rankings and plans as they are completed in ProTracts. When QA is complete, change status to "Preapproved".</li> <li>8. Schedule Statewide training to review process</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: center;">Programs Field Field</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs Public Affairs Staff</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs Area Programs Specialists</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Programs &amp; Technology</p>
Oct. 19	<p>Starting on this date, applications will be selected for funding based on the median ranking score. Applications that are marked as "Pre-Approved" by the APS will be moved to "Approved" by Programs staff. This action will occur every two weeks through Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. If funds remain on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>; all remaining "Pre-Approved" applications will be funded in order of ranking score until all funds are exhausted.</p> <p>Schedule for selection:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Nov. 16, Nov. 30, Dec. 14</b></p>	
	<p>The area and field will need to complete the following actions on applications on a continuous basis.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete QA reviews on all applications that are signed, planned, and ranked.</li> <li>2. Change status to "Preapproved".</li> <li>3. Check for "Approved" applications in ProTracts and take action to obligate. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Print the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 for participants' signature.</li> <li>b. Send or give the ProTracts Approval Letter to the participant.</li> <li>c. Participant signs the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 <b>and NRCS-CPA-1202-CPC appendix</b>, Field advises AC that contract is ready to obligate.</li> <li>d. AC or designee signs the contract in ProTracts and creates the obligation. This finalizes the contract.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
Jan. 15	All funds must be obligated into contracts by 4:00 pm EST.	

**Indiana 2008 EQIP Practice List**  
**Payment Schedule, Special Provisions, Restrictions, and Requirements**

**Practices Eligible for Payments**

Payment schedule rates for conservation practices are new for 2008 and were developed to promote positive conservation outcomes tailored to the environmental needs of Indiana. Cost sharing by a percentage is no longer available. Practice schedule payments are payments for the installation of a specific practice. Payments are based on the statewide documented cost of installation and offered as a payment per unit of the practice installed. Example: 500 feet of Access Road is installed, 500 ft (Unit) X \$7.25 (Unit Payment Rate)= \$3625.00 (EQIP payment). Payment schedule amounts will not exceed dollar or acre caps placed on specific practices. 2008 EQIP practices, payment rates, caps and special provisions are in the table below.

The following management practices are only eligible for up to **three consecutive years** of payments within a contract: Residue and Tillage Management No-till, Residue and Tillage Management Mulch-till, Pest Management (basic and high), Nutrient Management (basic and high), Waste Utilization (basic and high), Conservation Crop Rotation (conversion to organic farming), Drainage Water Management, Feed Management, Irrigation Water Management, Residue and Tillage Management No-till(Energy Conservation System), and Prescribed Grazing.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
560	Access Road	Access Road - One Way Traffic	FT	7.25	PR	100		
316	Animal Mortality Facility	Animal Mortality Facility-animal units composted	AU	425.00	PR	100		√
	<input type="checkbox"/> Animal Units (AU) are defined as 1000 lbs. of animal. Animal units are based on the number of animals being composted and are not based on the farm's yearly production.							
360	Closure of Waste Impoundments	Closure of Waste Impoundments	CU FT	0.18	PR	100	5,000.00	√
317	Composting Facility	Composting Facility	SQ FT	0.38	PR	100		√

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
100	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Non-Cattle Small	No	4,000.00	PR	100		✓
	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Non-Cattle Medium CFO Permit	No	6,700.00	PR	100		✓
	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Non-Cattle Large CAFO Permit	No	8,200.00	PR	100		✓
	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Cattle Small	No	5,000.00	PR	100		✓
	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Cattle Medium CFO Permit	No	7,700.00	PR	100		✓
	Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan	Cattle Large CAFO Permit	No	9,200.00	PR	100		✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ A <b><i>one time FA payment</i></b> for development of the CNMP plan and necessary follow-up.</li> <li>❑ An economic evaluation will be completed to determine the need for a CNMP on small facilities.</li> <li>❑ All tracts and fields under the CNMP will be included in the Toolkit plan and the ProTracts contract.</li> <li>❑ Applications with CNMPs-only will be funded on a first-come, first served basis without ranking.</li> <li>❑ The TSP TA request form will be completed by the participant prior to contract obligation.</li> <li>❑ Applications with CNMPs and other practices will compete in normal funding based on their ranking score.</li> <li>❑ Small = confined animal feeding operation with resource concerns that could be addressed by a CNMP: or where the producer does not have control over the manure after it leaves the facility.</li> <li>❑ Medium (CFO) = confined animal feeding operation with IDEM Confined Feeding Operation Rule permit.</li> <li>❑ Large (CAFO) = confined animal feeding operation with IDEM/EPA Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation permit.</li> <li>❑ CNMP's are required on a Waste Storage Facility (313) and Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) and <b>must be completed and paid for</b> prior to the design and installation of the facility or lagoon. <b>The CNMP shall be used as the basis for the design of any waste storage and handling facilities.</b></li> <li>❑ Livestock producers not building a 313 or 359 and wanting to develop a CNMP on their operation are eligible for the CNMP payment.</li> <li>❑ Non-livestock producers receiving manure from another farm are not eligible for the CNMP payment, however if they have a contract to receive manure at the site for the length of the EQIP contract <b>and</b> build a Waste Storage Facility (313) or a Waste Treatment Lagoon (359) then they <b>must</b> develop a CNMP and are eligible for payment.</li> <li>❑ By definition a CNMP is a conservation system that is unique to animal feeding operations (CFO's). For EQIP, the CNMP is written/ developed for all acres &amp;/or manure owned or under decision-making authority at that CFO (including lands under a "Land Use Agreement" or other similar control of the manure application). <b>All manure applications under control of the applicant must be included in the CNMP. If the EQIP applicant does not have control over <u>all</u> of the land and/or <u>all</u> of the manure, then they are <u>only</u> eligible for the CNMP Non-Cattle Small or CNMP Cattle Small payment rate.</b></li> <li>❑ Producers required to develop a CNMP must be informed of the CNMP requirements. Refer to the <a href="#">NRCS AFO CNMP Handout</a>, <a href="#">IN NRCS CNMP Checklist</a> and the CNMP Guidance for Minimum Requirements @ <a href="http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/agronomy/CNMP%20Requirements%2012-19-05.pdf">http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/agronomy/CNMP%20Requirements%2012-19-05.pdf</a>.</li> <li>❑ See the <a href="#">Indiana Agronomy web page</a> for additional information on CNMP requirements.</li> </ul>								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
327	Conservation Cover	Conservation Cover	AC	75.00	PR	100		
328	Conservation Cropping Rotation	Conversion to Organic Farming	AC	50.00	PR	100	5,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Eligible only for cropland that is being converted to organic farming.</li> <li>❑ Organic farming must meet the established USDA definition of organic farming under federal code (7CFR- 205) establishing the National Organic Program.</li> <li>❑ The operation does not have to be totally "certified" to qualify, but would have to have an organic system plan that was agreed to by a certifying agent under the federal or approved state program.</li> <li>❑ USDA web link for organic farming information is <a href="http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexNet.htm">http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/indexNet.htm</a></li> <li>❑ Also see the Indiana State Department of Agriculture's Organic Resource Guide at <a href="http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/Organic_Resource_Handout.pdf">http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/Organic_Resource_Handout.pdf</a></li> </ul>							
340	Cover Crop	Cover Crop	AC	22.50	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ The cover crop can <b>not</b> be harvested for Grain.</li> </ul>							
342	Critical Area Planting	Critical Area Planting	AC	475.00	PR	100		
362	Diversion	Diversion	FT	1.25	PR	100		
554	Drainage Water Management	Drainage Water Management	AC	40.00	PR	100	2,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Payment for this practice is for the acres being managed under this practice.</li> </ul>							
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management	Strip Disking and Spraying and prescribed burning	AC	7.50	PR	100		
	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management	Woodland Edge Feathering and Forest Regeneration Openings	AC	125.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <u>Strip disking, strip spraying and prescribed burning</u> is eligible for the payment for up to 3 years.</li> <li>❑ <u>Woodland edge feathering</u> is a one time \$125/acre per tract payment.</li> <li>❑ <b>Maximum of 100 acres of any combination.</b></li> </ul>							
592	Feed Management	Feed Management	AU	1.00	PR	100	1,000.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ This payment applies only to confined livestock facilities.</li> <li>❑ Producers must have a Feed Management plan, developed by a qualified individual, which meets the 592 standard to reduce Nitrogen and Phosphorus loads, reduce feed and water wastage and use, and reduce overall manure production.</li> <li>❑ Animal units for the payment will be determined by the Animal units present at any one time at the location or facility.</li> </ul>							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
382	Fence	Permanent Fence	FT	0.65	PR	100		√
	Fence	Temporary Interior Fence	FT	0.13	PR	100		√
	<input type="checkbox"/> Temporary Interior Fence is eligible only under the Soil Quality- Cover Crop initiative, otherwise its' cost is included in the Prescribed Grazing payment rate.							
386	Field Border	Field Border	FT	0.19	PR	100		
393	Filter Strip	Filter Strip	AC	75.00	PR	100		
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Forest Stand Improvement	AC	34.00	PR	100		
	<input type="checkbox"/> The offered forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 acres. <input type="checkbox"/> A minimum of 10 acres of 666 must be scheduled in the contract. <input type="checkbox"/> A Forestry Plan meeting the Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share.							
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Rock Chute or Pipe Drop	NO	1,700.00	PR	100		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Straight Pipe Structure	NO	927.50	PR	100		
	Grade Stabilization Structure	Concrete or Aluminum Toewall	NO	2,750.00	PR	100		
412	Grassed Waterway	Grassed Waterway	AC	1,710.00	PR	100		
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection Gravel Pad w/Goetextile	SQ FT	0.38	PR	100	20,000.00	√
422	Hedgerow Planting	Hedgerow Planting	FT	0.75	PR	100		
449	Irrigation Water Management	Irrigation Water Management	AC	5.00	PR	100	800.00	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Management must decrease non-point source pollution of surface or ground water resources or result in increased efficiency of water use. Use the CSP tool to determine. <input type="checkbox"/> Payment provided only for existing irrigation systems. Participant must have irrigated 2 of the past 5 years per EQIP policy. The participants' statement or the DCs knowledge of this is acceptable proof.							
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Lined Waterway or Outlet	FT	22.00	PR	100		
484	Mulching	Mulching - Without Erosion Control Blanket	AC	281.00	PR	100		
	Mulching	Mulching - Erosion Control Blanket	AC	3,075.00	PR	100		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
590	Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - <b>Basic Management</b>	AC	5.00	PR	100	2,500.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Eligible land must not currently be under a nutrient management plan.</li> <li>❑ Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same contract year. Acreage previously covered by 590 in an EQIP contract is not eligible again for the 590 Basic.</li> <li>❑ The Nutrient Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application.</li> <li>❑ Acres under an existing CSP contract are not eligible for this payment.</li> </ul>							
590	Nutrient Management	Nutrient Management - <b>High Management</b>	AC	20.00	PR	100	10,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>Must meet requirements of Nutrient Management-Basic Management, plus all of the following:</b></li> <li>❑ Intensive Sampling (Grid or Soil Management Zone)</li> <li>❑ Intensively Managed Nutrient Application Placement (variable rate for P, K, and lime) for all years on all applications. Variable rate does not apply to starter fertilizer (corn/wheat) or N sidedress applications and/or small grain topdress (N or P).</li> <li>❑ No fall Nitrogen application for spring seeded crops (corn/soybean). Fall N application for wheat is permitted. Fall applications of DAP and MAP are permitted.</li> <li>❑ Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same year.</li> <li>❑ Nutrient Management-High Management can follow Nutrient Management-Basic Management; however Nutrient Management-Basic Management can not follow Nutrient Management-High Management.</li> </ul>							
512	Pasture and Hay Planting	Warm & Cool Season Grasses	AC	75.00	PR	100		√
	Pasture and Hay Planting	Legume in Addition to Existing Stands	AC	30.00	PR	100		√
595	Pest Management	Pest Management- <b>Basic Management</b>	AC	4.00	PR	100	2,000	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Eligible on all cropland where pesticides are applied not currently under a pest management plan. Acreage previously covered by 595 in an EQIP contract is not eligible again for the 595 Basic.</li> <li>❑ Follow all pesticide label setbacks (as applicable for water bodies, properties and other environmentally sensitive areas) for herbicides, insecticides and fungicides.</li> <li>❑ 3 pest scouting trips/crop per year are required (emergence, mid-season, late season). No insecticide or fungicide foliar applications unless scouting discovers threshold infestation requiring crop protection and/or predicted threat by Purdue University Specialists. Follow IPM principles (e.g. scouting, field history, treatment threshold) for all pesticide applications.</li> <li>❑ The Pest Management Plan must be developed prior to the practice application.</li> </ul>							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment cap	Livestock Practice
595	Pest Management	Pest Management-High Management	AC	10.00	PR	100	5,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eligible on all cropland where pesticides are applied.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Must meet requirements of Pest Management-Basic Management, plus all of the following:</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 3 different crops in 3 consecutive years (such as year 1 = corn, year 2 = soybean, year 3 = wheat) are required to break pest cycles. Double crop soybean after wheat is not eligible as 2 different crops. Cover crops do not count as a separate crop.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Pest Management-High Management can follow Pest Management-Basic Management; however Pest Management-Basic Management can not follow Pest Management-High Management.</li> </ul>							
516	Pipeline	Pipeline - Bedded	FT	1.39	PR	100		√
	Pipeline	Pipeline Non-Bedded	FT	0.84	PR	100		√
378	Pond	Pond	NO	5,300.00	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ponds (378) are allowed only for livestock watering.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Economic feasibility of alternate water sources must be evaluated and considered.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Ponds must be sized for the grazing need or the minimum to meet standards.</li> </ul>							
521A	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane	AC	32,670.00	PR	100		√
521B	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant	AC	1,744.00	PR	100		√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 521A, and 521B, are allowed <b>only</b> for Waste Storage (313) and Waste Storage Lagoons (359).</li> </ul>								
409	Prescribed Forestry Mgt	Prescribed Forestry Mgt	NO	100	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Eligible for a <b>one time only</b> payment to develop a Prescribed Forestry Plan that meets the 409 standard.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The offered upland forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The offered bottomland or wetland forests acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 5 acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Producer is also eligible for TSP TA (910) at the TechReg Technical Service Payment Rate for this practice.</b></li> </ul>							
528	Prescribed Grazing	Prescribed Grazing	AC	13.00	PR	100	1,625.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Payments will also be available for other practices required as part of the plan.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must have physically started implementing the practices planned for the rotational grazing system to receive the first payment.</li> </ul>							
533	Pumping Plant for Water	Pumping Plant for Water Control	NO	1,670.00	PR	100		√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Paid only for livestock water or wetland control.</li> </ul>							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	Residue Management, No Till	AC	20.00	PR	100	10,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ <b>A STIR rating of less than 10 must be documented to receive this Payment.</b></li> <li>❑ This practice must be <b>applied to the same acres all 3 years</b> in which the payments are made.</li> <li>❑ Applicant must have no-tilled for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible (based on the Indiana 329 Practice Standard).</li> <li>❑ The rotation for the contract period must include <b>at least two years of no-till corn.</b></li> <li>❑ Must implement nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) the fall prior to the implementation of no-till. This is to address issues that may limit the success of no-till implementation.</li> <li>❑ Payments will be provided for nutrient management and pest management practices as well if requirements are met.</li> <li>❑ It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329.</li> <li>❑ In contracts where 345 is used as a transition, the combined total of both practices will not exceed 2 years of 345 and 3 years of 329.</li> <li>❑ This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not allowable to pay for 500 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 500 acres of no-till on another.</li> </ul>							
	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till	<b>Energy Conservation System</b>	AC	20.00	PR	100	20,000.00	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for implementing 329 (No-till) + 590 (Nutrient Management) + 340 (Cover crops) + Buffers (386, 393, 332, 390, 391, 412, 422, 327 or 342 within a field, and/or 380) as a system.</li> <li>❑ Available if at least 1 of the 4 practices is currently not installed on the offered acres.</li> <li>❑ Buffers must be adjacent to all water bodies and must be at least 2% of the enrolled acres.</li> <li>❑ Sink holes shall only be considered water bodies when they hold water long enough to prevent cropping.</li> <li>❑ Prioritize buffers as follows <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water bodies (Required)</li> <li>2. Sensitive areas</li> <li>3. Treating resource concerns where they exist in each field</li> <li>4. Between land use changes.</li> <li>5. Low yielding areas</li> </ul> </li> <li>❑ Buffers may not be used to buffer other buffers.</li> <li>❑ Buffers around sinkholes are eligible for inclusion in the 2% minimum requirement.</li> <li>❑ This Payment is limited to 1000 acres per applicant per year and is in addition to any other Payment or Payments for the individual practices for the system.</li> <li>❑ Cover crops must be installed on all enrolled acres each year to receive the full payment.</li> <li>❑ CRP, GRP and WRP acres are eligible to meet the buffer requirement, but can not be included in the acres for the payment.</li> <li>❑ Acres under CSP contracts are not eligible for this Payment.</li> </ul>								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Mulch Till	Residue Management, Mulch Till – Modified No-Till	AC	8.00	PR	100	4,000.00	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Practice must meet the Indiana 345 practice standard for modified no-till / high end mulch till system.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A STIR rating of less than 20 must be documented to receive this Payment.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This practice <b>must be applied to the same acres all 3 years</b> in which the payments are made.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant must have mulch tilled (modified no till) and/or no tilled (329) for less than 5 consecutive years in order to be eligible.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The rotation for the contract period must include <b>at least two years of corn.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Must implement nutrient management (590) and pest management (595) the fall prior to the implementation of the mulch till system. This is to address issues that may limit the success of mulch till implementation. Payments will be provided for these practices as well.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> It is intended that 345 precede 329 in a contract where 345 is used as a transition from conventional tillage to the 329.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> In contracts where 345 is used as a transition, the combined total of both practices will not exceed 2 years of 345 and 3 years of 329.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This is the only case in which both 345 and 329 can be used on one contract. It is not allowable to pay for 500 acres of mulch till on one farm or field and 500 acres of no-till on another.</li> </ul>							
643	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	Restoration & Management of Rare or Declining Habitats	AC	424.00	PR	100		
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Riparian Forest Buffer	AC	266.50	PR	100		
558	Roof Runoff Structure	5" & 6" Gutters	Lin Ft	2.13	PR	100	3,750.00	√
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	Shallow Water Development and Management	AC	1,000.00	PR	100		
574	Spring Development	Spring Development	NO	1,150.00	PR	100		√
578	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing - Rock	NO	1,300.00	PR	100		√
	Stream Crossing	Stream Crossing Culvert or Concrete	NO	2,650.00	PR	100		√
587	Structure For Water Control	Structure For Water Control	NO	750.00	PR	100		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
606	Subsurface Drain	Small 6" or less Tile	FT	0.87	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	Medium 8" to 12" Tile	FT	2.02	PR	100		
	Subsurface Drain	Large 15" or larger Tile	FT	3.50	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ 606 is paid only as a component of another EQIP practice.</li> <li>❑ Payment is not to exceed the payment on the other EQIP practice that 606 is supporting.</li> <li>❑ In conjunction with a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, size is limited to 8 inches.</li> <li>❑ <b>Exception:</b> Where an existing tile <b>crosses</b> a Grassed Waterway, or Diversion, and needs to be replaced; then payment will be provided for replacement of the existing tile for the width of the waterway, regardless of diameter, but diameters greater than 15 inch will be paid at the 15 inch diameter rate.</li> </ul>							
612	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment	AC	266.50	PR	100		
	Tree and Shrub Establishment	Tree and Shrub Establishment – Post Planting Herbicide Treatment	AC	34.00	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ A Forestry Plan meeting Prescribed Forestry (409) standard must be developed prior to receiving cost-share.</li> <li>❑ The offered <b>upland</b> forestland acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 10 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented.</li> <li>❑ The minimum amount of <b>upland</b> tree planting to be completed must be at least 1.0 acre adjacent to existing forestland that results in at least 10 contiguous acres of forest land.</li> <li>❑ The offered <b>bottomland or wetland</b> forests acreage under control of the applicant must be at least 5 contiguous acres <u>after</u> the plan is implemented.</li> <li>❑ The minimum amount of <b>bottomland or wetland</b> tree planting to be completed must be at least 1.0 acre adjacent to existing forestland that results in at least 5 contiguous acres of forest land.</li> </ul>							
620	Underground Outlet	Small 6" or less Tile	FT	0.87	PR	100		
	Underground Outlet	Medium 8" to 12" Tile	FT	2.02	PR	100		
	Underground Outlet	Large 15" or larger Tile	FT	3.50	PR	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ 620 is paid only as a component of another EQIP practice.</li> <li>❑ Payment is not to exceed the payment on the other EQIP practice that 620 is supporting.</li> <li>❑ Diameters greater than 15 inch will be paid at the 15 inch diameter rate.</li> </ul>							
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Warm Season Grass Planting	AC	95.00	PR	100		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Tree and Shrub Planting	AC	266.50	PR	100		
	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	Cool Season Grass Planting	AC	48.50	PR	100		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
472	Use Exclusion	Use Exclusion - From Stream or Wetland or Woodland	AC	250.00	PR	100	2,500.00	√
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ A <b><i>one time payment</i></b> to be used for livestock exclusion only, <b>livestock must currently be present in the area intended to be protected</b> to qualify for this Payment.</li> <li>❑ Area protected must have a minimum of 30 ft distance to water in the case of streams, measured from barrier to waters edge.</li> <li>❑ In the case of wetlands, the area protected is the portion of wetland present on the contract acres that is protected by the exclusion.</li> </ul>							
313	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit or pre-fabricated	CU FT	0.78	PR	100	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Concrete Pit or pre-fabricated EXPANSION	CU FT	0.31	PR	100	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit	CU FT	0.34	PR	100	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Earthen Pit EXPANSION	CU FT	0.14	PR	100	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof	SQ FT	9.24	PR	100	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack-with roof EXPANSION	SQ FT	3.70	PR	100	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof	SQ FT	6.74	PR	100	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Dry Stack- no roof EXPANSION	SQ FT	2.70	PR	100	18,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack	SQ FT	7.72	PR	100	45,000.00	√
	Waste Storage Facility	Litter Stack EXPANSION	SQ FT	3.09	PR	100	18,000.00	√
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ New production facilities are not eligible for payments.</li> <li>❑ To be eligible for payments a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be written, approved, delivered, and paid for prior to the start of the waste storage facility, <b>and must be used as the basis for the design of this practice.</b></li> <li>❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer.</li> <li>❑ If a site has no animals but will be collecting and storing manure from another farm, then the applicant must have a contract to receive manure at the site for the length of the EQIP contract, and provide NRCS with a copy to be eligible for payments.</li> <li>❑ Eligible when implemented to solve an existing resource concern on an existing facility site with less than 20% expansion of the Animal Units within the same species.</li> <li>❑ Where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more, payment will be based on the EXPANSION scenario up to the capped amount.</li> </ul>								

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
359	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon	CU FT	0.34	PR	100	45,000.00	✓
	Waste Treatment Lagoon	Waste Treatment Lagoon EXPANSION	CU FT	0.14	PR	100	18,000.00	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ New production facilities are not eligible for payments.</li> <li>❑ To be eligible for payments a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be written, approved, delivered, and paid for prior to the start of the waste treatment lagoon, <b>and must be used as the basis for the design of this practice.</b></li> <li>❑ This practice requires an on site engineering review and cost estimate by a NRCS Engineer.</li> <li>❑ If a site has no animals but will be collecting and storing manure from another farm, then the applicant must have a contract to receive manure at the site for the length of the EQIP contract, and provide NRCS with a copy to be eligible for payments.</li> <li>❑ When implemented to solve an existing resource concern on an existing facility site with less than 20% expansion of the Animal Units within the same species, payments may be up to the capped amount.</li> <li>❑ Where expansion of the Animal Units is 20% or more, payments will be based on the EXPANSION scenario up to the capped amount.</li> </ul>							
633	Waste Utilization	Waste Utilization- <b>Basic Management</b>	AC	30.00	PR	100	15,000.00	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for crop and pasture/hay fields where animal wastes are being utilized.</li> <li>❑ Land must not currently be under a waste utilization or nutrient management plan. Acreage previously covered by 633 in an EQIP contract is not eligible again for the 633 Basic.</li> <li>❑ Only fields with a soil test phosphorus level of &lt;50 ppm (100 lbs) per acre will be eligible.</li> <li>❑ The applicant can be the generator or receiver of the waste and must have control of the fields that receive the waste during the life of the contract.</li> <li>❑ Criteria for the payment are tied to the fields that will receive the manure.</li> <li>❑ Pre-sidedress soil nitrate test (PSNT) <b>and/or</b> chlorophyll meter (SPAD) <b>must</b> be completed on land receiving manure.</li> <li>❑ Soil test must have been completed within the last 4 years to be valid. The number of acres necessary for manure application shall be based on the IDEM "Manure Application Land Requirements."</li> <li>❑ Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same contract year.</li> <li>❑ The Waste Utilization Plan must be developed prior to the practice application.</li> </ul>							
	Waste Utilization	Waste Utilization- <b>High Management</b>	AC	40.00	PR	100	20,000.00	✓
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for the additional management/costs associated with cover crops and/or nitrification inhibitors. Eligible for spring manure applications, only if switching manure application from fall/winter/summer (wheat).</li> <li>❑ <b>Must meet the requirements of Waste Utilization-Basic Management, plus all of the following:</b></li> <li>❑ Fall/Winter/Summer (after wheat) spreading only with a cover crop and/or nitrification inhibitor.</li> <li>❑ Payments for Nutrient Management (590) and Waste Utilization (633) can not be received on the same acres in the same year.</li> </ul>							

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate	Payment Cap	Livestock Practice
635	Waste Water Treatment Strip	Waste Water Treatment Strip	AC	1,710.00	PR	100		✓
638	Water & Sediment Control Basin	Water & Sediment Control Basin	No.	1030.00	PR	100		
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Water &amp; Sediment Control Basin (638) requires the following three conditions to be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practices 590 (Nutrient Management) and 595 (Pest Management) must already be implemented or implementation started within the year the structure is being built.</li> <li>○ Fields within the watershed of the structure must be managed to "T", or practices must be installed in the year the structure is built that brings the soil loss to "T".</li> <li>○ All of these requirements apply within the entire drainage area of the WASCObS, whether on the applicant's land or adjacent land. If these requirements are not met, practice 638 is not eligible for a payment.</li> </ul>							
642	Water Well	Water Well	FT	18.50	PR	100		✓
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Paid only for livestock watering</p>							
614	Watering Facility	Portable Tank-Plastic	NO	116.00	PR	100		✓
	Watering Facility	Ball Fountain or Concrete tank	NO	450.00	PR	100		✓
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Schedule Heavy Use Area Protection(561) as needed</p>							
351	Well Decommissioning	Well Decommissioning	NO	125.00	PR	100		
657	Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration	AC	1,000.00	PR	100		
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	AC	20.00	PR	100	500.00	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Payment to manage area for wetland wildlife for a maximum of 25 acres per applicant per year.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual practices installed under this practice will be paid at rates established for the practices installed.</p>							
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	FT	0.44	PR	100		

Practice Code	Practice Name	Scenario	Unit Type	Unit Payment Rate	Payment type	Rate		
910	TA Planning	TA Planning	NO	Technical Service Payment rate	AM	100		
	<p>Available only for the development of Prescribed Forestry plans (409) scheduled in 2008. See additional guidance in the "Technical Assistance from TSPs" section of the FY08 EQIP Guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Use 'Planning on Forestland' in TechReg for the TSP Payment Rate (= Planning + Pfollowup + Pother + Travel)</li> </ul>							
911	TA Design	TA Design	NO	Technical Service Payment rate	AM	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for the development of a Design (Tree Planting Plan, Engineering Design, Pest/Nutrient Management Plan, etc.) for any practice scheduled for fiscal year 2008. See additional guidance in the "Technical Assistance from TSPs" section of the FY08 EQIP Guidelines.</li> <li>❑ For practices not listed in TechReg, contact Tony Bailey via email</li> </ul>							
912	TA Installation	TA Installation	NO	Technical Service Payment rate	AM	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for the Installation (Pre-Construction Assistance, Location of Setbacks, Staking and Layout, installation inspection/assistance, permits, compliance with laws/regulations, etc.) for any practice scheduled to be implemented in fiscal year 2008. See additional guidance in the "Technical Assistance from TSPs" section of the FY08 EQIP Guidelines.</li> <li>❑ For practices not listed in TechReg, contact Tony Bailey via email</li> </ul>							
913	TA Checkout	TA Checkout	NO	Technical Service Payment rate	AM	100		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ Available for the Checkout (records of implementation, certification that the installed practice meets NRCS standards and specifications, etc.) of any practice scheduled to be implemented in fiscal year 2008. See additional guidance in the "Technical Assistance from TSPs" section of the FY08 EQIP Guidelines.</li> <li>❑ For practices not listed in TechReg, contact Tony Bailey via email</li> </ul>							

**The cap column is the maximum amount payment that will be paid for a practice regardless of the units installed or the unit cost of the item.**

## Special Instructions:

### Limited Resource Farmers:

- Limited Resource Farmers have the responsibility to prove that they are eligible for that Special Group. Potential Limited Resource Farmers must meet the definition of ag producer and meet both of the following:
  1. Direct or indirect gross farm sales not more than \$116,800 in each of the previous two years.\*1

**AND**

  2. A total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.\*2
- Limited Resource Farmers should go to this link <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/> and run the tool to see if they meet the requirements.
- Prior to signing the EQIP contract, producers will have to show District Conservationists the following two items from the IRS 1040 for the previous two tax years: 1. the Gross farm income, generally on line 11 of Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming to substantiate gross farm sales and; 2. the Adjusted Gross Income, generally on line 33 of the 1040 to substantiate household income less than 50 percent of the county median. The IRS 1040 form must be the signed document as filed with IRS, copies are acceptable.
- All members of an entity must meet the Limited Resource Farmer requirement.
- District conservationists will document in assistance notes that they have confirmed the Limited Resource Farmer status. Copies of 1040's and schedule F's will NOT be maintained by NRCS.

\*1 This value will be increased beginning in fiscal year 2005 to adjust for inflation using the "Prices Paid by Farmer Index" compiled by **NASS**.

\*2 Total household income will be determined annually and indexed for inflation using Commerce Department Data.

### Beginning farmer:

- Beginning Farmers have the responsibility to prove that they are eligible for that Special Group. Potential Beginning Farmers must meet the definition of ag producer and meet both of the following:
  1. Be an individual or entity that has NOT operated a farm, or who has operated a farm for not more than 10 consecutive years. (This requirement applies to all members of an entity.)

**AND**

  2. Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Prior to signing the EQIP contract producers must show District Conservationists at least one IRS 1040 from the previous ten years where Schedule F, Profit or Loss from Farming, has NOT been filed. Information from Schedule F is generally found on line 18 of the 1040. The IRS 1040 form must be the signed document as filed with IRS, copies are acceptable.
- All members of an entity must meet the Beginning Farmer requirement.
- District conservationists will document in assistance notes that they have confirmed the Beginning Farmer status. Copies of 1040's and schedule F's will NOT be maintained by NRCS.

### **Producer Eligibility:**

To be eligible to participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an agricultural producer. To be considered an agricultural producer, there must be a minimum of \$1,000 in agricultural products sold, or that normally would have been sold, in a normal year.

Producers with **only** forest land must have one of the following to be considered eligible:

- A forest management plan or forest stewardship plan.
- A prior record of timber harvest or revenue from timber sales.
- Proof of capital investment in forest practices.

See CPM 515.61 for additional information on producer eligibility.

### **Land Eligibility:**

Eligible land is land on which agricultural commodities or livestock are produced and includes cropland, grassland, pastureland, private, and non-industrial forest. ***Reclaimed mine land is eligible only if it has been used as agricultural land and has been released from bond. NRCS must have written proof that the bond has been released.*** See CPM 515.62 for additional information on land eligibility.

### **Technical Assistance from TSPs:**

EQIP participants may choose to hire a TechReg certified Technical Service Provider (TSP) to assist them with the technical assistance activities to design and implement their contracted practices. TSP technical assistance (TA) funds will be provided, subject to fund availability, for any practice scheduled to be implemented in calendar year 2008 (FY08 applications and prior-year EQIP contracts, including GSWC) – (**NOTE:** FY08 applications should have the TSP TA scheduled in the application; Prior Year contracts will need to be modified to add the TSP TA practices), subject to the following exceptions:

- Technical Assistance is only available for practices that have a total estimated installation cost less than \$100,000. Engineering on individual projects over \$100,000 will not be completed by NRCS; therefore, TSP TA is only available where the estimated installation cost is less than \$100,000. See the NRCS Indiana Supplement to Part 502 – Responsibilities, of the National Engineering Manual for related NRCS Indiana policy at [http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual\\_supplements.html](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual_supplements.html).
- NRCS will not provide direct technical assistance, or TSP TA funding, for assistance on Feed Management.
- CNMPs scheduled in Prior Year contracts – these individuals should apply for an FY08 CNMP-only application, and modify their current contract to delete the 100 Practice Code.

The following TA activities are eligible for payments to producers:

1. 910 Planning (Prescribed Forestry only)
2. 911 Design (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)
3. 912 Installation (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)
4. 913 Checkout (all practices except CNMP and Prescribed Forestry)

Payments to the producer for 910, 911, 912 or 913 can be made upon delivery of the required documents to NRCS as stated in the Statements of Work for the practice located in Section IV of the Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG). The Nutrient Management Plan and Pest Management Plan checklists meet these requirements. Payments for practices **912 and 913 shall be submitted together**, and should also be processed with the payment for the associated

practice since the 912 and 913 activities will certify that the practice was installed according to NRCS standards and specifications.

Payments will be made for the billed amount up to the TSP Technical Service Payment Rate for the specific practice and service. For all practice codes, the maximum payment available to the EQIP participant will be based on the TSP Technical Service Payment rates published on TechReg, available at <http://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/NTE/TSPNTE2/index.asp>. Copies of the final TSP Technical Service Payment rates obtained from TechReg will be filed in the participant's file. The producer may or may not be reimbursed for the actual amount charged by the TSP provider. Service provider charges are NOT determined nor controlled by the Technical Service Payment rates posted on TechReg. The Technical Service Payment rates reflect the NRCS cost for providing the service and establish the NRCS payment cap for the service. Service provider rates are negotiable between the provider and the producer.

**TSP TA For All Engineering Practices:** all three TA activities (911, 912, and 913) must be scheduled and completed by the TSP. TA practice code 911 will not be scheduled without 912 and 913.

**TSP TA Guidance for Practices with Multiple Years of Application:** 911, 912, and 913 are only available 1 time per contract on a practice. 912 and 913 are only eligible the first year of practice implementation. Practices implemented previously are not eligible for 912 and 913. Practices scheduled this year but not previously implemented are eligible for 912 and 913.

**TSP TA Step-By-Step Instructions for NRCS and for EQIP Applicants** are available at <http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/2008eqip/eqip2008.html>

### **Waivers to Begin Practices:**

Starting a practice before the contract is approved by NRCS causes the applicant to be ineligible for EQIP financial assistance for that practice, unless a waiver has been granted. If the practice has not been started, applicants may request the State Conservationist grant a waiver *in special cases and for meritorious reasons such as alleviation of imminent and significant environmental problems, prevention of endangerment to life or property, or adverse weather conditions*. The waiver will expire at the end of the fiscal year in which it is granted. Once an applicant signs a Waiver Request, the District Conservationists shall immediately forward the Waiver Request to the Area Conservationist for review. The Area Conservationist will forward the request to the State Conservationist through the ASTC for Programs.

**A statewide waiver is being issued for the practices in the Cover Crops-Soil Quality initiative. NRCS will provide a copy of the approved waiver letter to the applicant. The participant will include a copy of the letter along with the NRCS-CPA-1245 when requesting payment.**

### **Using ProTracts Application Priority:**

The Application Priority feature in ProTracts will be used to assign the application type (CNMP only, Livestock Environmental Emergency, or Cover Crops-Soil Quality) to each application and assist in tracking EQIP applications. These applications will be given the HIGH priority rating. Low and Medium will not be used.

**Potential Duplicative Payments:**

NRCS must ensure that 2008 EQIP contracts do not include practices that may cause duplicate payments with Conservation Security Program payments. See Indiana Bulletin 300-8-7 for the current list of Conservation practices that may create potential duplicative payments between multiple USDA program payments.

**Products to the Participant:**

NRCS shall provide one signed copy of the NRCS-CPA-1202, NRCS-CPA-1202 appendix, Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT), and NRCS-CPA-1155 to the participant when the "Approved" EQIP contract is signed by the participant. Every signatory to the contract that receives any payment share greater than 0% shall receive a copy of the listed documents.