



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

November 8, 2011

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. 300-12-1

SUBJECT: LTP – EQIP Waivers to begin TA practices for 2012

Purpose: To provide guidance on waivers for Livestock Environmental Emergency practices prior to contract approval for fiscal year 2012 EQIP applications; or to start TSP Technical Assistance practices from 2011 and prior year EQIP contracts that are scheduled for 2012 with \$0 funds obligations.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2012

Background: There is a need to provide immediate service in the event of livestock environmental emergencies. There is also a need for participants to begin working with TSPs to develop nutrient and pest management plans. Additionally, program guidelines for the 2012 EQIP program have not been released at this time.

Action: The State Conservationist hereby issues a statewide waiver for practices associated with Livestock Environmental Emergency applications, and TSP TA practices if they are scheduled for 2012 with \$0 funds obligation in a 2011, or earlier, contract. ***There will be no waivers approved for other practices.***

Area Conservationists have been delegated the authority to approve the waivers to begin the conservation practices as specified in this bulletin. Area Conservationists will follow policy in CPM 512.23 C when approving waivers, track waiver requests, and ensure that applicants: are EQIP eligible, complete the request properly, receive the waiver approval letter, and understand the provisions of the waiver.

Once an applicant completes an EQIP Waiver Request, the District Conservationist will ensure the applicant is eligible for a waiver, and forward the request to the Area Conservationist. If the waiver is approved the Area Conservationist will provide a copy of the approved request and the Waiver Approval Letter to the applicant with a copy to the DC, and enter the request on the Waiver Tracking Sheet. The applicant may then begin the practice(s) requested.

Since the 2012 Indiana EQIP Guidelines have not been released, we do not have a 2012 cost list in Toolkit, a 2012 payment schedule in ProTracts, nor 2012 AERT ranking. District Conservationists may refer to the 2011 Indiana EQIP Guidelines and payment schedule for general guidance, but must inform applicants that the practices, requirements, and payment rates may change. New guidance may dictate that we adjust practices and the applicant is assuming a certain amount of risk for change.

When a practice is installed under the waiver provisions, a copy of the waiver approval letter shall be included with the NRCS-CPA-1245 and payment checklist when submitted for payment. ***Additionally, this waiver does not change NRCS policy regarding engineering approval authority and requirements, practice standards, or practice certification procedures.***

The following documents are the only acceptable documents for 2011 waivers:

- EQIP Waiver Request (10-6-11) (Attachment A)
- Waiver Approval Letter (10-6-11) (Attachment B)
- Waiver Tracking Sheet (10-6-11) (Attachment C)

The waiver request requires the District Conservationist to certify the following items are complete before approving the waiver:

- Practice(s) are a part of an approved conservation plan
- Applicant meets all EQIP eligibility requirements (AGI, HEL/WC, ag producer)

The Waiver Tracking Spreadsheet will be used for quality assurance reviews and will be completed by the Area Conservationist at the time that waivers are approved and will be forwarded it to the ASTC for Programs by the end of the FY.

If you have questions concerning this bulletin, please contact Teresah P. Caire, Assistant State Conservationist-Farm Bill Programs at 317-290-3200, ext. 320 or Adam Heichelbech, Indiana EQIP/WHIP Specialist at 317-290-3200, ext. 357.

/s/

JANE E. HARDISTY
State Conservationist

Attachments