



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

October 21, 2013

IOWA BULLETIN NO. IA440-14-1

SUBJECT: PGM – FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2014 EQIP PROCESS TIMELINE, PRACTICE LIST,
RANKING, AND COST LIST

ACTIONS REQUIRED: TO STATE OFFICE BY NOVEMBER 8, 2013

PURPOSE: To provide FY14 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) timeline and request field office (FO) review and update of local implementation of FY14 EQIP.

EXPIRATION DATE: September 30, 2015

District conservationists are to review and update county EQIP program description, practice list, and application ranking, and revise as needed.

1. EQIP Timeline

The FY14 timeline for EQIP is as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| October 4, 2013 | Cutoff for batching first signup period EQIP applications (this was a previously announced due date). |
| November 1, 2013 | District conservationist sends FY14 Program Description and FY14 Practice List to Area Office (AO) for review. |
| November 8, 2013 | Area Office sends FY14 Program Description and FY14 Practice Lists to State Office (SO) for posting on the Iowa NRCS website. Area Office enters county ranking criteria in ProTracts. |
| January 10, 2014 | Deadline to rank for first signup period applications in ProTracts. |
| February 21, 2014 | Cutoff for batching second signup period EQIP. |
| March 21, 2014 | Deadline to rank for second signup period applications in ProTracts. |
| July 1, 2014 | National deadline to have 100 percent of the state allocation obligated. |

Discussions are being held with the State EQIP Sub-committee, State Technical Committee, and Leadership Team on agricultural waste treatment levels eligible for EQIP financial assistance. Options being considered include financial assistance to treat only the existing resource concern, and financial assistance to treat the existing resource concern and up to a 25 percent expansion. Until this decision is made, proceed with conservation planning to provide financial assistance for treating the existing resource concern.

E

Prescreening Tool Description:

At the end of the first round batching period an office will determine if the Prescreening Tool will be used for each subaccount. If the Prescreening Tool is used on a subaccount it must be used on that subaccount for the rest of the fiscal year.

1. The plan will consist of inventory and evaluation, NEPA documentation, needs and feasibility with preliminary design, alternatives for the entire land use, and have a record of decisions of the producer.

Prescreening Tool Instructions:

- All applications will be entered into Protracts with an estimated (program) cost and priority (high, medium or low).
- If using the Prescreening Tool to determine priority, all applications in the subaccount must be screened.
- All High Priority applications will be ranked in Protracts.
- When all High Priority applications have been selected for funding Medium Priority applications will be ranked in Protracts.
- Low Priority applications will not be ranked in Protracts.

If a subaccount has any application(s) that include livestock waste treatment practices all applications in that subaccount must use the Prescreening Tool. All Historically Underserved subaccounts must also use the Prescreening Tool.

Priorities are established at the following levels for the HU Subaccounts:

High Priority = 7 or more points

Medium Priority = 4-6 points

Low Priority = 3 points or less

If using the Prescreening Tool to determine priority for local subaccounts choose one of the following methods to determine priority. Any application with a "0" or below from the Prescreening Tool will be a low priority.

1) Sort applications by Prescreening Tool score. Multiply the fund code's allocation by 150%. High priority applications are those whose cumulative estimated cost falls within 150% of the fund code's allocation. Medium priority applications are those whose cumulative estimated cost falls between 150% and 300% of the fund code allocation. Example: Fund code allocation of \$100,000 X 150% = \$150,000. The cutoff point for high priority is all sorted applications above the cumulative total of \$150,000.

2) Sort applications by Prescreening Tool score. Choose a percentage of the applications for each priority level. Set the break at a whole point cutoff. Example: Set the high priority for the top third of the applications, medium as middle third and low as the bottom third. If the top 20% is at 6 points and when you reach down to 5 points it includes a total of 40% of the applications you could cut off the high priority at 5 points. The breakdown you establish on the cut off for the points should be based on spreading out your workload. The splits you establish should help to spread applications throughout the High, Medium and Low categories.

3) If not using the Prescreening tool, all applications are ranked and the application priority is based on the following criteria:

High – Equal to or greater than 40.01 points

Medium – 20.01 to 40.00 points

Low – Equal to or less than 20.00 points

2. EQIP Program Description

Review the 2013 Program Description on Iowa's NRCS website for your county and revise to show changes for 2014. **The attached template must be used with no format changes, insert your local information into the template labeled (county name)14WebsiteInfo.doc (example: Polk14WebsiteInfo.doc) and e-mail to the area office. Area offices are to review the website information, make any necessary corrections and place the files in the statewide shared drive at**

“S:\Service_Center\NRCS_statewide_shared\440_PGM_Programs\EQIP\2014 EQIP\2014 EQIP Web Site Info” no later than November 8, 2013. If there are no planned changes in the Program Description contact your Area Program Specialist. The Area Program Specialist can forward this information to Jason Johnson, Public Information Team in the State Office.

3. Website Practice List

The format of the Practice List is unchanged. Review the “2013 County Practice List” for your county and revise to show changes for 2014. If there are no changes to last year's Practice List, you can reuse last year's list and change the date in the title to 2014. **If you need to make changes from last year's Practice List (check for updated practice names and life spans), use the attached template. The attached template must be used with no format changes, insert your local information into the template labeled (county name)14WebPracticeList.docx (example: Polk14PracticeList.docx) and e-mail to the area office. Area offices are to review the Practice Lists, make any necessary corrections and place the files in the statewide shared drive at**

“S:\Service_Center\NRCS_statewide_shared\440_PGM_Programs\EQIP\2014 EQIP\2014 EQIP Practice Lists” no later than November 8, 2013. If there are no planned changes in the Practice List contact your Area Program Specialist. The Area Program Specialist can forward this information to Jason Johnson, Public Information Team in the State Office.

Only practices which are in the local Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section IV, are eligible for financial assistance.

Conservation practice and payment rates must meet the following requirements:

- A. No local Practice List may have a cap for a waste storage/treatment facility of less than \$50,000. Practices are 316 – Animal Mortality Facility, 317 – Composting Facility, 362 – Diversion, 634 – Waste Transfer, 521A – Pond Sealing or Lining, Flexible Membrane, 521B – Pond Sealing or Lining, Soil Dispersant, 521C – Pond Sealing or Lining Bentonite Sealant, 521D – Pond Sealing or Lining, Compacted Clay Treatment, 558 – Roof Runoff Management, 632 – Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility, 635 – Vegetated Treatment Area, 313 – Waste Storage Facility, 360 – Waste Storage Closure, 367 – Roofs and Covers, 533 – Pumping Plant, 561 – Heavy Use Area Protection, 620 – Underground Outlet, 629 – Waste Treatment, 359 – Waste Treatment Lagoon, 591 – Amendments for the Treatment of Agricultural Waste, and 366 – Anaerobic Digester.
- B. Financial assistance may be offered for developing the following Conservation Activity Plans:
 - 102 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)
 - 104 Nutrient Management Plan
 - 106 Forest Management Plan
 - 110 Grazing Management Plan
 - 114 Integrated Pest Management Plan

- 118 Irrigation Water Management Plan
 - 122 Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Headquarters (AgEMP) (Energy Initiative Only)
 - 124 Agricultural Energy Management Plan – Landscape (AgEMP) (Energy Initiative Only)
 - 130 Drainage Water Management Plan
 - 138 Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (Organic Initiative Only)
 - 142 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan
 - 146 Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan
 - 154 Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistance Weed Conservation Plan
- C. All Conservation Activity Plans must be contracted in single item contracts. No statewide sub-accounts will be created for the Conservation Activity Plans.
- D. CNMP Conservation Activity Plans must be written prior to beginning design of the associated waste storage facility. If an EQIP plan of operations includes an animal waste storage, management, or treatment facility, the participant must develop and implement as scheduled, a CNMP, prior to the design of the waste storage, management, or treatment facility.
- E. Contracts that include Agricultural Energy Management Plans or audits as required for 374 – Farmstead Energy Improvement shall have energy plans or audits sent to the Area Engineer who will forward a copy to Mark Garrison in the State Office for administrative review before certification of plans or installation of practices outlined in plans or audits.
- F. Contracts that include forestry practices require a Forest Management Plan prior to installation of the first practice. Contracts that include practices to convert to organic farming require an Organic Management Plan prior to installation of the first practice. All practices (contracted or not contracted) included in the management plans must be fully applied.
- G. Iowa will follow National Initiatives guidance per National Bulletins as they are received.
- Driftless Area Landscape Conservation Initiative
 - Energy Initiative
 - High Tunnel Initiative
 - Mississippi River Basin Initiative
 - National Water Quality Initiative
 - Northern Prairie Migratory Bird Habitat Initiative
 - Organic Initiative
- H. FY14 State sub-accounts are:
- Beginning Farmer/Rancher
 - Limited Resource
 - Socially Disadvantaged
 - Tribal
 - Wildlife-Forestry Habitat
 - Wildlife-Grassland Habitat
 - Wildlife-Riverine Habitat
 - Wildlife-Wildlife Habitat Management

- I. Ponds are only eligible for EQIP when used as a water supply for grazing system improvements.
- J. Payments are based on the payment schedule. The document, FY14 Iowa EQIP Practice Descriptions and Payment Rates.doc, will be sent to district conservationists providing payment rates and a detailed description of the scenarios for each practice.
- K. Residue and Tillage Management (345) is only offered in the Energy and Organic Initiatives.
- L. Residue and Tillage Management Standards (329 – no-till or strip till and 346 – ridge till) are eligible if determined to be needed locally. When Residue and Tillage Management is included in the contract for no-till, strip-till or ridge-till, and the item is scheduled for more than one year, the scheduled years must run consecutively.
- M. Financial assistance for tile, when Subsurface Drain (606) is associated with a grassed waterway, is limited to no more than the amount needed to maintain the grassed waterway, not to exceed six inch diameter tile. When additional tile is needed for upland drainage outlet(s), it may be installed at the participant's expense as long as all other requirements involving wetland conservation compliance are met.
- N. A sample ADDENDUM TO NRCS-CPA-1202 CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACT is attached. The sample includes several suggested addenda items. Other items may be added.
- O. Any practice cap levels set locally must be based on the amount of financial assistance (caps are not allowed based on the amount of units except for interim practices). The following table lists state wide practice cap levels.

| FY14 Iowa EQIP Payment Rate CAPs | | | |
|---|--|---------------|------------------------------------|
| Practice Code | Practice Name | FY14 CAP | FY14 Caps for HU, Organic and CCPI |
| 329 | Residue & Tillage Management, No-Till/Strip-Till | \$24,000.00 | \$36,000.00 |
| 346 | Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till | \$10,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| 590 | Nutrient Management | \$16,000.00 | \$24,000.00 |
| 595 | Pest Management | \$10,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| 798 | Seasonal High Tunnel System For Crops | 2,178 sq. ft. | 2,178 sq. ft. |

- P. In order for land to be eligible for an irrigation-related practice, that land must have been irrigated in two out of the last five years. This means that irrigation must have been part of managing the cropping system to meet the needs of the plant and to maintain the yields of an irrigated crop. To ensure the practice meets the program purpose, the irrigation practice must be addressing an identified resource concern, such as Soil Erosion – Irrigation Induced or Water Quantity – Inefficient Water Use. To document irrigation history use the attachment titled: Irrigation History Documentation.docx.

4. ProTracts Cost List

Historically Underserved (HU) producers receive a higher payment rate. Statewide sub-accounts have been established for HU producers. The HU producers include: beginning farmers or ranchers, socially disadvantaged farmers or ranchers, or limited resource farmers or ranchers. A link to information on these types of producers is provided here: <http://www.lrftool.sc.egov.usda.gov/>

The FY14 cost list will be uploaded by the SO to ProTracts for each county. The cost lists for EQIP include Code 900 series codes for Technical Service Providers. The cost list will be sent in a separate e-mail to the district conservationist login with a copy to the AO. These files will be used as the Toolkit cost list. Save the appropriate cost list spreadsheets on each computer that utilizes Toolkit in F:\FOTG\Section_1.

Some important things to remember about cost lists used in ProTracts are:

- Do not change the template format in any way, including the addition of headers/footers or footnotes.
- Cost list errors cannot be corrected in ProTracts. Errors are corrected by deleting the cost list, correcting the errors in the original spreadsheet, and uploading the cost list again.
- Deleting a cost list has no impact if it is not linked to any applications.
- If a cost list is linked to pending applications, the link is deleted along with all contract items. This ensures that applications are always linked to active cost lists.
- If a cost list is linked to an application selected for funding, the cost list associated with the application can be deleted if the application status is reset to pending.
- If a cost list is linked to an obligated contract, it cannot be deleted.

5. Ranking Criteria

Section 515.72 of the EQIP Manual provides very specific guidance on establishing the ranking process and criteria. Local ranking criteria have been developed for each of the four separate CRAs and will be loaded into ProTracts by the area program specialists.

A FY14 Prescreening Tool is available to help prioritize applications for ranking in ProTracts. All subaccounts with potential applications for livestock waste treatment practices must use the Prescreening Tool. All Historically Underserved subaccounts must also use the Prescreening Tool. Instructions for use of the Prescreening Tool are on the back of the form. The FY2014 Prescreening tool is attached.

National and state ranking factors include questions about 303(d) Impaired Waters, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and Threatened and Endangered Species or Species at Risk (T&E).

Updated FY2014 EQIP Ranking watershed maps based on 2012 IDNR Impaired Streams and Lakes (303(d)) will be placed on the FO servers. The maps will be available in each FO at: f:\geodata\project_data\nrcs\eqip. These maps will be updated since the 2012 impaired waters list is now final.

Links to information on these issues are provided here:

http://www.iowadnr.gov/Portals/idnr/uploads/watermonitoring/impairedwaters/2012/Iowa%20final%20IR_Cat%205.pdf

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/WaterQuality/WatershedImprovement/WatershedResearchData/WaterImprovementPlans/PublicMeetingsPlans.aspx>

TMDLs must be approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

For T&E species, select the county of the application and click on submit. Select the PDF for information on habitat improvements that benefit the species affected. Points can only be awarded if the practice benefits the species. For species that do not have a PDF, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) private lands biologists or wildlife biologist. <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/naturalareasinventory/pages/Query.aspx>

Additional information on T&E Species may be found at:
<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/state-ia.html>

When habitat improvements may benefit or harm federally listed T&E species, NRCS must initiate consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).

Decisions regarding ranking issues:

Local resource concerns will be developed locally. Local criteria must adhere to the above guidance and as a minimum:

- Address only the resource concern(s) from the FOTG identified for the local program.
- Address national priorities identified for the local program.
- Address only the resource concern(s) which the client wishes to address through the EQIP application in the ranking of that application.
- The degree of cost effectiveness will be calculated automatically as the application is ranked, through a formula which helps determine the extent of cost effectiveness and environmental benefits. This is done by multiplying the Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) for the practice by the Practice Service Life (PSL), then dividing by the associated Practice Average Cost (PAC).
- Local funding pools are required for different land use types.
- Limit practices for payment rates to only those not well-adopted locally in solving the identified resource concern(s).

I look forward to another great year of serving our customers in implementing conservation plans through timely EQIP assistance.



Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachments:

NRCS-CPA-1202 Addendum.docx
County14WebSiteInfo.docx
County14WebPracticeList.docx
Irrigation History Documentation.docx
FY14 Prescreening Tool

EQIP Prescreening Tool FY2014

Instructions:

This Prescreening Tool will be completed for each eligible producer applying for EQIP assistance under _____ fund code. The goal of this Prescreening Tool is to ensure that conservation technical assistance and EQIP program benefits are efficiently allocated to address priority conservation needs. Completion of this worksheet and documentation does not constitute agreement to provide EQIP program benefits or approval of an EQIP contract. The original Prescreening Tool worksheet must be filed with the applicant case file or EQIP program file and the screening priority (High, Medium, and/or Low) will be recorded in ProTracts. Upon request, a copy of any completed Prescreening Tool may be provided to the applicant. **All applications must be entered in ProTracts, including priority determination and estimate of EQIP cost. High priority applications will be ranked. Medium priority applications will not be ranked until all High priority applications have been funded. Low Priority applications will not be ranked.**

Applicant Name: _____ County: _____
Application Number: _____ Field Office: _____
Evaluator Name: _____ Date: _____

A. Does the application include soil conservation practices that will reduce soil loss to tolerable limits (i.e., T) (Note: if already at T answer No)?

Yes, (1 point) No, (0 points)

B. Is the application supported by a current conservation plan¹ that addresses all resource concerns on, at least, land use type (e.g., crop, grazing, forest, etc) at the time of application batching?

Yes, (3 point) No, (0 points)

C. Do the practices in the application address the identified Ag related nonpoint source impairment within a TMDL, a watershed listed in "Iowa Section 303(d) Impaired Waters Listings" or one of the following water quality approved projects: Watershed Protection Program Fund (WSPF), Water Protection Fund (WPF) EPA 319 Project, or Iowa Watershed Improvement Review Board (IWIRB) Fund?

Yes, (3 point) No, (0 points)

D. Do the practices in the application address the identified Ag related nonpoint source impairment in a locally identified priority watershed?

Yes, (2point) No, (0 points)

E. Is/was the applicant on schedule and maintaining all currently or previously held program (Federal, State, or Local) contracts? (Note: if the applicant has never had any program contract before answer question yes)

Yes, (1 point) No, (-6 points)

F. Was the application area cropped prior to May 1, 2008? (Note: pasture or headquarter only applications can answer yes)

Yes, (1 point) No, (-15 points)

G. The field that has the conservation practice is adjacent to a water body and the practice contributes in protecting the water body?

Yes, (2 point) No, (0 points)

H. Does the application include practice(s) that will treat or finish treating the resource concern for the entire tract?

Yes, (2 point) No, (0 points)

I. Is this application for a livestock waste facility that will treat all the livestock waste resource concerns for the entire farmstead [When a producer's existing livestock facilities are within 2,500 feet of each other (at the closest point) it is considered one farmstead].

Yes, (0 points) No, (-15 points)

J. Is the application for a livestock facility that did exist prior to March 1, 2009 and currently has a resource concern?

Yes, (0 points) No, (-15 points)

Total Points: _____

Determination for Protracts – Select One: High Priority: Medium Priority: Low Priority:

D.C. Approval: _____ Date Approved: _____

| | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| | <p align="center">U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION</p> | <p>1. State & County Code _____ 2. a. Farm Number _____ b. Tract Number(s) _____ 3. Contract Number _____</p> | <p>_____ _____ _____ _____</p> |
| <p align="center">CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACT</p> | | | |

ADDENDUM TO NRCS-CPA-1202 CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTRACT

The Participant and CCC agree to comply with the terms and conditions contained in this Contract, including the appendix to this Contract, entitled "Appendix to Form NRCS-CPA-1202" for the applicable program (referred to as "Appendix"), and this addendum as stated hereunder.

(SAMPLE)

Financial assistance for tile (606 – subsurface drain), when used in combination with a grassed waterway, is limited to no more than the amount needed to maintain the grassed waterway, not to exceed 6 inch diameter tile. When additional tile is needed for upland drainage outlet(s), it may be installed at the Participant’s expense as long as all other requirements involving wetland conservation compliance are met.

When Residue and Tillage Management is included in the contract for no-till, strip-till or ridge-till, and the item is scheduled for more than one year, the scheduled years must run consecutively.

Energy Initiative – Conservation Practice 374 Farmstead Energy Improvement with any of the following scenarios; Motors Large, Motors Medium, Motors Small, Motors up to 1 HP and Drying-Grain, where a less efficient motor is being replaced by a more energy efficient motor, the old motor must be decommissioned and scrapped prior to payment.

Contract funds obligated for a TSP must be earned within one year after funds are incorporated into the contract. TSP funds that remain unused after that time frame will be deobligated from the contract.

Contract funds obligated for Technical Service Provider (TSP) services related to a waste treatment facility are not eligible for payment until after a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) is developed.

When a Terrace Summer Construction Scenario is included in the contract, construction must occur between June 15 and October 15 of the scheduled year. The initiative is only available on land in row crop and requires a temporary cover or cover crop. No crop is allowed to be harvested. No payments can be made for any items associated with the summer construction initiative until all associated practices are installed.

Prior to payment for 313 Waste Storage Facility, elimination of the open feedlot which shall be closed to livestock for the life span of the practice is required. Feedlot fences, feeding and watering facilities shall be removed and the area shall be revegetated.

(MRBI SAMPLE)

The 590 Nutrient Management practice must be applied on all acres in this contract to current NRCS standards and specifications and maintained for the life of the contract.

| | |
|-----------|------|
| | |
| Signature | Date |

EQIP Practice List

2014

Your County, Iowa

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|---------------------------|---|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 472 | Access Control | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Streambank Water Quality-Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface water | 10 yr. | Exclusion of livestock from woodlands, ponds, and intermittent streams (3 dot blue line streams on USGS Topo maps) and larger. |
| 309 | Agrichemical Handling Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality – Harmful levels of Pesticides in ground and surface water | 15 yr. | |
| 371 | Air Filtration and Scrubbing | Number | Payment Rate | Air Quality-Objectionable odors; Particulate matter less than 10 micrometers in diameter | 10 yr | Payment for adding odor Mitigating Biofilters to agriculture confinement fans. |
| 316 | Animal Mortality Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Harmful levels of pathogens in surface water | 15 yr. | |
| 314 | Brush Management | Acre | Payment Rate | Plant Condition- Noxious and invasive plants | 10 yr. | |
| 317 | Composting Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Harmful levels of pathogens in surface water; | 15 yr. | As a Component of the CNMP |
| 102 | Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) – written | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water | ---- | CNMP Incentive or Payment for a Technical Service Provider to develop a CNMP. |
| 327 | Conservation Cover | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill | 5 yr. | |
| 328 | Conservation Crop Rotation | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Condition-Organic Matter Depletion Energy-Inefficient Energy Use- Farming and Ranching Practices and Field Operations | 1 yr. | Initiative for producers that are transitioning from intensive row crop into rotations that includes perennial production. |
| 332 | Contour Buffer Strips | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill | 5 yr. | Payment is on the entire treated area. |
| 340 | Cover Crop | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Condition-Organic Matter Depletion Energy-Inefficient Energy Use- Farming and Ranching Practices and Field Operations | 1 yr. | Practice is available for 3 consecutive years. |
| 342 | Critical Area Planting | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet and rill; Ephemeral Gully | 10 yr. | Stabilize areas where vegetation is difficult to establish. This is used on structural practices after construction. |

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 747 | Denitrifying Bioreactor | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water | 10 yr. | |
| 554 | Drainage Water Management | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water | 1 yr. | This practice can be used in combination with 590 Nutrient Management. |
| 356 | Dike | Feet | Payment Rate | Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate Space & Water | 20 yr. | |
| 362 | Diversion | Feet | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet and Rill; Ephemeral Gully | 10 yr. | |
| 382 | Fence | Feet | Payment Rate | Plant Condition-Forage quality and palatability | 20 yr. | Permanent interior fences required for rotational grazing or livestock exclusion. No property line fences. |
| 393 | Filter Strip | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water; Harmful levels of Pesticides in surface water Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate cover & Shelter | 10 yr. | |
| 512 | Forage & Biomass Planting | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet & Rill | 5 yr. | Converting cropland or renovation of hayland. Used for both cool and warm season grasses. |
| 666 | Forest Stand Improvement | Acre | Payment Rate | Plant Condition-Productivity heath & vigor | 10 yr. | Woodland Stewardship Plan required. |
| 410 | Grade Stabilization Structure | Number | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Classic gully Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment & Turbidity in Surface Water | 15 yr. | |
| 412 | Grassed Waterway | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully | 10 yr. | Practice may be used in combination with 606-subsurface drain and 342-critical area planting. Payment does cover fabric installed in waterway. |
| 561 | Heavy Use Area Protection | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet & rill | 10 yr. | For protection of livestock feeding and watering areas in a grazing system (includes Winter Feeding Stations). |
| 595 | Integrated Pest Management | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Harmful levels of pesticides in surface water | 1 yr | |
| 442 | Irrigation System, Sprinkler | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quantity-Inefficient water use on Irrigated Land | 15 yr. | |
| 449 | Irrigation Water Management | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water | 1 yr. | This practice can be used in combination with 590 Nutrient Management |

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 516 | Livestock Pipeline | Feet | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate Stockwater | 20 yr. | Used for watering of livestock in a grazing system only. |
| 484 | Mulching | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment & Turbidity in Surface Water | 1 yr. | |
| 590 | Nutrient Management | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive nutrients and organics in surface water | 1 yr | May also require 554 Drainage Water Management and 449 Irrigation Water Management. |
| 500 | Obstruction Removal | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface Water | 10 yr | Used as a component of Waste Storage Facility (313) for the removal of the existing feedlot. |
| 378 | Pond | Number | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate stock water | 20 yr. | Practice is for livestock water in a grazing system only. Includes payment for all components of a pond. Also used in combination with 382-Fence and 342-Critical Area Planting. |
| 338 | Prescribed Burning | Acres | Payment Rate | Plant Condition-Productivity health and vigor; Noxious and invasive plants | 1 yr. | |
| 528 | Prescribed Grazing | Acre | Payment Rate | Plant Condition-Forage Quality and Palatability Domestic Animals-Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed & Forage | 1 yr. | |
| 533 | Pumping Plant | Number | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate Stock Water Energy-Inefficient Energy Use-Equipment and Facilities; Farming and Ranching Practices and Field Operations Plant Condition-Productivity, Health, and Vigor | 15 yr. | |
| 329 | Residue and Tillage Management, No-till/Strip Till/Direct Seed | Acre | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet & Rill Energy-Inefficient Energy Use-Equipment and Facilities; Farming and Ranching Practices and Field Operations | 1 yr. | |

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|---------------------------|--|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 391 | Riparian Forest Buffer | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water Fish and Wildlife-Inadequate Cover and Shelter | 15 yr. | Woodland Stewardship Plan required. |
| 558 | Roof Runoff Structure | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excess Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water | 15 yr. | |
| 367 | Roofs and Covers | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface Water | 10 yr. | This practice may be used in combination with Waste Storage Facility (313) |
| 798 | Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops | Square Foot | Payment Rate | Plant Condition-Productivity, Health and Vigor Soil Erosion-Sheet & Rill | 4 yr. | |
| 350 | Sediment Basin | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water | 20 yr. | |
| 632 | Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients & Organics in Surface Water; Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface water | 15 yr. | As a Component of CNMP also used in conjunction with a Wastewater Treatment Strip (635) |
| 574 | Spring Development | Number | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate Stock Water | 20 yr. | |
| 578 | Stream Crossing | Number | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Streambank | 10 yr. | |
| 580 | Streambank and Shoreline Protection | Feet | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Streambank | 20 yr. | |
| 606 | Subsurface Drain | Feet | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully | 20 yr. | Can only be used when required in combination with another practice on this list. When used in combination with a grassed waterway, payment is limited to no more than the amount needed to maintain the grassed waterway. The maximum size for cost share assistance when used in combination with a grassed waterway is 6 inch diameter tile. |
| 600 | Terrace | Feet | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet & Rill; Ephemeral Gully Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment & Turbidity in Surface Water | 10 yr. | This practice may be used in combination with 620-Underground outlet and 342-Critical Area Planting. |

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 490 | Tree and Shrub Site Preparation | Acre | Payment Rate | Air Quality-Excessive Greenhouse Gas-CO2 | 1 yr. | Woodland Stewardship Plan required. |
| 612 | Tree/Shrub Establishment | Acre | Payment Rate | Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate Cover/Shelter; T & E Species: Declining species, species of concern | 15 yr. | Woodland Stewardship Plan required. |
| 620 | Underground Outlet | Feet | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Sheet & Rill; Ephemeral Gully | 20 yr. | Practice is used in combination with 600-Terraces and 638-Water and Sediment Control Basins. Includes payment for intakes, tile, and tile outlet as required by the job. |
| 635 | Vegetated Treatment Area | Acre | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients & Organics in Surface Water; Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface water | 10 yrs | Used in conjunction with a Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility (632) |
| 313 | Waste Storage Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water; Harmful levels of Pathogens in Surface Water | 15 yr. | As a component of CNMP |
| 638 | Water and Sediment Control Basin | Number | Payment Rate | Soil Erosion-Ephemeral Gully Water Quality-Excessive Suspended Sediment and Turbidity in Surface Water | 10 yr. | This practice may be used in combination with 620-Underground outlet and 342-Critical Area Planting. |
| 642 | Water Well | Number | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate Stock Water | 20 yr. | Used for watering of livestock in a grazing system only. |
| 614 | Watering Facility | Number | Payment Rate | Domestic Animals-Inadequate Stock Water | 20 yr. | Used for watering of livestock in a grazing system only. |
| 658 | Wetland Creation | Acre | Payment Rate | Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate Space Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water | 15 yr. | |
| 659 | Wetland Enhancement | Acre | Payment Rate | Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate Space Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water | 15 yr. | |

| NRCS Practice Code | Practice Name | Units | Payment Type <u>1/</u> | Resource Concerns | Practice Service Life <u>2/</u> | Comments |
|--------------------|---|---------------|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 657 | Wetland Restoration | Acre | Payment Rate | Fish & Wildlife-Inadequate Space Water Quality-Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface Water | 15 yr. | |
| 380 | Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment | Feet | Payment Rate | Air Quality-Undesirable Air Movement Energy-Inefficient Energy Use-Equipment and Facilities; Farming and Ranching Practices and Field Operations | 15 yr. | |
| 911 | <i>Technical Assistance Design</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>100% AM</i> | <i>Soil Erosion/Water Quality</i> | <i>----</i> | <i>Reimbursement of conservation design activities by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).</i> |
| 912 | <i>Technical Assistance Application</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>100% AM</i> | <i>Soil Erosion/Water Quality</i> | <i>----</i> | <i>Reimbursement of conservation application activities by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).</i> |
| 913 | <i>Technical Assistance Checkout</i> | <i>Number</i> | <i>100% AM</i> | <i>Soil Erosion/Water Quality</i> | <i>----</i> | <i>Reimbursement of conservation installation activities by a Technical Service Provider (TSP).</i> |

1/ **Payment Schedule Type:** PR – Payment amount per unit of practice applied, rates available at local NRCS office.
AM – The actual cost not to exceed a specified maximum cost.

- Historically Underserved Clients receive a higher payment rate.

2/ Length of time the practice is to be maintained.

9/19/2013

Website Template

{Insert County Name} County EQIP

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary conservation program of the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) that promotes agricultural production and environmental quality. This program is available to farmers and offers financial and technical assistance to install or implement structural and management practices on eligible agricultural land.

The following are {Insert County Name} County resource concerns to be addressed by EQIP:

- A. {Insert Resource Concern} as written in Section III of the FOTG.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

~ add more as needed

These resource concerns address the following National EQIP priorities: (list which of the five from the EQIP Manual, Part 515.3(1), apply).

- A.
- B.
- C.
- D.
- E.

The goal of the locally led group was to recommend a ranking system that rewarded and gave priority to those producers that address the above resource concerns and {Insert local information here}. The ranking will be completed for the specific practices to be applied through the EQIP contract. Sign-up is continuous at the NRCS field office. Application ranking will be done periodically as funding allocations become available, will be announced through the NRCS State Office, and will be publicized by all levels of NRCS. The NRCS may establish local, minimum ranking cut-off levels for funding selection.

The local work group also recommended a list of conservation practices that are the most cost-effective, longest duration and address these priority resource concerns in the district.

For more information about EQIP and other NRCS-administrated programs, contact the {Insert County Name} County USDA Service Center located at Address, City, IA ZIP. Phone (Area Code) Phone Number. Fax (Area Code) FAX number.

**Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
Irrigation History Checklist
NB300-11-30
To be completed by NRCS and the applicant.**

Irrigation history documentation is required for EQIP participants applying for irrigation related practices. For Land to be eligible for an irrigation-related practice in EQIP, the land must have been irrigated two of the last five years.

It is the applicant's responsibility to provide all eligibility documentation, including irrigation history. To document the irrigation history, applicants may provide any of the following.

Enter years irrigated in boxes for all that apply.

Applicant Name _____.

Application Number 746114 _____.

- Aerial photography coverage showing evidence of irrigation history on the property,

- Official copies of Farm Service Agency records such as aerial compliance photography,

- Fuel bills or maintenance records documenting the use of an irrigation system with the presence of an operable irrigation system or reliable water source indicating the ability to irrigate,

- Irrigation water management plan implementation documentation,

- Irrigation or water use reports provided by a local or State unit of government,