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*Helping People  
Help the Land*

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To Be Sent Via Electronic Mail

December 11, 2006

MINNESOTA BULLETIN NO. 300-7-6

SUBJECT: LTP – 2007 EQIP ALLOCATION DECISIONS

Purpose. To announce the FY2007 EQIP allocation decisions.

Expiration Date. September 30, 2007

**ACTION DUE BY JANUARY 31, 2007**

2006 Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) allocation decisions have been made and are described in this bulletin and have been entered into Protracts. These funds will be used by field office staff to approve EQIP applications and obligate funds starting as early as the end of the EQIP sign-up on January 31, 2007. A second scoring period will occur in February, ending February 28, 2007.

As in past years, Local Work Group priorities remain a primary focus of the EQIP in Minnesota. Every SWCD Boundary will once again receive an allocation. Based on prior year obligations, they will receive a minimum initial allocation of between \$50,000 and \$150,000. A listing is found below. These funds will be primarily used to fund local work group priorities.

- \$50,000 – Aitkin, Anoka, Cook, Hennepin, Lake, North St. Louis and Ramsey;
- \$150,000 – Morrison, Nobles, Renville, Roseau, Stearns, West Polk and Winona;
- \$100,000 – All of the remaining SWCD Boundaries not listed in either of the categories above.

In addition, in order to meet NRCS Business Plan activities and PRS goaled items, EQIP Financial Assistance (FA) funds will be targeted to Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) written and applied as well as Conservation Plans for Grazing Land written and Grazing Land with conservation applied. Each ASTC(FO) has been given \$2.0 million of EQIP FA and PRS goaled items related to both CNMP's and Grazing Land and will ensure that these goals, in part with the use of EQIP FA are met. Each ASTC(FO) will work with their local offices to implement this process.

It is important to note that if a single pool of money is used at the field level, applications must still be funded in ranked order based on their score. You may not skip over one applicant to get to another just to fund a certain type of practice. Separate pools of funding can be set up to fund local work group priorities, CNMP's and grazing land goals. If these pools are used, then funds can be allocated to each pool and applications will be assigned to a pool to be funded from. Then applications in each pool will be funded once again based on ranked order.

The ASTC(FO) will decide on the system to use for the field offices within their Area. Guidance will be forthcoming from them in the very near future. ASTC(FO)'s should forward requests for separate fund pools to Sid Cornelius so they can be set up in ProTracts.

A number of special initiatives have had funds allocated to them from the State level. These include the following with fund code listed:

- American Indian, Statewide emphasis (76F\_27\_S1)
- New Immigrant Farmer Statewide initiative (76F\_27\_S3)
- Whitewater Watershed (76F\_27\_7K)
- Kanarazi-Little Rock Watershed (76F\_27\_5O)
- Drought Assistance Designated Counties (76F\_27\_S2)

NRCS field office staff will need to select the appropriate fund code and the corresponding evaluation score sheet for an application that will be considered from one of these special initiative funds. The State Office will review applications in Protracts shortly after January 31<sup>st</sup> and select those that received the highest scoring to be funded. Those not selected can be considered for funding from the regular fund code for your SWCD boundary. Applications will need to be backed out of Protracts (moving them back to the pending status). After that is done a new fund code and score sheet can be selected and the application can be placed within the pool for consideration for funding at the local level.

Questions related to this effort should be directed through the ASTC(FO) to Tim Koehler or Sid Cornelius at the NRCS State Office.

Tim Koehler, Acting for

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