

FY 2012 Program Update

FY 2012 implementation is based on a project plan approved by Chief, Dave White, and the Executive Sponsors. Primary Objectives are: 1) Nationalize and automate payment schedules, and 2) Achieve more consistency in scenarios and costs.

The regions are based on USDA Economic Research Service Crop Production Regions. Minnesota is in the “Lakes region” along with the states of Wisconsin and Michigan.

Payment schedules for 15 priority conservation practices supported through Farm Bill programs will be developed by regional teams and will be ready for use for FY 2012 contracts by November 1, 2011.

The 15 Nationally selected practices are: Fence, Brush Management, Nutrient Management Pipeline, Pest Management, Cover Crop, Trough or Tank, Forest Stand Improvement, Heavy Use Area Protection, Shallow Water for Wildlife, Prescribed Grazing, Forage and Biomass Planting, Irrigation System (Sprinkler), Pumping Plan for Water Control and Wildlife Upland Habitat Management.

State funding pools

- 4 National Initiatives (3 available in Minnesota)
 - 1) Organic Initiative
 - 2) Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative
 - 3) On-Farm Energy Initiative
 - 4) Air Quality Initiative (not available in Minnesota)
- Beginning Farmer – 5%
- Socially Disadvantaged – 5%
- Socially Disadvantaged – Tribal
- Nutrient Management Initiative
- Forestry Initiative
- Livestock Concerns – Ag Waste
- CCPI
- GLRI
- MRBI

Area funding pools

- Cropland
- Livestock Concerns (non Ag Waste)/Pasture/Hayland
- Limited Resource Farmer
- General

Local funding pool

(Funding pool selected during LWG meeting)

Screening Tools

- Organic Initiative
- Livestock Concerns – Ag Waste
- All other EQIP applications