

# Technical Service Provider Update

Fertilizer, Aglime and Pest  
Management Conference

January 18, 2006

# TSP Funding Issues

- TSP funds are annually allocated to the NRCS state offices.
- Cost sharing contracts include a “place holder” to document participants selection of a TSP.
- TSP funds are not available for payment until they are released to the NRCS state office and the individual contract has been modified to add the annual TSP funds.

# TSP Funding Issues

- Wisconsin NRCS' initial FY-06 budget allocation has a 70% reduction in TSP TA funds.
- Priority for use of limited TSP TA funds will be existing contracts where TSP funds were requested at the time the contract was written.
- May not be enough TSP TA dollars to fund all existing contract items.

# TSP Funding Issues

- Current proposal is to assign highest priority to contracts that have not received a TSP payment in prior years.
- FY-06 TSP TA calculations will be based on the NTE rate in effect at the time that payment is requested.
- Revised FY-06 TSP NTE rates are anticipated by January 2006.

# TSP Funding Issues

- WI NRCS has moved to raise EQIP FA cost sharing rates to include TSP costs.
  - EQIP FA funds are locked into the contract at the time the contract is approved.
  - TSP TA funds are annually appropriated and are not guaranteed.
  - **Need to discuss payment arrangements with EQIP participants prior to completing work.**

# CNMP Cost Sharing

- For EQIP purposes the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) practice name has been changed to CNMP – Comprehensive Livestock Farm Plan (CNMP-CLFP).
  - Name changed to de-emphasize “nutrient management” (more than just 590)
  - NRCS national CNMP policy still controls plan content and planner certification requirements

# FY-06 EQIP Cost Sharing

- 590 Nutrient Management Plan Development
  - Livestock producers are only eligible for 590 if done as a part of a CNMP-CLFP. 590 must be included as a separate cost sharing contract item to earn a cost sharing FA payment for 590 plan development and updates.
  - 590 Nutrient Management is not eligible for an additional TSP payment in FY-06. The flat rate cost sharing payment was raised.

# FY-06 Cost Sharing

- 592 Feed Management
  - Livestock producers are only eligible for 592 if done as a part of a CNMP-CLFP. 592 must be included as a separate cost sharing contract item to earn a FA cost sharing payment for 592 plan updates.
  - 592 Feed Management is **NOT** eligible for an additional TSP payment in FY-06.
  - Cost to develop a 592 plan can be included in the calculation of the CNMP-CLFP 70% cost sharing payment.
  - 590 Nutrient Management is required as a supporting practice.



# FY-05 Cost Sharing

- TSP TA funding is not authorized to pay for the development of a CNMP-CLFP, a 590 Nutrient Management Plan or a 592 Feed Management Plan in EQIP contracts written in FY-2005.
  - The cost to develop the 590 and 592 plans are an eligible expense for calculating the 70% cost sharing payment.
  - Costs for updating the 590 and 592 plans are only cost sharable using FA if these practices were included in the contract as individual cost sharable items.

# TA Payments

- 590 and 592 practices that were contained in FY-05 and earlier contract and **NOT** associated with a CNMP-CLFP are eligible to continue to earn both TA and FA payments where the EQIP participant requested TSP TA funds at the time the contact was developed.

# TA Payments

- FY-05 and prior year contracts will be modified as funds allow to add TSP TA to contracts where the EQIP participant requested TSP TA funds at the time the contract was developed.
  - FY-06 TSP TA contract modifications for 590 and 592 will be based on the 911 practice design TSP component ONLY (CNMP-CLFP is not eligible for TSP TA).
  - FY-06 TSP TA contract modifications for practices other than 590 and 592 the use of 911, (design) 912 (layout) and 913 (checkout) will continue to be entered.

# CNMP-CLFP Issues

- Review EQIP contract with participant to determine cost sharing funds available for CNMP-CLFP development.
  - Not all contracts have additional 590/592 funds as a separate contract item.
  - Discuss estimated cost for development of the CNMP-CLFP.
  - Discuss payment arrangements prior to beginning work on the plan.

# Quality Assurance

- NRCS policy requires a review of 5% of all contractor certified practices.
- Review completed on 48 TSP written plans
- NMP reviewed for consistency with:
  - 590 Standard (7/02) & Tech Note 1
  - UWEX Recommendations (A2809)
  - Conservation plan & plan map
  - EQIP contract (form AD-1155E)

# Preliminary Results

- 44 of 48 NMPs were consistent with 590
- Many plans were user friendly & included:
  - Color photos
  - Color maps
  - Attractive Title Page
  - Table of Contents
  - Informative Narrative
  - Location map for all cropland in the operation

# NMP Deficiencies:

- NPK recommendations inconsistent w. A2809:
  - corn starter @ 200 #/ac, rather than 100#/ac
  - corn N rates >160 #/ac for manure N + fert. N  
> 190#/ac for organic N sources
  - over application of P on soils with >100 # P/ac
- Improper manure NPK & legume N crediting
- Recommending products not found in A2809 (ie, hay humate)

# **NMP Deficiencies (cont.):**

- Soil test interpretations inconsistent with A2809
- Inadequate soil sampling
- Soil test reports not included with NMP
- Poor field maps not clearly showing: (1) field ID numbers, (2) borders and (3) acreages
- Soils map not included
- “Restricted” soils that affect fall manure rates (120# N/ac maximum) not identified



# NMP Deficiencies (cont.)

- No manure spreading map
- No manure spreading log
- No manure samples analyzed
- No manure spreader calibration records

# **NMP Deficiencies (cont.):**

- No pan narrative present
- NMP Checklist not completed
- Plan written late (after corn planting)
- Field Maps not consistent with or correlated to FSA tract & field data
  - Suggest using Farm Service Agencies Common Land Unit (CLU) maps

# **Two Errors that cost TSP's**

## **\$\$\$**

- A 970 acre NMP had only 810 acres in the contract because a 160 acre tract was inadvertently not included. At \$7/ac, this oversight cost the TSP \$1120/year.
- A NMP contract included 5 acres that is no longer cropped and not in the NMP. USDA may require the TSP to refund \$35.
- **Make sure all contracted acres are in NMP.**

# Contact Information

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