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SUBJECT: Technical Guide Notice 154

DATE: December 17, 2010

TO: All Holders of the PA Technical Guide

FILE CODE: 450-11

Purpose: To release guidance on selecting NRCS Conservation Practices addressing Air Emissions, Greenhouse Gases, and Energy Resource Concerns, Cost Data supporting each Conservation Practice and Payment Schedules for public access.

Background:

Air Emissions, Greenhouse Gases, and Energy Conservation

The newly created document by NHQ, NRCS Practices for Addressing Air Quality Issues is being released to Section V of the FOTG to help planners identify which practices address each of the Air Quality Concerns including Air Emissions, Greenhouse Gases, and Energy Conservation. The potential effects of each practice are recorded in the CPPE tool. Further guidance and updates on the positive and negative effects of conservation practices on these concerns is being developed by NHQ and will be released in the future.

Cost data

Two sets of data from the payment schedule process are required to be included in Section I, under Cost Data of each State's FOTG so they are available to the public.

- 1) The payment schedules used in programs,
- 2) The cost data (Grey Box) from each practice or activity payment schedule workbook.

The payment schedule used for each program is now publically accessible in Section I of the FOTG under the subfolder C. Payment Schedules. Payment Schedules identify which programs offer assistance for each practice at what eligible payment rates.

The average economic cost data supporting the implementation of a typical practice scenario is now publically accessible in Section I of the FOTG under subfolder C. Cost Data Folders. Economic cost data includes a description of each typical practice implementation scenario by geographic area and *eligible* average unit costs for each cost category including Materials, Equipment/Installation, Labor, Mobilization, Operation & Maintenance (Annual), Acquisition of Technical Knowledge, Forgone Income (Annual), Risk, Administration & Permit Costs. All program names, payment rates and category percentages, and sensitive private vendor or personally identifiable information have been removed from the cost data. Cost data used to develop each payment scenario has previously only been found in the payment schedule workbooks stored on the payment schedule sharepoint.



Changes:

Renamed Folder: Sec. 1 C. From Costs to Economic Cost Data Information
Added New Folders: in Sec. 1 C. Payment Schedule Folder, Cost Data Folder
Deleted Files: Sec. 1 C. Costs:
 1. 2006 EQIP Calculator
 2. 2006 EQIP Cost List
 3. 2006 WHIP Cost List
Added Files: Sec. 5 - NRCS Practices for Addressing Air Quality Issues
Sec. 1 C. Payment Schedules:
 1. FAPD Schedule
 2. WRP Schedule
 3. HFRP Schedule

Cost Data Folders – One new excel workbook for each practice

Access Instructions:

The Pennsylvania eFOTG can be accessed at the following web address and then selecting the appropriate county. http://efotg.nrcs.usda.gov/efotg_locator.aspx?map=PA

The Pennsylvania eFOTG Section 5 Table of Contents can be accessed *directly* at the following: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12653> to find the added file in alphabetical order.

The Pennsylvania eFOTG Section 1 Table of Contents can be accessed *directly* at the following: <http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=12409> to find the added files in alphabetical order.

The official version of the FOTG is what appears in Pennsylvania's eFOTG.

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