



March 11, 2004

**OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-4-8**

**SUBJECT: LTP – Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) Statewide AFO/CAFO Ranking Criteria**

**Purpose:** To provide field offices with ranking criteria and guidance for accepting applications from AFO/CAFO facilities for FY 2004 EQIP.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2004

**ACTION REQUIRED BY JULY 1, 2004**

The 2002 Farm Bill removed restrictions on the use of EQIP funds for the large confined animal feeding operations. This now allows AFO/CAFO operations to apply for EQIP financial assistance for the storage, treatment, and utilization of animal waste. Also, there have been several concerns raised by dairy, beef, and swine operators scattered across the state that EQIP funds were not being made available because too few AFO/CAFO operations are present in the community to be significant to the locally led process. The State Technical Committee requested a statewide process to address the water quality impacts of these operations to the rivers and streams of the state. As a result, a statewide application and funding process has been added to fiscal year 2004 EQIP to address this concern.

An allocation of \$350,000 has been set-aside to fund animal waste management applications statewide. These funds will be available only to existing and expanding beef, dairy, or swine confined feeding operations. A lower priority will be given to operations that are planning expansion beyond current levels or capacity, and all applications for new facilities and poultry operations are ineligible for evaluation under these statewide criteria. All applicants will be required to develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive nutrient management plan (CNMP) during the EQIP contract period. Animal feeding operations of greater than 1,000 animal units will be required to use private sector engineering services for designs and construction of waste storage facilities. Refer to National Engineering Manual Part OK505.10 for policy regarding assistance on feeding operations.

Field offices will need to begin advertising the availability of these funds immediately. A sample press release, suitable for local adaptation, may be found at the following website:

[http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/stwide04/AFO\\_CAFONewsReleaseEQIP04.doc](http://intranet.ok.nrcs.usda.gov/PGM/stwide04/AFO_CAFONewsReleaseEQIP04.doc)

Applications for the statewide EQIP AFO/CAFO assistance may be accepted immediately and evaluated using the attached statewide AFO/CAFO ranking criteria. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis, but only those received by June 1, 2004, will be considered for this initial selection period. All available applications will be ranked and entered into ProTracts using the "Statewide AFO/CAFO" fund code at least five (5) days prior to, but no later than **July 1, 2004**. Funding selections will be made after July 1, 2004, exclusively from those applications entered in ProTracts. Field offices will be notified of successful applicants for contract development, and appropriate allocations to field offices will be provided in ProTracts to cover the development and obligation of these contracts. Any applications received after that time will continue to be ranked

and entered into ProTracts for possible funding in the future. As with all EQIP program activities, District Conservationists will need to make sure the funds are available at the local FSA Office before attempting to obligate funds.

The list of eligible conservation practices for the statewide AFO/CAFO resource concerns is limited to the following with similar average costs and cost-share rates as the current EQIP cost list:

313 – Waste Storage Facility	412 – Grassed Waterway
317 – Composting Facility	430DD – Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, High-Pressure, Underground, Plastic*
342 – Critical Area Planting	430EE – Irrigation Water Conveyance, Pipeline, Low-Pressure, Underground, Plastic*
351 – Well Decommissioning	442 – Irrigation System, Sprinkler*
359 – Waste Treatment Lagoon	449 – Irrigation Water Management
360 – Closure of Waste Impoundments	468 – Lined Waterway or Outlet
362 – Diversion	533 – Pumping Plant*
380 – Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment	561 – Heavy Use Area Protection
382 – Fence	580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection
386 – Field Border	590 – Nutrient Management
391 – Riparian Forest Buffer	633 – Waste Utilization
393 – Filter Strip	
410 – Grade Stabilization Structure	

\*No new systems, limited to conversion of an existing system

Field offices should refer to bulletin OK-300-4-5 for additional guidance for EQIP allocation management. Questions concerning this information should be forwarded to the appropriate Zone Program Liaison or Programs Staff member.

*/s/ Kevin D. Norton, Acting For*

M. DARREL DOMINICK  
State Conservationist

Attachments