



March 11, 2004

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. OK300-4-9

SUBJECT: LTP – Environmental Quality Incentives Programs (EQIP) Manure Transfer Resource Concerns Guidance and Ranking Criteria

Purpose: To provide field offices with ranking criteria and guidance for accepting applications in the EQIP statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concerns for FY 2004.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

ACTION REQUIRED BY JULY 1, 2004

Potential environmental concerns relative to the management of animal wastes in Oklahoma's Nutrient Limited Waters (NLW) and Scenic River watersheds continues to be a high priority for the State Technical Committee. As a result, a new statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concern has been developed in EQIP for implementation in FY 2004. The project has two primary objectives:

- 1) Create an incentive to distribute animal manure to areas of the state that have historically not used animal manure as a fertilizer.
- 2) Promotion of a long-term market for animal manure as a fertilizer around the state.

Implementation of this project has the potential to reduce animal manure application in areas where it has traditionally been over-applied in the past and should result in better distribution of these nutrients statewide.

Financial assistance available to the participants in the statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concerns will be limited to incentive payments, for up to 3 years, for Manure Transfer (634) and Nutrient Management (590) conservation practices. No other practices will be available under this resource concern. The EQIP statewide cost-list is being updated to include the the manure transfer conservation practice with components for incentive payments of \$2.50/ton, \$5.00/ton, and \$7.50/ton for transporting animal manure at distances of 10-25 miles, 26-50 miles, and > 50 miles, respectively, from the nutrient source.

Key components of the application and eligibility criteria are:

- Highest priority is given to the transfer of animal manure from state identified Nutrient Limited Waters and Scenic River watersheds. Maps of these designated areas may be found in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG), Section I, Maps.
- Incentive payments for the application of animal waste within any of these Nutrient Limited Waters and Scenic River watersheds are not available under these resource concern criteria.
- The land where the manure will be applied must be \geq 10 miles from the manure source. Economic analysis indicates transporting animal waste for a source of nutrients is economically viable and traditionally acceptable within this distance.

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- AFO/CAFO producers of animal waste (sources of the manure) are ineligible to participate. These funds are to encourage nontraditional users to begin using animal waste as a source of nutrients.
- Eligible applicants are individuals that have not purchased or applied animal manure on any land they own or operate within the past 3 years. Incentive payments may be used only for the purpose of encouraging adoption of new conservation measures on an operating unit.
- The animal manure must originate from operations physically located in Oklahoma and be applied on lands in Oklahoma. This offering is not to encourage the importing of animal waste from animal operations located in neighboring states.
- A Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) must be planned and fully implemented within the life of the EQIP contract. This is EQIP policy and is specified in the Farm Bill statute.
- Application of the animal manure will be restricted to cropland and/or pastureland, with priority given to cropland application and incorporation.

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/ManureTransferNewsReleaseEQIP04.doc>

Applications for the statewide EQIP Manure Transfer assistance may be accepted immediately and evaluated using the attached statewide Manure Transfer Resource Concerns ranking criteria. Applications will be accepted on a continuous basis, but only those received by June 1, 2004 will be considered for this initial application ranking and selection period. All available applications will be ranked and entered into ProTracts using the "Statewide Manure Transfer" 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 attached Manure Practice Standard (634) certification sheet will be used to obtain the applicant's, seller's, and NRCS's certifications for incentive payments when the animal manure is properly applied.

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

M. DARREL DOMINICK
State Conservationist

Attachments