



NRCS Liaison Report

Wisconsin Society of American Foresters January 11, 2011

We have received some of our program budgets, but County and Area allocations have not been made yet. For EQIP, Wisconsin received almost \$18 million which is a 30% increase over last year. This should be a great year to expand participation in Forestry. Anyone with a Forest Stewardship Plan that has a management practice to complete should sign up.

EQIP and WHIP applications for the first ranking period in Fiscal Year 2012 are due February 3rd. Land owners can sign applications for these programs at any time but only applications received by close of business on 2/3 will be considered for funding for the 1st ranking. If funds remain after this initial ranking, there will be another ranking later in the spring.

- The regional payment schedules being used this year have plantation thinning separated out at a lower payment rate than other forest health practices.
- There are two priority areas for EQIP this year – the blow down area in NW Wisconsin and EAB practices.
- Alley Cropping is a new practice to be offered this year – mandated from the National Office to all states. Greg Rebman will be developing a state job sheet for now and a standard for next year. For this year we will use the National Standard because it is too late to get one developed locally.

Conservation Stewardship Program applications are due January 13th for ranking. The job sheets for all of the enhancements have been developed and are going out to the Field Offices. The Conservation Measurement Tool that NRCS uses to assist in the ranking of these applications is in final stages of review and is expected to be released shortly.

The Tree/Shrub Establishment and the Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment Practice Standards have been completed and posted on the NRCS web site in the Field Office Technical Guide - Section IV.

NRCS is currently developing TSP capabilities with the Tribes in Wisconsin and Minnesota to build capacity within the Native American Community for the development of Forest Management Plans and Fish and Wildlife Habitat Plans on Reservation Properties.

Steve Bertjens is the NRCS State Biologist and replaces Bob Weihrouch who retired recently.

Submitted by:

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