

ONTARIO COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.ontswcd.com

480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424
Telephone (585) 396-1450 Fax (585) 396-1305

Agenda

Wednesday, September 21, 2022 @ 4:30pm
DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

(The District Board meeting will also be open to partner agencies and the public via web meeting/call-in posted on ontswcd.com website and at the office) Further information is available on the website.

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING (open to the public)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: (Ken)

MEETING MINUTES: August 17, 2022

BILLS FOR APPROVAL (to include add on bills)

TREASURER'S REPORT

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Limit to 3 minutes per person)

USDA REPORTS: Joann Rogers, FSA; Dan Weykman, NRCS

STAFF REPORT: Tucker Kautz

CORRESPONDENCE

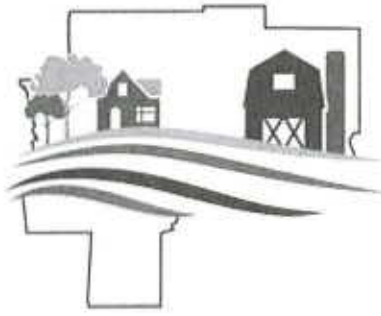
GENERAL BUSINESS

Grant and Project Updates
Training Opportunities
Upcoming Events

ADJOURNMENT

***** Next Meeting Wednesday, October 19, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. *****

PUBLIC IS WELCOME!



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OCSWCD Board Meeting September 2022
Wed, Sep 21, 2022 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (EDT)

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**ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
August 17, 2022
Minutes**

*****Meeting held in-person at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office) and remote via
Go to Meeting*****

PRESENT:

DIRECTORS: Chairman Casella (in-person), Vice Chairman Ken Livermore (in-person), Ed Jackson (in-person), Jim Malyj (in-person), Amanda Amadon (remote), Mark Venuti (in-person)

STAFF: Megan Webster (in-person), Diana Thorn (in-person), Tad Gerace (in-person)

USDA

FSA: None

NRCS: Dan Weykman (in-person), JoBeth Bellanca (remote)

ABSENT: Rich Russell

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and then led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Chairman Casella asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of July 20, 2022 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jm Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved. (Mark Venuti and Amanda Button not present yet)

Resolution #20220817-01

Mark Venuti and Amanda Button arrived 4:31pm

BILLS

Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #8 in the amount of \$429,189.34.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-02

Motion to approve payment of the Uptown Tire & Auto invoice (\$240.95) for the repair to SW2.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-03

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed her Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for July 31, 2022. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #15 and #16; the July bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through July 31st. A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status.

Diana reported that the District Savings Certificate of Deposit matured and was rolled over per your Resolution #20210617-03. It matured with a balance of \$101,256.85 and is now earning 1.01%.

Motion to approve a budget amendment to move \$2,000 from the Rain Barrels Expenditure line and \$1,500 from the Conferences and Training Expenditure line to the Special Projects Expenditure line.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-04

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and July financial statements.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-05

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson:

1. Ed shared pictures that he had taken of the fishing pier the District installed several years ago in Canandaigua Lake. Sidewalks are now being installed to make the pier more accessible.
2. Ed shared that Alaina and Megan have been working on a new brochure for Sandy Bottom Park. He stated that this was a big project and they did an excellent job. He thanked them and reported that the brochure will be printed soon.

USDA/FSA

Report provided via email by Joann Rogers

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): we have continuous CRP on going for water resource concerns, such as filter strips, grass water ways, fencing animals out of water ways and other pasture related projects.

Organic Cost-share: FSA has 2 organic cost-share programs; Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) provides partial re-imbusement of paid certification fees up to \$500 and Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) provides some re-imbusement on eligible paid expenses.

Food Safety Certification for Specialty Crops (FSCSC): provides assistance to specialty crop operations that incurred eligible on-farm food safety program expenses in 2022 and 2023. These are for small business (\$250K to \$500K) or very small businesses (no more than \$250K).

County Committee (COC): Local Administrative Area 2 (LAA2): Victor-Farmington, Manchester & Phelps producers and landowners in LAA2 will be receiving ballots for the upcoming COC election of a County

Committee member. The next COC meeting is on Tuesday, August 23, 2022; if interested in attending the COC meeting please contact the office at 585-394-0525 ext. 2.

Farm Program Loans:

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans(FSFL):** interest rates range from 3.000% to 3.125% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few
- **Market Assistance Loans (MAL's)** are short-term commodity loans with interest rate of 4.000% for grain stored in bins.

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available, and funding is still available.

COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION: Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2 consisting of Victor-Farmington, Manchester and Phelps is up for elections this year. We encourage any eligible candidate to submit a FSA-669A, nomination form.

Farm Record updates: change in shares of members, change in members of entities, land changes, such as purchases, new leased ground or ground no longer being leased and any banking changes.

Farm Loans: For specifics on any of the farm loan programs please contact the Farm Loan team at 585-394-0525 ext. 2, Peter Stoep, Farm Loan Officer; Abbey Combs, Farm Loan Officer; and Kim Weykman, Program Technician.

Reminder to complete the AD-1026 form PRIOR to any clearing or tiling projects.

Please feel free to refer any inquiries on any FSA programs or what programs we have to offer by contacting our office. In addition to myself there are Program Technicians: Courtney Kautz, Alexis McDougal and Sarah Potter.

The USDA Canandaigua Service Center building is open to visitors but we encourage appointments to be prepared for your visit, as your time is valuable.

Please call FSA at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 to make arrangements for any FSA programs.

USDA/NRCS

Report presented by Dan Weykman

➤ **EQIP**

- Existing Contracts:
 - Pd approx. \$4800 in minimum tillage, pasture planting, prescribed grazing
- 2022—Preapprovals begun (running total):
 - 2 Forestry to be obligated this week
 - 2 or 3 applications likely to be rolled into 2023
- 2023—taking applications, no deadline yet. Approx. 12 applications already on hand—cover crop, high tunnels, pollinators, grazing

➤ **AMA**

- Accepting applications for 2023 for Urban Conservation Initiative (High Tunnels, grazing, pollinators, etc.)

➤ **CSP**

- Existing: certifying practices for October payments: Cover crop, wildlife/pollinator
- 2022: 3 applications pre-approved
 - approx. 7700 cropland acres. 2 dairies, 1 cash crop
 - ~\$347k estimated
- 2023: 1 or 2 interested applicants so far
- **Food Security Act Determinations**
 - Ongoing. Includes on-site and potential violations

****Reminder—AD-1026 to be completed for cropland boundary change activity with RCS assessment. Call with Questions.**

STAFF REPORT

Tad Gerace

Tad reported that he is nearing his 20th year. He compiled the following approximate career data:

- 2,600 septic inspections completed to date
 - An average of 10% +/- of inspections each year found systems with issues
- 10,600 phone calls handled
- 114,000 trees sold

Tad reported that he is currently busy with inspections. He also shared that the tree sale went well this year. He stated that he is seeing a consistent number of buyers, but that they are buying fewer trees.

Megan shared that Tad is learning the Ag Value Assessment/Soil Group Worksheet process from Katie. She thanked him for his efforts in cross training.

Ed commented that he has seen buyers waiving the septic inspection in recent real estate transactions. Tad responded that he strongly believes that waiving the septic inspection is not a wise choice.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Casella thanked Tad for his service.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was going around the room and it was distributed electronically.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Leave of Absence Requests

Alaina and Katie have both submitted written requests for leave for their upcoming maternity leaves. Alaina is requesting to be off from approximately September 2, 2022 through January 5, 2023. She plans to use a combination of Sick Leave, 6 weeks of disability and 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave,

and anticipates returning to work around January 6, 2023. Katie is requesting to be off from approximately September 6, 2022 through January 8, 2023. She plans to use a combination of unpaid leave, 6 weeks of Short Term Disability and 12 weeks of Paid Family Leave, and anticipates returning to work around January 9, 2023. The dates for both leave requests are estimated and will depend on the births of their babies.

The Employee Handbook currently states that employees need to submit a Leave of Absence Request Form but no such form exists. Megan stated that she has asked each employee to submit a letter, a Time-Off Request, and a calendar showing their estimated leave in lieu of the form mentioned in the Handbook. Additionally, the Employee Handbook currently states that employees must use all of their accrued paid leave before starting a Leave of Absence. Megan expressed concern about this requirement. Discussion was had and the following motion was put forth:

Motion to accept the letter, Time-Off Request form, and calendar in lieu of the required Leave of Absence Request form; AND to waive the requirement that the employees use all accrued paid leave before a Leave of Absence in the granting of the Leaves of Absence for Alaina and Katie.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-06

Megan informed the Board that she and Diana will be doing a thorough review of the Employee Handbook this fall. They will work with the Policy Committee as they draft suggested changes/updates. Quotes have been requested to research costs associated with a review of an updated Handbook by a Human Resources professional. Megan will keep the Board updated.

Megan shared that Tucker is using the new survey equipment and reports that it is working very well.

Grants & Projects Updates

CAFO Landmark

Megan reported that this project is moving along. Half of the storage floor is poured. Additional excavation work is underway for the second half of the storage. Work is ongoing in terms of assessing the needed electrical work and pump needs.

AgNPS Round 24

Megan reported that Tucker is finalizing the permit needed for work in the NYS DOT right of way. Tucker is also surveying and reevaluating the scope of work due to the recent increases we are seeing in costs. Work is expected to begin in late August or September.

AgNPS Round 25

Megan reported that the liner is being installed at Will-O-Crest and the project is progressing rapidly. Once the storage is complete, we will pay out on this BMP. Megan has confirmed with Ag & Markets that the transfer system is a separate BMP and we can pay out on that portion of the grant once a plan is finalized and the work is completed. This grant will not close in 2022.

AEM Year 17 Implementation Projects

The Claim for Payment has been submitted to Ag & Markets for both the Battle Estates project and the Minns Project. The project at the Livestock Exchange is planned for 2023.

AEM Year 17 Technical Assistance

Soil Testing – This program is underway with 6 farms. They are currently gathering their soil samples for analysis. Based on the funding allocation for this round of testing, each farm is limited to 50 samples. The District has distributed equipment and supplies to the farms. Once the samples are received back, the District will get them tested at our cost. The District has \$6,000 in AEM Technical Assistance funds for soil testing. Depending on demand, the District may apply for additional funding in future AEM years.

NYS DEC WQIP Round 17

Megan reported that the contract is in the final stages of approval. The 2022 project in this grant which involved installing Flexamat material on Cratsley Rd in the Town of Canadice is complete. The Town has submitted the required paperwork and is ready to be paid. This is a reimbursement grant.

Motion to approve paying the Town of Canadice \$16,680.01 for materials for this WQIP Round 17 project.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-07

NYS DEC WQIP Round 18

Megan shared that the application for the Genesee River Watershed Roadside Stabilization Program was submitted. Thank you to Katie for her hard work putting this application together and to the Towns of Canadice and Bristol for their willingness to participate in this cost-share grant opportunity. Megan recently presented to the Town Board in Bristol sharing a review of the WQIP grant program and the use of Flexamat.

GLRI HWA/2022 Part B Project

Megan reported that we received two bids for HWA treatment at Grimes Glen and one refusal to bid. The bids were lower than we anticipated. Due to this, we worked with the two bidders to expand the treatment area. This expansion will increase the amount of rope work required to treat the infested trees. The lowest bidder is concerned about the amount of rope work. The other bid is very reasonable and the vendor can handle the rope work. All necessary land-owner permissions have been obtained so that access to upper steep slopes is available.

Motion to approve entering into contract with the vendor that is most able to meet the program goal of treating the area in Grimes Glen for HWA.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-08

FLLOWPA

2022 FLOWPA funds will be used on two projects. The project with Hemdale Farms on Whitney Road is scheduled for this fall. Additional funds will be used for the NYS DOT / State Routes 5 & 20 portion of the project with F & W Farm.

Conservation Kick

Tucker has been working with the Great Lakes Commission, the Town of Geneva, and the landowner to install this project. Work is expected to begin next week.

Seneca Pure Waters / SNRP – Castle Creek Project

Seneca Pure Waters initially granted half of the requested amount for the Castle Creek Stream Stabilization Project. We were recently informed that they have since awarded full funding. The City

of Geneva is the landowner, and they have agreed to the project. They will be submitting a letter of commitment/board resolution. The County DPW will work the installation into their 2023 summer schedule. The District will be submitting the required permits and will provide project administration. This is a potential 2023 Part B project.

Approvals

Annual Staff Boot/Outerwear allowance.

Motion to approve purchases for staff of boots or weatherproof outerwear up to \$150 per staff person.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-09

Promotional materials.

Motion to approve purchase of fleece vests with the logo for staff.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-10

Educational supplies and materials.

Motion to approve purchase of materials for education events not to exceed \$100.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-11

Purchases approved by partner agency Boards that will be reimbursed.

Motion to approve purchases that have been approved by partner agency Boards and for which the District will be completely reimbursed.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-12

Training

Upcoming conferences and trainings for staff.

Motion to approve all registration fees and related travel expenses for staff to attend Conservation Skills, the Admin Conference, and the NYACD Annual Meeting.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-13

Upcoming Events

Residential Tire Recycling - Town of Richmond, September 17th

Fish Sale – orders due by Noon Wednesday, September 28th – Pick-up Noon Thursday, October 6th

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:37 pm.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20220817-14

Diana Thorn, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Myth Busters

Who It's For: Urban/Suburban, Specialty Crops,
Small Acreage, and Subsistence Operations



Introduction:

Urban agriculture is one of NRCS's top five priorities, specifically *"Expanding conservation tools and support to address the unique needs of urban farmers and communities nationwide."* With a growing emphasis on urban agriculture, NRCS staff may be asked to assist producers with implementing EQIP on land units for customers that might be new to NRCS or have been denied service in the past.

This fact sheet does not replace policy. It is meant to help planners better apply existing policy to unfamiliar and smaller systems that are eligible for EQIP. Some EQIP myths are rooted in older versions of policy or law but are no longer true, and some are broad assumptions that warrant more clarity. The truths about these myths are farm size and location neutral, meaning they apply to all requests for EQIP assistance, regardless of location (urban or rural) or size (large or very small).

MYTH 1

Agricultural Product Income (land and producer eligibility)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"The farm must produce at least \$1,000 of agricultural products to be designated as an agricultural operation and to be eligible for EQIP."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

There's no minimum agricultural income requirement or agricultural product value requirement for determining land and/or producer eligibility.

People who produce food, fiber, livestock, or other agricultural products solely to provide for their families, friends, neighbors, and/or communities, and who do not sell, market, or distribute their products may be eligible for EQIP.



MYTH
2

Subsistence as Agriculture
(land and producer eligibility)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"Subsistence growers are not agricultural producers and subsistence lands are not eligible lands."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

Lands managed for subsistence activities such as gardening, hunting, fishing, gathering, and managing indigenous food sources may be agricultural lands and may be eligible. The people who manage these lands may be eligible agricultural producers, including Tribes and tribal entities, religious institutions, community garden groups, and more. More information is needed to determine producer and land eligibility and this option should be explored for these producers.



MYTH
3

Backyard Gardening as Agriculture
(land and producer eligibility)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"Gardening/horticulture is not farming/agriculture. A backyard gardener is not engaged in agricultural production, so they are not eligible for EQIP."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

The size and location of the production is irrelevant for program eligibility. A backyard gardener may be eligible for NRCS programs. In fact, anyone who is producing food, fiber, livestock or other agricultural products at the time the program application is submitted may be considered an agricultural producer. Agricultural production is defined as "The use of cultivated plants or animals to produce products for sustaining or enhancing human life." This definition should be interpreted to be as inclusive as possible; it may include products like cut flowers, nursery stock, culturally significant plants, etc. Remember that presence of a resource concern is also required to document eligibility. The three tiers of EQIP eligibility (producer, land, and resource concern) must be evaluated independently.



MYTH
4

Community Gardens as Agriculture (land eligibility)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“Community agriculture and backyard or small plot gardens are not an eligible form of agricultural production.”

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

Community agriculture and/or gardens may be eligible. Again, evaluating all three tiers of EQIP eligibility (producer, land, resource concern) independently is required. NRCS policy prohibits using the following criteria to determine if an applicant is a producer: type of operation or agricultural enterprise, size of operation, location of operation, or income; profit or loss.



MYTH
5

Determining Land Eligibility for EQIP (land eligibility)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“It’s not NRCS’s job to determine or certify land eligibility for an applicant; that is FSA’s job (Farm Service Agency). Once the applicant has established a farm record with FSA, the land is eligible for EQIP.”

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

It is NRCS’s job to determine and certify land eligibility for EQIP. FSA plays a critical role and is an important partner in establishing farm records and making other required certifications (such as adjusted gross income requirements, highly erodible lands and wetland certifications) but FSA does not determine or certify land eligibility for EQIP.

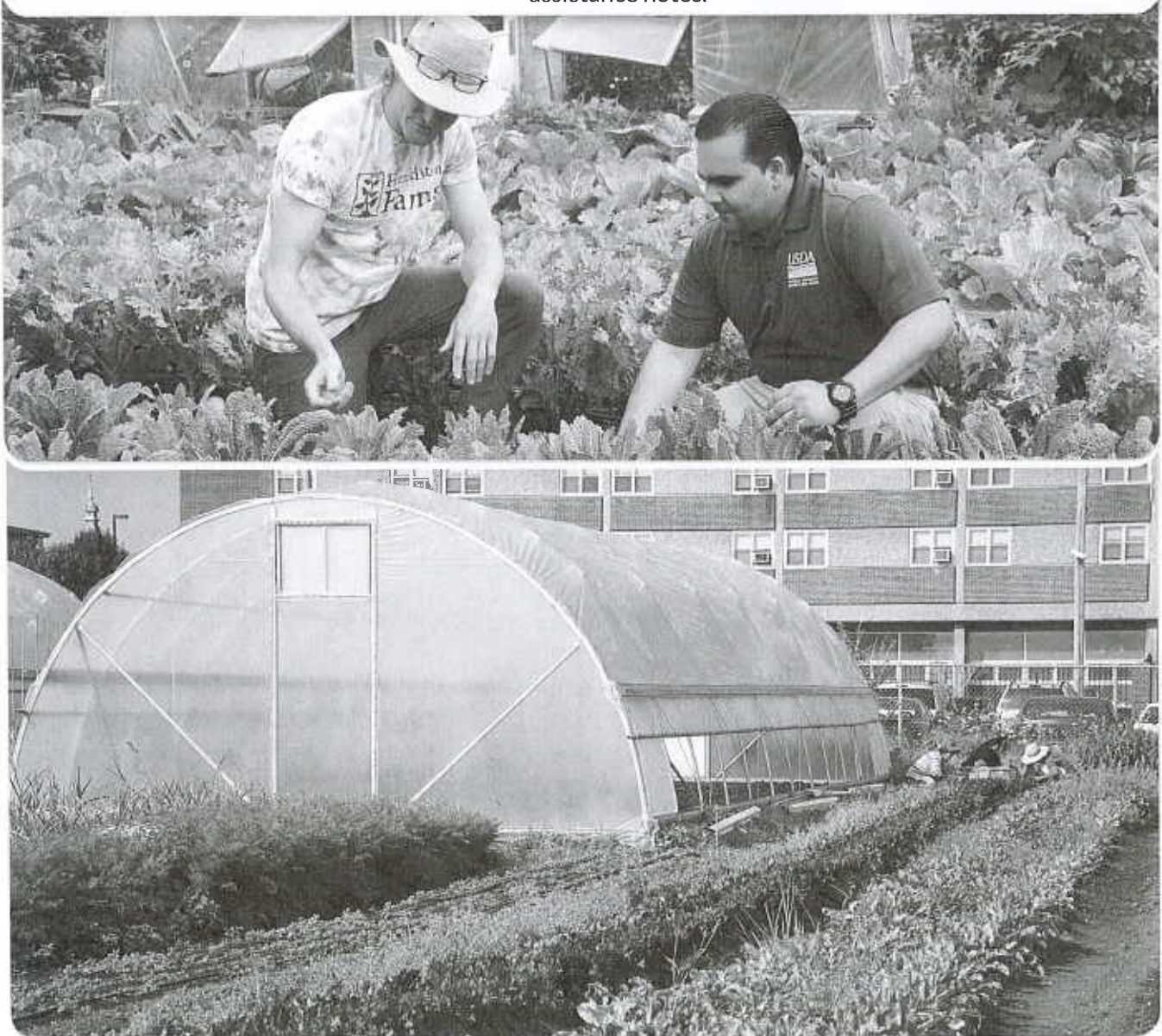


MYTH
6**Cropping History**
*(land eligibility)***MYTH BUSTED!****THE MYTH:**

“A producer must provide production records and yield data to prove the land has completed at least one full growing cycle or that crops have been established in the ground for a specified length of time in order to establish and document land eligibility for EQIP.”

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

NRCS does not require crop history evidence from the producer. There is no minimum production duration requirement. However, the applicant is responsible for providing documentation to establish and document EQIP land eligibility. For example, the applicant can self-certify their agricultural and/or nonindustrial private forestland eligibility on the CPA-1200 by documenting the crops and/or livestock being produced, which could then be verified by an employee. NRCS may certify agricultural or nonindustrial private forest land eligibility through a visual assessment with corresponding conservation assistance notes.



MYTH
7

Irrigation History (land eligibility)

THE MYTH:

"We must be able to prove irrigation history through formal documentation such as aerial imagery, Farm Service Agency (FSA) records, and water bills."



HERE'S THE TRUTH:

When installing irrigation-related practices, the land must be irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years. Urban or small-acreage customers who irrigate may not have obvious irrigation patterns on aerial imagery or keep conventional irrigation records. Policy does not dictate how or to what level states must document irrigation history, but documentation must be consistent across the state. Refer to your state's instruction as to what level of documentation is required.

Examples of reasonable and inclusive documentation methods include: municipal water bills, verbal confirmation from the participant, aerial imagery, existing irrigation infrastructure (including garden hoses or watering cans), and evidence of irrigation activities.

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"Oscillating sprinklers or hand watering is not considered irrigation and is not sufficient to document irrigation history."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

Any form of irrigation is acceptable for irrigation history. Oscillating sprinklers, hand watering with watering cans, garden hoses with hand wands, and other backyard forms of watering are irrigation and are acceptable.

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"Watering from a municipal source (like city water), is not considered irrigation."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

The source of the water used for irrigation is irrelevant, as long as it is obtained legally. Municipal waters, rainwater that has been collected, stormwater runoff, and other non-conventional irrigation sources can be used to establish irrigation history.

MYTH BUSTED!



MYTH 8

Highly Erodible Land and Wetlands Compliance *(producer eligibility)*

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“A small-scale producer farming on less than two acres is exempt from Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation (HEL/WC) compliance requirements.”



HERE'S THE TRUTH:

All persons considered for most USDA financial assistance programs must comply with highly erodible land (HEL) and wetland compliance (WC) requirements. Upon request by the producer, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) may grant an exemption under HEL for the noncommercial production of agricultural commodities on an area of 2 acres or less, but there is no similar exemption under the WC requirements. Thus the HEL exemption is not based on the small acreage alone, but the noncommercial nature of production on the small acreage. NRCS is responsible for conducting HEL and wetland determinations; and the FSA is responsible for determining HEL/WC eligibility for USDA programs based on NRCS's technical review.

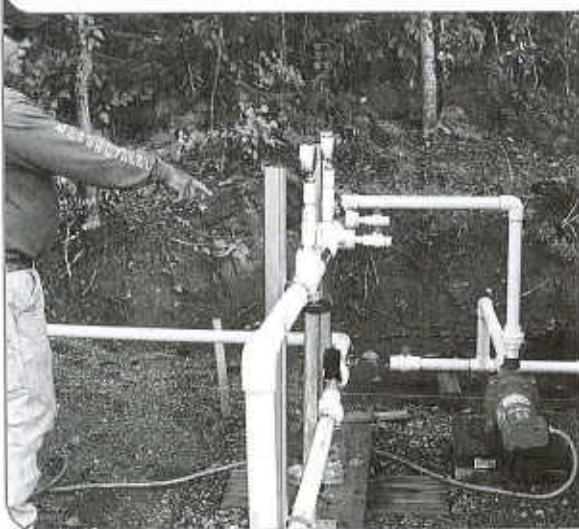
MYTH 9

Least Cost Alternative *(practice and payment scenarios)*

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“NRCS must always choose the least cost alternative when determining which conservation practices or payment scenarios the customer can receive.”



HERE'S THE TRUTH:

While planners and engineering staff should work with the customer to select a treatment option that will address the identified resource concern in the most cost-effective manner, this does not limit the conservation practice or scenario that the participant can select. The planner should select the treatment options necessary to meet NRCS standards and specifications, address the identified resource concerns, and approved by an individual with NRCS job approval authority. This allows planners to choose scenarios and practices that most closely reflect actual farm operations and conservation needs to treat one or more resource concerns unique to each producer's operation. Principles of least cost apply to the development of a practice payment schedule itself which is done at the national and regional level. It does not apply to what scenarios can be included in a contract. Planners shouldn't plan a higher cost scenario solely because that is what the producer wants. If the higher cost scenario is necessary to address the resource concern, then it is justified. Producers may still choose to install an option that has a higher cost than what is planned in a contract but will only be reimbursed at the contracted rate.

MYTH 10

Practice Lifespans *(practice and payment scenarios)*

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“Lifespans of practices associated with each other must match in order for NRCS to provide financial assistance on those practices.”

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

Lifespans of associated conservation practices do not need to match; they can differ, and often do. In fact, NRCS routinely plans and implements suites of conservation practices where practice lifespans do not match. A practice or suite of practices that will address one or more resource concerns should not be denied based on associations with other practices with lesser lifespans.



MYTH 11

Regulatory Actions *(practice and payment scenarios)*

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

“If the customer is legally bound to implement a practice (due to regulatory action, for example), NRCS cannot use EQIP funds to pay for it.”

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

NRCS can use EQIP funds to assist a participant in complying with laws, regulations, permits, or orders as defined in policy, as long as the practices/activities are addressing an identified natural resource concern and all other program rules are met.



MYTH 12

Repeat Practices (practice and payment scenarios)

MYTH BUSTED!

THE MYTH:

"If EQIP paid a participant for a conservation practice once before, then EQIP can't pay them again for the same practice."

HERE'S THE TRUTH:

NRCS policy is clear on when we can and cannot pay for the same practice on the same land. There are instances where we can pay for the same practice on the same land multiple times, as outlined in policy. See CPM440, Part 530.403H.2. and Part 530.406B.4.



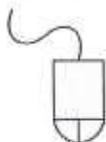
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