

## Watershed Agricultural Program Guideline

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### 3.1.11

#### **FARMING IN ACCORDANCE WITH A WHOLE FARM PLAN (WFP)**

This guideline serves to define, “Farming in accordance with a Whole Farm Plan”, as characterized by a participant’s status, more particularly described in the Watershed Agricultural Program’s (WAP) Participant Status Guideline and as further informed by the Deed of Conservation Easement (CE), as applicable. Qualifying operations have met all eligibility guideline requirements for the development of a WFP.

The following criteria must be met to be considered, “farming in accordance with a WFP”:

- 1) The Landowner/Producer (as required) shall apply for and sign, adopt and maintain a fully executed WFP and all associated documents including supplemental(s) as applicable.
- 2) Regarding WFP development or revision(s), program participants agree to the following:
  - A. The WAP planner and participant will cooperatively develop and/or revise a WFP based on current WAP policies and guidelines and NRCS standards to be approved by WAP.
  - B. If the WFP development process reaches an impasse between the WAP and the participant, or exceeds one year from when their planner presents the first viable WFP summary draft to the participant then (2c) below may be enacted.
  - C. The WAP will allow NRCS Certified or AEM Certified planners to develop and submit a WFP based on current WAP policies and guidelines and NRCS standards to be reviewed by the WAP (the WFP will be exclusively paid for by the participant). The WFP will be presented to the WAP Committee for BMP funding level approval for inclusion in the BMP Prioritization process. The participant will have six (6) months from the date of impasse to develop a WFP for WAPs approval process.
- 3) The Landowner/Producer recognize that BMP implementation is contingent upon availability of WAC, USDA, landowner or other applicable funding sources, according to the West of Hudson and East of Hudson funding policies and guidelines of the WAP. BMP implementation is also often subject to review and approval of outside permitting agencies. In the event funds are not available to implement a BMP or BMPs, or an outside permitting agency prevents BMPs from being implemented, the Landowner/Producer will retain the status of farming in accordance with a WFP so long as s/he is otherwise in good standing.
- 4) The Landowner/Producer shall cooperate with the implementation of all BMPs in the WFP, based on the prioritization schedule developed by the WAP.
- 5) The Landowner/Producer shall participate in the development of and sign and agree to follow all applicable Operation and Maintenance (O&M) agreements.
- 6) Landowner/Producer shall participate in Annual Status Reviews (ASRs) and Easement Annual Monitoring Visits (AMVs) as required.
- 7) Notification will be forwarded by WAC/WAP staff to the WAP Manager and the Easement Program Director (if applicable) of any farm operation(s) that are potentially not farming in accordance with their WFP.

**Reference: WAP Participant Status Guideline 1.1.08**

Approved: 6-10-2014

EOH: 9-17-2014