



Natural Resources Conservation Service
6200 Jefferson NE, Room 305
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Phone: (505) 761-4400 Fax: (505) 761-4462
Website: www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov

March 11, 2009

NEW MEXICO BULLETIN NO. 450-9-01

SUBJECT: TCH - TECHNICAL SERVICE PAYMENT RATE (TSPR)

TO: All Field Office Employees

Purpose. To Solicit TSPR cost and procurement data for Technical Service Providers (TSP)

Expiration Date. December 31, 2009

Both the 2002 Farm Bill and the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 amended the 1985 Farm Bill, which authorized the use of TSPs, by requiring the United States Department of Agriculture to allow producers to receive technical assistance by individuals and entities other than NRCS. This TSP provision is designed to ensure NRCS has the capacity to address the significant workload associated with implementing Farm Bill programs. TSP assistance is another tool for NRCS to use in the implementation of conservation programs.

Current TSP payment rates are based on the NRCS cost for an activity. The new TSPR will be a fair and reasonable payment rate that includes consideration of local market, procurement, and NRCS cost. In order for NRCS New Mexico to begin the process of providing TSPR that are fair and reasonable we need to start collecting data to document the costs of technical assistance/services that accelerate conservation program delivery. This includes development of Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP) and the cost of design, layout, installation and check-out of conservation practices.

Field Office input into this process is critical to ensure rates are as fair and accurate as possible. You are asked to:

- Notify the state TSP coordinator of actual or anticipated demand for TSPs in your field office; **and**
- begin collecting local market and procurement data to document local TSPR for New Mexico.

As we collect and incorporate appropriate data into our state TSPR we will begin to assure that payment rates are fair and reasonable.

We are requesting that Field Offices submit any market and/or procurement data, made available from producers and TSPs, to the State Resource Conservationist for incorporation into the state TSPR as appropriate.

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If you have any questions, please contact George Chavez, State Resource Conservationist, at (505) 761-4421 or Seth Fiedler, Resource Conservationist, at (505) 761-4416.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dennis L. Alexander".

DENNIS L. ALEXANDER
State Conservationist