Technical Service Provider Training
2/24/2014
Findlay Ohio

TSP Orientation
TechReg Overview

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& TSP Coordinator,
Columbus, Ohio
TSP Orientation / TechReg Overview

Topics

1. What is a Technical Service Provider
2. TSP Opportunities
3. Intro and the TechReg Web Site
4. Registration & Certification Process
5. TSP Payment Rates
6. Hiring a TSP
7. Roles & Responsibilities
Introduction

What is a Technical Service Provider?
1. Who are TSPs and what technical tasks may they complete?

Resource professionals that give technical assistance to landowners instead of NRCS. Tasks include writing Conservation Activity Plans (CAP’s) and assisting with the implementation of conservation practices through financial programs, such as the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).
2. **Who are the TSPs’ customers?**

Individual landowners and producers that have NRCS financial assistance program contracts for CAPs or to implement conservation practices.

3. **Where can I locate the rules governing the TSP Initiative?**

http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/

What’s New with TSP Program?

- Re-tooling the TSP program
- New MOUs
- CAP Opportunities - what are they and how do they work
- New TechReg coming soon
- Certification by Practice instead of Category
- Training opportunities
Streamlining Technical Service Provider Process

Working on a faster, simpler process for TSPs to register and become certified

A

TSP looking for Conservation Work

B

TSP doing conservation work

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Leveraging the skill set

Memorandum of Understanding with Certifying Organizations (NAICC, ASA, CCA, etc...)

You have ...........what is needed.

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Memorandum of Understanding

This MOU recognizes that an individual who has met NAICC standards and is certified as a CPCC-I or CPCC also meets the performance proficiencies established and agreed to by both parties for providing conservation assistance in the respective areas listed below:

- Nutrient Management, Organic, and Inorganic with additional State-specific requirements where applicable
- Integrated Pest Management for Conventional and/or Organic Systems
- Integrated Pest Management Herbicide Resistant Weed Conservation Planning
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Irrigation Water Management

This MOU recognizes that an individual who has met NAICC standards and is certified as a CPCC-I or CPCC also meets the performance proficiencies established and agreed to by both parties for providing conservation assistance in the respective areas listed below provided they have met all other NRCS certification requirements associated with these practices:

- Buffers
- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans with additional NRCS and State-specific requirements where applicable
- Grazing/Forages
- Tillage and Erosion
- Vegetative Land Stabilization

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Preparing the Field

1. Plowing through Eauth obstacles
2. Discing out AgLearn clods
3. Thinning the “weeds” in required training
Taking the tractor to the site

- NRCS committed to more training
- Delivering training annually at association conferences
- In-State training
What About Site Prep?

- TSPs can be challenged in marketing their services and skills
Low crop value

- The Technical Service Payment Rates (TSPRs) may not be attractive enough for TSPs to seek contracts
- CAPs are all based on one flat rate.
- Size of contracts may be an obstacle
Building Yields......More and Better

• Workshops/training
  • Public Affairs campaigns
• Marketing of TSP services
• Having a good “stand”....... making sure there are enough TSPs to cover the work
Conservation Activity Plans (CAPS)

• An Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) practice that allows farmers to receive reimbursement for TSP services for conservation planning.
CAPs

The Farm Bill statute allows EQIP payments for up to 75 percent of the estimated incurred cost of practice implementation, which for a CAP practice will be the development of a conservation plan meeting agency standards and requirements.

Eligible producers may apply for CAPs that are available in their State through application at their local NRCS office. EQIP payments are made directly to program participants for development of a CAP by a certified Technical Service Provider (TSP).
Farm Bill Programs - NRCS

- **1985 & 2002 Farm Bills**
  - Conservation Programs: EQIP, CSP, WHIP, WRP, & others
  - Authority for Technical Service Providers (TSP) or third party providers using TA funds

- **2008 Farm Bill**
  - New authorities for EQIP - Authority to support development of conservation plans using FA funds - Conservation Activity Plans or CAPs
  - FY 2009 Pilot Year
TSP & CAP Requirements

TSPs must be certified through TechReg
TSP & CAP Requirements

Information can be found at...
Proficiency Criteria for CAPs

- Proficiency Criteria is posted on TSP Website using national criteria
- Conservation Activity Plan TSP Proficiency Criteria under separate subheading
- TSP must be registered in TechReg

TSPs Training Requirements

TSPs Requirements for Qualification:

• Free courses through Aglearn:
• www.aglearn.usda.gov/

Introduction to Water Quality (NRCS-NEDC-000033)

Course Overview
This training program creates an awareness of NRCS Water Quality policy, and teaches principles and how to apply them in daily NRCS activities at the field, farm, and watershed scales. The course utilizes video and student workbook for the self-study delivery.

American Society of Agronomy Certified Crop Advisor Program

This course is certified by American Society of Agronomy Certified Crop Advisor Program.

Prerequisites
There are no prerequisites. This is an introductory course.
CAP Technical Requirements

• NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) provides technical requirements to meet when developing Conservation Activity Plans:
  • www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/
Conservation Activity Plans Available

- Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (102) & Nutrient Management Plan (104)
- Forest Management Plan
- Agricultural Energy Management Plan
- Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan
- Integrated Pest Management Plan
- Drainage Water Management Plan
- Prescribed Burn
Conservation Activity Plans Available

- Irrigation Water Management Plan
- Transition from Irrigated to Dry land Farming & Ranching Plan
- Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition Plan
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat Plan
- Pollinator Habitat Enhancement Plan
- Grazing Management Plan
- Feed Management
Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)

- Limit - one conservation activity plan on same acreage at one time.

- Multiple activity plans may be approved for the same participant.

- Activity plans completed within 12 months.
  (Two year ProTracts contract – Modifications Discouraged)

- Conservation activity plans may not be funded through TSP TA payments. No duplication of payments for same planning services, same land.
CAP Payment Rates

- The unit of payment for all CAPs is “Number”, not acres.

- Individual CAPs may have more than one component payment rate, depending on the type.

- They are based on available market cost data......the rate a customer would have to pay to obtain these services from a non-NRCS source.
• The approved payment rate for CAPs funded through EQIP is based upon the estimated incurred cost associated with development of the plan. There is no statutory or regulator “cap” or limit on the payment rate other than the $300,000 general limit for EQIP contracts.
What is different for FY 2014 CAPs?

• More CAPs required to be offered.
• Added two new CAPs (Feed Management and Prescribed Burn)
• Higher flat rates for most CAP services.
• IPM/NM Required in all States. IPM Herb Res is still optional
What is different for FY 2014 CAPs?

- Payment Schedules
  - Will be developed at the national level
    Except for the CNMP (102)
  - All CAPs will have the same program payment percentages:
    75% for regular EQIP participants
    90% for HU participants
  - Will be posted to the national EQIP CAP web site.
What is a Technical Service Provider or TSP?

Technical Service Providers (TSPs) are individuals or businesses that have technical expertise in conservation planning and design for a variety of conservation activities. TSPs are hired by farmers, ranchers, private businesses, nonprofit organizations, or public agencies to provide these services on behalf of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Each certified TSP is listed on the NRCS TSP online registry, TechReg. The TSP registration and approval process involves required training and verification of essential education, knowledge, skills and abilities.

Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs)

The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) supports payment for practices involving the development of certain plans called "conservation activity plans" or CAPs. Only certified TSPs can be hired to complete these plans.

- Conservation Activity Plans Approved for Fiscal Year 2013 (For 49%): Complete list and descriptions of CAPs being offered for FY 13
- TSP Eligibility Criteria: Requirements for eligibility to become certified as a TSP
- CAP Plan Development Criteria: Content requirements for CAP plans
- CAP Plan Checklists: Plan content requirement checklists
- National Plan Templates: National templates can be used by TSPs for plan development which meet Plan Development Criteria

- CAP Payment Rates for FY 2013 (For 2004-2005): Payment rates paid to a landowner for contracted CAP plans
Conservation Activity Plan payments made, FY 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRACTICE NAME</th>
<th>CODE</th>
<th>NO. of OCCURANCES</th>
<th>OBLIGATIONS ($)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNMPs Written</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1646</td>
<td>$8,380,313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrient Management Plans</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>$380,220</td>
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<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management Plans</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>$84,760</td>
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<tr>
<td>IPM- Herbicide Resistant Weeds</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>$455,840</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>178</td>
<td>$292,142</td>
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</table>

*Source: ProTracts, 01/1/14, National Report*
# Average Payment Rates for 2014 CAP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of CAP</th>
<th>Scenario</th>
<th>~ Payment Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP (&lt; 50 Acres)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1471</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP (51 – 250)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP (&gt; 250)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$2943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrient Management CAP</td>
<td>&lt; 100 acres</td>
<td>$1665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>101-300 acres</td>
<td>$1982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>&gt; 300 acres</td>
<td>$2397</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP Herb Resistance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$1766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&lt;50 acres)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$2296</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP Herb Resistance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$3532</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(51 - 250 acres)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integrated Pest Management CAP Herb Resistance</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(&gt;250 acres)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What can CAPs do for me and my Client?

- Protect nearby natural resources.
- Opportunity for Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Provides growers with the detailed information needed to improve water quality and address resource concerns.
- Grower can apply for financial assistance to help implement recommended practices in the plan.
## Certified TSPs for CAPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAP</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Agricultural Energy Management Plan (124) - Landscape Plan Development</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Agricultural Energy Mgmt Plan (122) - Headquarters Plan Development</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - CNMP (102)</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (CAQMP) (126)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Comprehensive Air Quality Management Plan (CAQMP) (126)</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAP - Conservation Plan Supporting Organic Transition (CPSOT) (138)</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Drainage Water Management Plan (130)</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Fish &amp; Wildlife Habitat Plan (142)</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Forest Management Plan (106)</td>
<td>564</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Grazing Management Plan (110)</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Integrated Pest Management - Herbicide Resistance Weeds Plan (154)</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Integrated Pest Management Plan (114)</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Irrigation Water Management Plan (118)</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Nutrient Management Plan (104)</td>
<td>188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Pollinator Habitat Plan (146)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAP - Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (150) – Develop and Approval</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: TechReg 07/2013
Where Are the TSPs?

Source: TechReg TSPs certified 07/14/13
Can the TSP Fit into Your Business Model?

- Added-Value?
- Competition?
- Diversification?
Questions So Far?

✓ What is a Technical Service Provider
✓ TSP Opportunities

Intro and the TechReg Web Site
TSP Registration & Certification Process
TSP Payment Rates
Hiring a TSP
Roles & Responsibilities

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
The TSP Website

(Gateway to TechReg)
USDA/NRCS TechReg & TSP Website

- Contains information on the location of USDA Service Centers and state TSP Coordinators
- Contains information on business opportunities
- Contains a listing of all certified TSPs with a resume for each one
- Contains links to technical tools such as the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG)
Steps to Registration on TechReg

- **Step 1**: Get USDA Level 2 eAuthentication Account (User ID and password)
- **Step 2**: Login to TechReg Website and review Agreement
- **Step 3**: Complete Profile Part I: Background
- **Step 4**: Complete Profile Part II: Certification Categories
- **Step 5**: Sign Agreement

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Step-by-Step Guides are located from the TSP Website
Individual Record vs Business Records

**TechReg Individual Record**
- Required for individual to acquire an eAuth account
- Only individuals may have electronic access

**TechReg Business Record**
- Required for TSP’s that wish to have their business displayed in the registry
- A business **CANNOT** be granted an electronic access account

**Summary:**
- TechReg individual records are required first before can have business record
- Only individual records may be linked to electronic access
- TechReg business records optional – If you want your business to be displayed in the registry
Review Agreement

Contact Information from your account

You must select a registration type, individual or business

Note: Must register as an individual FIRST!

Read terms and conditions carefully before agreeing

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Step 3 - Complete Profile Part 1 (Background)

Provide specific information about your Licenses, qualifications, and experience.

- A. Contact Information
- B. Associated Companies
- C. Relevant Accreditations and Licenses
- D. Education and Training
- E. Relevant Work Experience
- E1. Professional References
- F. Familiarity with NRCS Guidelines, Criteria, Standards, and Specifications
Step 4 - Complete Profile Part 2

Certification Categories

Select the technical services you wish to provide and the locations you will work.

A list of requirements you must meet for certification will be shown, indicate how you met the requirements.

- G. Certification Categories
- H. Services to be Provided
- I. Servicing Areas
- J. Certification Agreement History
### Categories, Options and Criteria

#### Option 1: Certification
- **FOTG Knowledge:** Knowledge of the NRCS electronic Field Office Technical Guide as related to the specific criteria to be addressed in the development and implementation of a NRCS Integrated Pest Management Plan (Section III FOTG).
- **Integrated Pest Management Plan Development:** Develop an Integrated Pest Management Plan (114) that meets the criteria listed in Section III of the FOTG and submit the plan by email, or send a paper copy by mail to your resident State TSP Coordinator.

#### Option 2: Knowledge & Training
- **National Planning Procedures Handbook:** Knowledge and understanding of National Planning Procedures Handbook – Title 180 - Part 600.
- **Pest Mgt Certification:** Certification with at least one of the following: 1) CCA- Certified Crop Advisor certification from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), 2) CPAg- Certified Professional Agronomist certification from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), 3) CPCSc- Certified Professional Crop Scientist certification from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), 4) CPPP- Certified Professional Plant Pathologist certification from the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), 5) Crop Certification through the National Alliance of Independent Crop Consultants (NAICC).
- **Pest Mgt License - State:** A current Pest Management applicator license as required by law in the state of practice.
- **Pest Mgt Tools Experience:** Proficient in the use of applicable water and wind erosion prediction and pest management risk assessment tools (RUSLE2, WEQ or WEPS, and WIN-PS1).
- **Training:** Conservation Planning Training (available in AgLearn): 1. Conservation Planning-Part 1 (Modules 1-5).

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Certification Agreement

The Agreement covers a number of topics including:

• Warranty or work quality
• Compliance with applicable laws and regulations
• Liability assumptions for work products
• NRCS reporting and documentation requirements.
What qualifications must be met for TSP certification?

• Have the technical training, education, certification or experience to perform the level of technical service for which certification is sought.
  – NOTE: Members of a recommending organization, such as Certified Crop Advisor, may enjoy a streamlined registration and certification process for certain TSP Categories; however, they are not exempt from required TSP coursework or other certification criteria. More information on recommending organizations may be found on TechReg.

• Meet applicable licensing or similar qualification standards established by State, Local, or Tribal law.
What qualifications must be met for TSP certification?

- Demonstrate through documentation of training or experience familiarity with NRCS guidelines, quality criteria, standards, and specifications as set forth in applicable NRCS manuals, handbooks, field office technical guides, and supplements for planning and applying specific conservation practices and management systems for which certification is sought.

- Development of an example plan for Conservation Activity Plans.
TSP Training Requirements

Courses offered through Aglearn: www.aglearn.usda.gov/
Questions So Far?

- What is a Technical Service Provider
- TSP Opportunities
- Intro and the TechReg Web Site
- Registration & Certification Process
- TSP Payment Rates
- Hiring a TSP
- Roles & Responsibilities
Welcome to Technical Service Payment Rates

This interactive web site offers payment rates for technical assistance.

The payment rates are calculated by practice and geographic location.

Obtain Local Payment Rate Prices
Technical Service Payment Rates

- **Technical Service Payment Rates** or TSPR are developed for individual practices and are program-neutral. They are **not** used for EQIP Conservation Activity Plans.

- TSPRs are in addition to a separate financial assistance program practice payment that the landowner/producer receives for implementing a contracted practice.

- The basis for the TSPRs for the individual conservation practice or practice component is determined by:
  - The “typical” cost for NRCS to provide the same service to the producer
  - Information based on local conditions
TSP Payment Rates

• TSPRs, as specified in an NRCS contract, are the maximum dollar amount (not-to-exceed) that the landowner/producer will be reimbursed for utilizing the services of a certified Technical Service Provider.

• There are usually 3 tasks that have rates available:
  – Design, Installation, and Checkout

• TSPRs are NOT equally divided between each practice task.

• TSPRs do not apply when the NRCS directly obtains your services through a contract, cooperative agreement, grant or other acquisition method.
Payment Rates

• There are 3 activities that have rates available:
  – Design,
  – Installation
  – Checkout
Designing and checking all aspects of the supporting data, preparing drawings, and specifications to insure that the planned practice will meet the purpose for which it is installed.
Installation:

• Involves construction layout and approval for all aspects of the practice including construction inspection, surveys and construction certification, and preparing as-built drawings and quantities.

• It includes the operation, maintenance, and management information needed by the client to assure proper functioning of practices following installation.

• It does NOT pertain to the actual construction of the practice. The Technical Service Payment Rates do not include reimbursement to a client employing a TSP for the physical construction of practices.
Checkout

- Involves routine follow-up with the customer to evaluate the effectiveness of the installed conservation practice and to certify practices including measurement of completed amounts performed, compliance with practice specifications.
TSPRs

• TSPRs **DO NOT** reflect how much you may charge for your services.
• You do not have to wait until the producer is reimbursed before receiving payment.
• The producer is not required to wait until payment has been made to you to receive a TSP payment.
• Producer payments are based on the receipts or invoices you provide to the producer but will not exceed the maximum TSPR for the practice task.
TSPRs & CAP Rates

- You can find the specific TSPRs for your state on the [TechReg](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp) website.
- TSPRs can vary by state, geographic area within the state, conservation practice and land use.
- You may perform one or more conservation tasks as part of your contract with the producer.
- Depending on the situation, the producer may be reimbursed separately for each task completed.
- CAP Rates can be found at the new TSP Website. These are flat rates set at National level. States cannot change rate.
EQIP CAP Payment Rates

• Unlike TSP payment rates, CAP payment rates are developed like financial assistance program practice payment rate schedules.
• The unit of payment for all CAPs is “Number”, not acres.
• Individual CAPs may have more than one component payment rate, depending on the type.
• They are based on available cost data.
Hiring the TSP

• The TSP Rules require you to supply the NRCS and the producer with copies of **ALL** work products developed during the project at its completion. This includes, but is not limited to, surveys, plans, engineering studies, soil analysis, test results, and project reports.
• The TSP Rules also require that you assume responsibility in writing for the technical services that you provide to producers (**TSP Progress and Certification Report Form**).
• NRCS performs quality assurance reviews to ascertain that practices have been properly designed and reviewed. You are solely responsible for providing technical services that meet NRCS standards and specifications.
Hiring the TSP

Landowners that are participating in NRCS’ financial assistance programs, such as EQIP and WHIP and have a program contract that contains conservation practices or a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), may select a TSP from the NRCS TechReg web site to perform the technical services provided.
Hiring the TSP

A producer may contract for your services at any time; however, the producer will not be reimbursed for those services unless the following conditions have been met:

✓ The producer must have signed a conservation program contract prior to hiring you
✓ Conservation program funding for TSP tasks must be available and in the contract for the specific conservation practice(s) found in the producer's contract.
The landowner **will not be eligible** for program payment for work started before the conservation program contract is approved.
Last but not least…

✓ What is a Technical Service Provider
✓ Intro and the TechReg Web Site
✓ Registration & Certification Process for ACF Members
✓ TSP Payment Rates
✓ Hiring a TSP

Roles & Responsibilities
Roles and Responsibilities

• Producer
• TSP
• NRCS
Producer

• Notifying NRCS that they wish to utilize a TSP
• Interviewing and hiring a TSP certified in the appropriate category and practice.
• Signing the USDA contract or agreement prior to the commencement of work activities.
• Providing TSPs with their current conservation plan and/or providing NRCS with a signed 
  Release of Information form with your name on it. CPA-70.
• Meeting regulatory requirements, obtaining necessary records and securing approvals, authorities, rights, permits and easements.
Roles & Responsibilities

Landowner/Producer Roles & Responsibilities:

• Coordinating and prioritizing multiple and/or overlapping job tasks between TSPs, contractors and NRCS, including a pre-work conference.
• Providing NRCS with required documentation and invoices when the technical services have been completed.
• Paying you for the technical services that you have provided independent of delays in the NRCS reimbursement process.
• Requesting an “Assignment of Payment” from NRCS if you wish to be paid directly from NRCS.
# Assignment of Payment

![Assignment of Payment form](NRCS-CPA-1236_4-2010.png)

**ASSIGNMENT OF PAYMENT**

*See Page 2 for Privacy Act and Public Burden Statements.*

## PART A - GENERAL INFORMATION

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. STATE</td>
<td>2. COUNTY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. PARTICIPANT’S (ASSIGNOR’S) NAME AND ADDRESS Including Zip Code</td>
<td>5. ASSIGNEE’S NAME AND ADDRESS Including Zip Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. PARTICIPANT’S (ASSIGNOR’S) TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER</td>
<td>6. ASSIGNEE’S TAX IDENTIFICATION NUMBER</td>
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## 7. ASSIGNEE’S ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFER INFORMATION

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<td>• Checking</td>
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<td>Bank Information: Routing Number:</td>
<td>Account Number:</td>
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TSP

- Being certified in the TSP Category for the work you are undertaking. (Non-compliance with this requirement could result in decertification.)
- Having a contractual relationship with the landowner/producer.
- Obtain necessary training and certifications you need to become certified. Establish and maintain training and certification records, and provide training and certification documentation to NRCS or to recommending organizations if requested.
- Utilize the services of certified subcontractors, as provided by NRCS policy.
TSP Roles & Responsibilities

• Provide technical assistance that is in compliance with appropriate standards and specifications.
• Help with all approvals, authorities, rights, permits, and easements necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of conservation practices.
• Assume responsibility for the technical services provided, including any costs, damages, claims, liabilities, and judgments arising from past, present, and future negligent or wrongful acts or omissions.
TSP Roles & Responsibilities

• Provide to the landowner and/or NRCS the documentation as stated in the Conservation Practice Statement of Work (SOW) or Conservation Activity Plan Criteria deliverables.

• Accept responsibility in writing for the particular technical services provided. [Complete and sign a TSP Progress Report and Certification Form]

• Decertification may result if you do not abide by the requirements of the certification agreement.
NRCS Roles & Responsibilities:

- Reimburse participants or make direct payment to TSPs upon receipt of an assignment of payment from participants.
- Establish and publish payment rates and review TSPR at least annually and adjust the rates based upon available data.
- Implement an accountability system to measure and monitor progress, overall use, performance, and accomplishments of certified TSPs.
- Make planning and application technological tools available for use by TSPs.
- Retain responsibility for all decision-making and consultation required by Federal agencies related to compliance with resource protection laws.
Thank you, Questions?

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CONTACT US

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