



Resource Enhancement and Protection FY 2015-2016 Program

What's New!

Submission Information

- **COMPLETED projects** - New applications for completed projects will be accepted by the Commission on a first-come, first-served basis beginning on **August 3, 2015**
- **PROPOSED and completed projects** - New applications for proposed and completed projects will be accepted beginning on **August 17, 2015**.

1. Low Disturbance Residue Management

See 2015-16 REAP Guidelines - Attachment 6 for complete criteria

- Equipment must be designed for (and be capable of) cutting and sizing crop residue with minimal soil disturbance.
- Equipment must have a maximum gang angle (adjustable or fixed) of 5 degrees.
- Equipment must have a maximum working depth of 4 inches.
- Equipment must use disks with no concavity.
- Seed boxes that attach directly to eligible equipment are eligible.

The Low Disturbance Residue Management Equipment Intended Use Worksheet has been eliminated.

*See also: attached **Low Disturbance Residue Management Equipment Dealer Certification form***

The proposed changes for 2015-16 recognize the need to provide more clarity in the Guidelines regarding eligible equipment. Also, the changes address some of the administrative difficulties posed by the existing guidelines. This is due to the sheer number of vertical tillage equipment manufacturers and the wide variations that exist from one make/ model to the next. In essence, the proposed changes will move the focus from subjective compliance/certification of equipment to a more objective focus on equipment specs.

2. Precision Nutrient Application Equipment

See 2015-16 REAP Guidelines - Attachment 5 for complete criteria

The Commission will provide REAP credits for the components of Nutrient Application Equipment that enable base equipment (new or existing) to be upgraded with precision/variable rate application capabilities.

New equipment qualifications:

- The equipment, when upgraded, must be capable of applying manure or fertilizer at variable rates across a crop field according to specific data input from computerized maps or optical sensors.

- Only the components necessary to apply nutrients at variable rates are eligible. Examples include: hydraulic motors, variable rate drives, section control, scales, nozzle controls, metering devices.
- Monitors and displays necessary to control the components are eligible.
- Components necessary to upgrade existing application equipment to variable rate capabilities is eligible.
- The equipment purchase must include setup by an equipment dealer.
- The equipment is certified to meet the above criteria by a qualified farm equipment dealer authorized by the Commission - "REAP Precision Application Equipment Certification" (Application p13),
- Applicants must sign the same certification (p13) stating that the equipment will be utilized by the applicant, as intended - consistent with the provisions of a current Nutrient/Manure Management Plan.
- New equipment shall have a REAP lifespan of 7 years.

Equipment that is capable of precision application of nutrients can significantly reduce the over-application of manure and fertilizer. When upgraded with this capability, nutrient applications can be adjusted automatically to fit the crops needs – and its yield potential. This can enable farmers to further reduce nutrient runoff from their operations.

3. Poultry/Livestock Housing Vegetative Buffers

Poultry/Livestock Housing Vegetative Buffers

<i>Practice Code:</i>	380 (Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment)
<i>Reportable Units:</i>	ft.
<i>Lifespan:</i>	10 years
<i>Tax Credit Rate:</i>	50%
<i>Additional Information:</i>	Plantings must conform to <u>USDA/NRCS Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Technical Note No. 1</u>
<i>REAP Conditions:</i>	Establishment costs only. Plantings must be within close proximity to livestock housing and exhaust fans
<i>Certification Requirements:</i>	Individual with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority or Registered Professional Engineer.

*See also: attached **USDA/NRCS Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) Technical Note No. 1***

The proposed addition of livestock housing vegetative buffers is based on recent (and on-going) research showing the capabilities of these buffers to reduce ammonia and dust pollution from livestock (particularly poultry) housing. The Chesapeake Bay Program estimates that 1/3 of the N pollution entering the Bay comes from airborne sources. One third of that airborne N comes from ammonia emitted from Ag operations. PSU and NRCS have worked together to develop vegetative buffers that can significantly reduce the level of ammonia emissions by capturing it in plant material located at the exhaust fans of poultry houses.