ATTACHMENT TO 590 NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT JOB SHEET

EQIP 590 PRACTICE GUIDELINES: Precision Agriculture Incentive—Nutrient Management Track

EQIP FY 2009 Cost list item: 590—Nutrient Management—Precision Ag Nutrient Management Track (**$16 per acre—practice capped at $15,000).** *For FY 2009, this will be a single-year practice, and should only be included as a contract item once with a single payment.*

Name/EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Incentive Practice:

- To improve water quality by targeting nutrient applications to meet field-specific cropland yield capabilities
- To improve water quality by reducing nutrient inputs through avoidance of overlapping nutrient applications
- To reduce surface runoff and subsurface loss of nutrients through decreased nutrient inputs
- To enhance soil quality through repeatable field travel pathways, thus reducing soil compaction and erosion
- Energy conservation through precisely controlled cropping equipment, resulting in less fuel being used

Conditions for practice eligibility:

- To be eligible for this practice, a producer must not currently be practicing nutrient management on cropland through use of precision agriculture equipment.

Minimum Practice Requirements (the $16 per acre per year incentive rate includes all practice requirements):

- Development and implementation of a nutrient management plan that meets NRCS standards

- 'Zone' soil sampling for all enrolled fields incorporating a soil sampling strategy, including fields and sub-fields, numbers of samples to be collected by field/sub-field for both surface (agronomic) and any necessary deep sampling (28-32").

- Field specific yield recordkeeping

- Implementation of GPS-guided navigation with *producer-owned* precision ag equipment to prevent nutrient application overlap and unneeded applications. *Producers should note that incentive payment schedule reflects the minimum cost necessary to implement practice requirements, and that advanced precision ag equipment (such as RTK and variable rate application equipment) is likely to have higher producer-incurred expenses than basic navigation systems like GPS plus 'light-bars'.*

- Field specific nutrient application records that do not exceed rates set forth in nutrient management plan.

Considerations for implementation of simple precision agriculture

- Consider pairing nutrient management track with pest management track for controlling and reducing pesticide cropland inputs resulting in additional water quality benefits

- Consider implementation of a conservation cropping system of no-till with cover crop mixes or sod-based rotations with perennials to reduce field erosion, surface runoff and enhance soil quality.

- Precision agriculture could also yield long-term economic benefits through potential fuel savings as well as reductions in fertilizer costs

- Producers are encouraged to consider a long-term goal of a comprehensive precision agriculture system that includes variable rate applications of nutrients and pesticides

Certification checklist of practice outcomes

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Nutrient Management plan developed by NRCS or TSP (TA for TSP plan development not included in this practice) that includes appropriate NRCS job nutrient management job sheet (kept in case file)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Precision soil sampling maps and records provided to Designated Conservationist annually (kept in case file)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Field specific (to the extent possible) yield records provided to Designated Conservationist annually (kept in case file)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Producer must own GPS equipment that was utilized to adopt the precision ag system that meets these practice requirements for nutrient management.

Producer certification (initial/date)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Precision ag equipment for GPS-guided navigation must be installed on predominant nutrient application equipment for enrolled fields

Producer certification (initial/date)

Year 1 Year 2 Year 3

☐ ☐ ☐ Nutrient application rates that do not exceed those set forth in nutrient management plan—certified through field specific records of application rates

(Year 1) I certify that precision agriculture incentive—nutrient management track has been completed per practice guidelines and NRCS 590 nutrient management standard.

_____

Designated conservationist Date

Year 2 Certification/Comments

Year 3 Certification/Comments