

Decker, Denise - Washington, DC

From: Stephany Ludwig [gcraft@rochester.rr.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2009 11:12 AM

To: RA.dcwashing2.frpp

Subject: Docket Number NRCS-IFR-08006-comments on proposed rules.

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1) The Impervious surface restrictions do not allow for a statewide waiver, which means that each farm easement would have to be individually negotiated. Since a waiver would not be granted until after any grant awards, NYS would not allow federal funds; put the 25% burden on the land owner or the local municipality and potentially reduce the incentive for land owners to join the program. As a farmer and land owner I would agree with NYSDAM and encourage a statewide program waiver for the impervious surface restrictions.

2) As a farmer and land owner I am concerned that the USDA agricultural use definitions may not agree with NYSDAM and may create a more restrictive definition for what is an Ag use under the easement. This narrower definition would be in conflict with the NYSDAM Ag District law. State Ag use definitions should take precedence over USDA definitions.

3) As a farmer and land owner with forest land I agree with NYSDAM and feel the 10 acre woodlot forest management plan is overly burdensome. The minimum size woodlot for requiring a forest management plan should be 50 acres unless the state where the land is located has a different acreage requirement. Then the state rule should apply.

I think it is important for the USDA to offer guide lines and encouragement for the individual states to implement and enhance their farmland protection programs. Please do not create overly burdensome rules and regulations. Work with the States to reach the intended goals.

Thank you for your consideration.
Stephanie Ludwig