

ATTN: Docket Number NRCS- IFR-08005

Financial Assistance Programs Division
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service
1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 5237S
Washington, DC 20250-2890

204
3/18/09

Dear USDA Staff:

Please make the Federal Conservation Programs Friendly for Organics. Make the EQIP more inclusive of organic agriculture practices – including implementing a new provision that assists farmers converting to organic farming systems and rewarding the conservation benefits of organic farming.

My family encourages the USDA to make the following changes to the Final Rule for EQIP:

- Acknowledge organic agriculture as a new National Priority for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), as mandated by Congress in the 2008 Farm Bill. The Chief of NRCS should issue a Directive to all State Conservationists reinforcing this change.
- Clarify that the \$80,000 cap for Organic Conversion Support contracts applies only to organic conversion plans, and does not cover all organic operations applying to EQIP.
- Also, clarify that the regular cap of \$300,000 applies to organic operators who are not seeking conversion support.
- Ensure that Organic Conversion Support is available in all 50 states.
- Ensure that Organic Conversion Support applications are ranked and processed as a separate subcategory.

A personal note from our family about real homeland security – the right to grow our own food and eat healthy organic sustainably produced food for all Americans.

N/A

Sincerely,

LOYD DENARD
468 CHATHAM FOREST DR
PITTSBORO NC 27312

**With Great Faith That Our Government Agencies Will Do the Right Thing and
Protect Our Basic Rights to HEALTHY LOCAL SUSTAINABLE FOOD!**

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C. 20013

4-6-09

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NEED HELP READING HANDWRITTEN LETTER FOR ADDRESS

Mr. Lloyd Dewald
468 ___ Forest Drive
Pit ___ 27312?????

Chatham
Pitts in Maine

Dear Mr. Dewald:

Thank you for your letter of March 18, 2009, in regard to Docket No. NRCS-IFR-08005, the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Interim Final Rule, as published in the *Federal Register*. The conservation provisions of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (2008 Farm Bill) and the Administrative Procedures Act offer the public the opportunity to submit official comments on Agency regulations and other documents published in the *Federal Register* during the official public comment period indicated with each published regulatory document.

Regulatory changes generally are being published as interim final rules, enabling full implementation of the programs while public comment is assessed. NRCS acknowledges your letter of recommendation. Your comments will be analyzed and given full consideration in the process of moving to final program rules. The preamble for final rules will include our analysis of public comments and their disposition with regard to the final rules.

Again, thank you for your official comment. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Pittsboro, North
Carolina
2007/3/2

THOMAS W. CHRISTENSEN
Deputy Chief for Programs

cc:
Leslie Deavers, Acting Farm Bill Coordinator, NRCS, Washington, D.C.
Edward Brzostek, National EQIP Program Manager, Financial Assistance Programs
Division, NRCS, Washington, D.C.
Maggie Rhodes, Team Leader, Program Allocations and Management Support Team,
NRCS, Washington, D.C.

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