

Cranberry

Crop Management Newsletter


Cooperative Extension



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extension office

University of Wisconsin-Extension

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NEW DEADLINE SET FOR EQIP APPLICATIONS

By Julie Ammel

Resource Conservationist & Wisconsin Cranberry Liaison

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*Due to the recent government shutdown, Wisconsin NRCS has postponed the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) application deadline to **Friday, December 20th**. The original date was set for Friday, November 15th. I personally apologize to my customers for any inconveniences this may have caused you.*

Many Wisconsin cranberry growers have benefited from this program which offers financial assistance to install or implement conservation practices on their farms. Much of that benefit comes from the fact that cranberry growers can apply for Area-Wide Specialty Crop Funds, rather than being required to compete with all Wisconsin farmers. This type of fund pool structure allows cranberry growers more access to the program. Each fund pool has its own set of ranking questions and criteria. The disadvantage cranberry growers have at this time is the limited access to information sources concerning this new application deadline. Unlike commodity croppers who are more likely to visit their local USDA offices for crop reporting, etc., cranberry growers generally don't, so some may not hear about it or see any posted notices. So please get the

word out and help our growers continue to receive the advantages the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) has to offer.

NEW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014

If your project requires some sort of permit from DNR, COE, etc., those who have their permit at the time they submit their application will have first priority at the available funds. So, if you plan to do a project to control erosion on a stream bank (ditch) or shoreline (reservoir), you will need to check if the project requires a permit. You may also need an Endangered Resource Permit from the DNR if you have Threatened or Endangered species on or near your project site. Best case scenario, don't wait until the last minute to find out your project requires a permit to install or implement.

Some of the practice offerings and/or changes this year . . .

**Upgrade of sprinkler system under Irrigation System Sprinkler (code 442) to meet NRCS distribution & efficiency requirements.*

**Upgrade of mainline under Irrigation Pipeline (code 430) without the requirement to install new irrigation system... current in-bed system must be up to NRCS standard for Sprinkler Irrigation (code 442) and meet all DU & CU*



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EQIP APPLICATIONS

Deadline Extended to Friday, December 20, 2013

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- * *distribution uniformity requirements. All pipeline flat-rates are based on type of pipe and weight per linear foot.*
- * *Tail water recovery system under Pumping Plant (code 533) is paid at a designated flat rate times the HP of the required pump size, plus a potential payment for additional required component(s) if determined necessary to complete a system.*
- * *Soil moisture monitoring system under Irrigation Water Management (code 449) with an established flat-rate payment depending on type of system installed (basic-intermediate-advanced).*
- * *Reservoir or ditch bank protection under Stream bank and Shoreline Protection (code 580).*
- * *Potential New Practice...Electric irrigation pump under Pumping Plant (code 533) if inefficiency of existing pumps can be established. Certain resource concerns must be addressed. These are yet to be determined but may involve inefficient use of energy &/or water.*
- * *Potential New Practice...Auto Start w/ Electric Controller under Irrigation Water Management (code 449).*
- * *Additional conservation practices available... Nutrient Management (code 590), Pest Management (code 595), Conservation Cover for pollinator habitat (code 327), plus others depending on your needs and resource concerns. There are also many Forestry practices available for those with woodlands on the property.*

Steps to Apply

The first step is to contact Julie Ammel, your NRCS Wisconsin Cranberry Liaison for a discussion on your planned conservation project(s).

- 1) Contact Cranberry Liaison to discuss potential conservation project(s).
- 2) Schedule a site visit with the Liaison to verify resource concern(s) and need for practice(s).
- 3) Fill out EQIP application form (NRCS-CPA-1200).
- 4) Establish/Update Farm Records and Program Eligibility with your local USDA – Farm Service Agency (FSA).
 - a) This part of the process requires a visit to your local FSA office to establish or update your farm records. Each property is given a Farm and Tract number which are used within our computer system to track

progress and make payments. Both individuals and entities may apply. You will be asked to fill out forms to identify your entity and all members, including any imbedded entities. You will also be required to fill out some other forms to establish your eligibility for program funds. Many of the forms must be filled out by each member of the entity.

Producer Eligibility

To participate in EQIP, an applicant must be an individual, entity or joint operation and meet the following criteria:

- *Be a **cranberry producer** with an annual minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products produced and/or sold from the operation.
 - *Have an interest in the farming operation associated with the land being enrolled.
 - *Have control of the land for the term of the proposed contract.
 - *Be in compliance with the highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985.
 - *Be in compliance with the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) requirements (*a person or entity is not eligible if during a crop, fiscal, or program year the average adjusted gross non-farm income exceeds \$1 million with less than 66.66% derived from farming sources*).
- 5) All payments are done by direct deposit, so banking information must be provided.
 - 6) Typically, applicants who use an Employee Identification Number (EIN) are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number if they do not already have one. A DUNS number is a unique 9-digit ID number provided by Dun & Bradstreet (D&B). Applicants using an EIN must also register with the System for Award Management (SAM).
 - 7) Develop a cost estimate for each practice requiring construction design &/or vendor information.
 - 8) Applications are selected for funding in ranked order until all funds are exhausted.
 - 9) Ranking is based upon Specialty Crop ranking tools developed by Wisconsin NRCS.

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Highlights of Field Projects in Quebec

Matt Lippert, Wood County UW Extension Agriculture Agent

I have included a few photographs and discussions from field trips held during this year's North American Cranberry Research and Extension Workers (NACREW) Conference held in August in Quebec Province, Canada.

Researchers in Quebec are monitoring the occurrence of native pollinators in many different habitat environments. (RIGHT PHOTO ➡➡) The photo shows a unmowed area near cranberry beds that is being studied; it included a mixture of grasses and forbs. They are also evaluating the effectiveness of diverse habitat, that may include areas such as pictured that is also adjacent to forest. Research questions also are attempting to address how uniformly native pollinators visit central and edge areas of larger sets of cranberry beds.

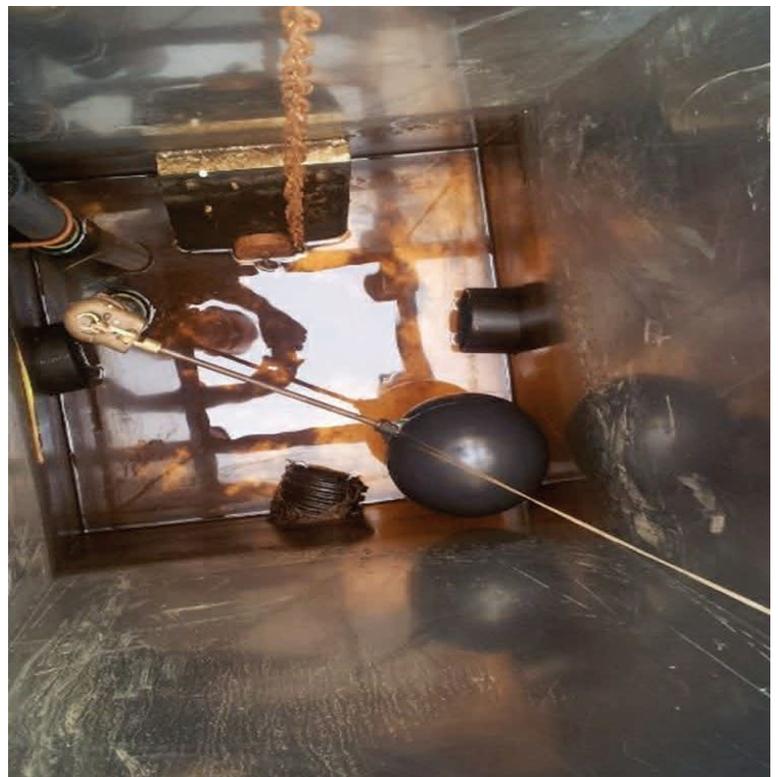


(➡➡ PHOTO ABOVE) **Cranberry soil profile in Quebec:** Soil scientists classify mineral soils as clay, silt or sand. Organic soils as peat, muck or various intergrades in between these categories. (There is a wide range in the grain size (0.1-2.0 mm) within sands from very fine sands up to a size that is described as gravel (>2.0 mm). The table (on page 6) shows that the largest sand particles are 20 times larger than the smallest very fine sands. While cranberry soils described as sand in Quebec and Wisconsin both meet the technical description of sand, the texture of many Quebec soils is much finer than some of the coarse

sands found in Wisconsin. The water penetration, retention and calibration with various moisture monitors will vary widely within the particle size described as "sand."



(See PHOTO BELOW) This view is looking down into a research chamber that can alternatively sub-irrigate or drain a cranberry bed to maintain a specific water table in the bed during the season. Observe the three tile lines that enter the box as well as the float that can be used to flood the tiles with reservoir water to maintain a specific water level in the bed. Also note the drain that can be plugged or opened to convert the system from drainage to sub-irrigation. At the time of this photograph the research season had ended and the water level had been dropped also allowing for the picture. (Cont p. 5)



POTENTIAL SOURCE FOR GRANT FUNDS FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

By Julie Ammel

NRCS Resource conservationist & Cranberry Liaison

This could be an option for those interested in the solar pump project Todd Planer is working on...or any other energy efficiency improvements on your marsh.

Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)

This program provides grants and loan guarantees to eligible agricultural producers and rural small businesses to assist in purchasing, installing, and constructing renewable energy systems and making energy efficiency improvements to non-residential buildings and facilities. The program also provides grants to these same entities to conduct feasibility studies for renewable energy systems. Grants are also available under this program to units of governments, colleges and universities, rural electric cooperatives, and public power entities to conduct energy audits and provide renewable energy development assistance. Such audits and assistance must be for the benefit of agricultural producers and rural small businesses.

Renewable Energy System & Energy Efficiency Improvement Guaranteed Loan and Grant Program

*** Eligibility***

Guaranteed Loan and grant eligibility is limited to rural small businesses and agricultural producers. An agricultural producer is an individual or entity directly engaged in the production of agricultural products (crops, livestock, forestry products, hydroponics, nursery, and aquaculture) whereby 50 percent + or greater of their gross income is derived from the operations. A private entity is considered a small business in accordance with Small Business Administration's Small Business Size Standards.

The lender must be eligible for the program. Most lenders are eligible, including Federal and State-chartered banks, Farm Credit System banks, and savings and loan associations. Other lenders may be eligible if approved by USDA.

For both loan guarantees and grants, project must meet the following conditions:

- * The loan/grant must go towards the purchase of a renewable energy system or to make energy efficiency improvements
- * The technology is pre-commercial or commercially available, and replicable
- * The project must have technical merit, as specified in Rural Development Regulation 4280 subpart B
- * A rural small business must be located in a rural area, though an agriculture producer may be located in a rural or non-rural area
- * The applicant must be the owner of the project and control the revenues, expenses, operations, and maintenance of the project
- * Sites must be controlled by the agricultural producer or small business for the financing term of any associated Federal loans or loan guarantees
- * The project must have satisfactory sources of revenue, for the life of the project, that will be used for the operation, management, maintenance, and debt service of the project

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MORE ON EQIP APPLICATIONS

**Deadline Extended to Friday,
December 20, 2013**

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- 10) Financial assistance payments are based on flat-rates established by regional NRCS policy.
- 11) Participant must commence a practice within 12 months of signing a contract.
- 12) Individual practices must be completed, in their entirety, and in accordance with all applicable NRCS standards and specifications, prior to reimbursement.

**Please contact Julie Ammel, NRCS
Resource Conservationist &
Cranberry Liaison at
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Office # (715) 343-6200;
Cell# (920) 420-2824**



Highlights of Field Projects in Quebec

(Continued from p. 3)

Sub-irrigation has potential to be a method of irrigation that may provide a more uniform supply of water that is more efficient in water utilization due to reduced loss from evaporation. Water can rise by capillary action through the soil to the root zone of plants. Capillary rise of water through the soil profile is dependent, in part, on the texture of the soil.

Jean Caron, Hortau, endowed Chair at the Université Laval, leads the group that is involved in field research both in Quebec Province and Wisconsin to better understand soil water relationships.



MORE ON Rural Energy for American Program

(Continued from p. 4)

Eligible project costs for Renewable Energy Systems and Energy Efficiency Improvements are:

- ◆ Post-application purchase and installation of equipment (new, refurbished, or remanufactured), except agricultural tillage equipment, used equipment, and vehicles
- ◆ Post-application construction or improvements, except residential
- ◆ Energy audits or assessments
- ◆ Permit and license fees
- ◆ Professional service fees, except for application preparation
- ◆ Feasibility studies and Technical Reports
- ◆ Business Plans and Retrofitting
- ◆ Construction of a new energy efficient facility only when: the facility is used for the same purpose; is approximately the same size; and, based on the energy audit, will provide more energy savings than improving an existing facility. Only costs identified in the energy audit for energy efficiency improvements are allowed. New equipment as long as it is of similar size to the equipment being replaced
- ◆ Working capital (applicable for guaranteed loan only)
- ◆ Land acquisition (applicable for guaranteed loan only)

Contact person
with **USDA Rural Development (RD)**
for potential energy projects is
Brenda Heinen,
Business & Community
Programs Specialist
Office: (715) 345-7615, ext. 139;
Email: brenda.heinen@wi.usda.gov



Address Correction

If you have any address corrections, additions, or deletions, please let us know.

If you prefer to receive the CCMN newsletter by e-mail, please call 715-421-8440 or e-mail: mspencer@co.wood.wi.us

Thank you!



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The United States Department of Agriculture uses the following size separates for the <2 mm mineral material:

Name	Size (mm)
Very coarse sand:	2.0-1.0 mm
Coarse sand:	1.0-0.5 mm
Medium sand:	0.5-0.25 mm
Fine sand:	0.25-0.10 mm
Very fine sand:	0.10-0.05 mm
Silt:	0.05-0.002 mm
Clay:	< 0.002 mm

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