United States Department of Agriculture

NRCS

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

SUBJECT: ECN - Not-to-Exceed (NTE) Rates for Technical Service Providers (TSP's)

AUG 13 2003

TO: Regional Conservationists
State Conservationists

File code: 200-0

The NTE rates for TSPs are now available on the TechReg Website, http://techreg.usda.gov/. The rates were developed by the TSP Economics Team, using Technical Assistance Cost of Conservation Practice data and workload analyses. State TSP contacts provided input as the methodology and the rates were developed. The rates are based on our best estimate of NRCS costs to perform tasks in each team area.

The rates should be of assistance to the States by providing costs for services other than the typically-sized ones in each team region. The rates can be used in their present form, can serve as a point of departure or reference point for States. States have the flexibility to adjust the rates based on local conditions. Any rates higher than the recommended not to exceed rate should be evaluated, justified and documented by the State Conservationist. We ask that any changes in the rates be documented, so that we can use the information in updating the rates and improving our system.

These rates will remain in effect for 60 days. After 60 days, we will review experiences with them and make any needed adjustments.

Please contact Peter Smith, Director, Resource Economics and Social Sciences Division, at (202) 720-2307, if you have any questions.

Thomas A. Weber

for BRUCE I. KNIGHT
Chief

cc:
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