

For: State and County Offices

**New EQIP Payment Limitation Allocation**

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



**1 Overview**

**A Background**

On May 13, 2002, Public Law 107-171, the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (the Act) was signed into law. NRCS is given the responsibility to administer EQIP. However, FSA is developing software to issue and control payments. EQIP uses a different payment limitation rule, which is the attribution method. EQIP PLM is a total of \$450,000 per individual or entity, for all contracts entered into during the period from FY 2002 to 2007.

**B Purpose**

This notice advises State and County Offices that:

- an edit will be performed by KC-ITSDO on or about April 21, 2003, to establish the new \$450,000 payment limitation allocation field needed for EQIP
- the new payment limitation allocation for EQIP contracts will be referred to as "EQIP"
- software will be included in County Release No. 510 that provides control County Offices with the capability to update PLM allocation amounts for "EQIP".

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| <b>Disposal Date</b> | <b>Distribution</b>                                  |
| October 1, 2003      | State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices |

## Notice PL-116

### 2 File Edits and Software Changes

#### A Software Modifications Establishing the “EQIP” PLM Allocation

The following software modifications will be included in County Release No. 510. This software:

- creates a new “EQIP” field in the payment limitation file with a maximum allocation of \$450,000 per individual or entity
- distributes the total \$450,000 amount in the control county and downloads these records to the control counties
- adds the “EQIP” allocation field to 2003 PLM file. Once County Release No. 510 is installed, control County Offices will have the capability to adjust allocations between counties as necessary
- modifies the 2003 MABDIG report to include the “EQIP” PLM allocation field.

#### B Overwritten Records

County Offices may want to hold off sending all payment limitation changes from the date of this notice until **April 24, 2003**. When the “EQIP” amounts are downloaded to control counties, any updates to all existing payment limitation amounts within the last few days may be overwritten. As a result, County Offices will be required to re-enter the overwritten data.

#### C Initial Allocation of EQIP PLM

When the new EQIP PLM file is created, the initial allocation will be placed in the control county EQIP PLM amount. Noncontrol counties will have to request an allocation from the control county.

#### D Handling EQIP Allocation After the Edit

After the initial edit, the rules for allocating EQIP PLM will be the same as any other PLM. When a new producer becomes multi-county or combined for the first time, the mainframe will divide the allocation equally among all counties. Then the control county will have authority to access and adjust the allocation.