



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

**Nevada State Technical  
Committee Meeting  
November 14, 2024**



**FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION**  
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# Program Payment Schedule Policy

**Purpose:** Ensure scenarios being developed will meet practice standards and specifications when implemented to avoid partial payments.

Per 600.10G(1)(ii), Payment schedules may not include payments for a stand-alone component or item that does not meet the design requirements of the complete practice.

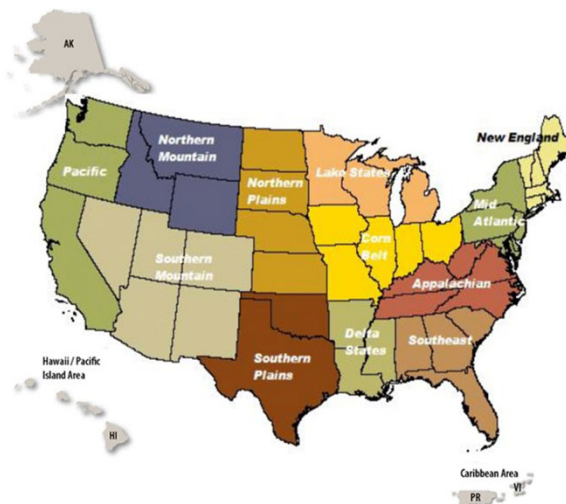
**References:** NRCS policy prohibits payments for individual components or less than a complete practice/activity.

- 440-CPM-530.52C
- 440-CPM-530.54
- 300-PSH-600.02(M)(2)

NOTE: Payment Schedule scenarios are not “components”, even though labelled as such in ProTracts.

# Payment Schedules and Practice Scenarios

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Title 300 – Payment  
Schedule Handbook

Part 600 – Payment  
Schedules

Subpart B – Payment  
Schedule  
Requirements

600.10 General Policy  
Requirements

## H. Payment Scenarios

- The payment schedule scenario is a general description of practice application for a typical resource setting.

### (i) The payment scenario **does**:

- Determine the commonly used components and activities associated with a practice
- Assist the field planner to select the most appropriate scenario for the resource setting regardless of the final payment rate.
- Document the estimated incurred costs, and the most applicable typical payment rate.
- **Broadly approximate** the typical application of a practice to address a resource concern in a region or State.

The first thing we need to do is understand what Payment Scenarios are....and what they are NOT.

**\*\*\*POINT OUT THE HANDBOOK REFERENCE\*\*\***

Discuss the underlined words and summarize.

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Requirements

## H. Payment Scenarios

- The payment schedule scenario is a general description of practice application for a typical resource setting.

### (ii) The payment scenario **does not:**

- Dictate the technical requirements or design of a practice.
- Represent application of a practice for a geographical area less than that of a State.
- Develop a description of every situation that may exist where the practice is applied.

Discuss underlined portions.

**Costing tools....NOT planning tools that were NEVER intended to cover every situation that my pop up out on the landscape.**

## What is Typical?



Typical does not equal average, common or regular

"Typical" is listed 44 times in the handbook, and "Typically" is listed 16 times in the handbook

According to Webster... "exhibiting the essential characteristics of a group"

Broad approximation of an application of a practice

Typical/typically is listed 60 times in the Handbook which is only 46 pages long!!!! In other words, you will see the word "typical" 1.3 times per page. This must mean it is important, right?

What are the ESSENTIAL CHARACTERISTICS needed to be typical? Bells and whistles? Champagne and caviar? What is needed?

The typical scenario should attempt to describe the middle of the bell curve; not the outliers. It should also attempt to describe something that is economically responsible that accomplishes the client's objectives in a way that utilizes public funds wisely.

## County Payment Schedules



County Payment Schedules will be released for fiscal year 2025.

The Associate Chief approved the authorization of County-level payment schedules (cost lists). Cost lists are designed to mirror a county's cost of living adjustment (COLA) increase. It's important to note that not all counties will receive a COLA, and not all states will have counties that receive a COLA. In the absence of a county-specific COLA, the state cost list should be used. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), which is responsible for developing COLA amounts at the beginning of the year, provides these figures. It's important to note that these amounts are typically set at the start of the year and are not subject to change. During payment schedule processing, the system automatically calculates the COLA, which is then reflected as the unit cost. This automation ensures that the correct unit cost is always used, eliminating the need for manual calculations by the states. The changes that should be expected are:

When a county has a COLA, it will have its own cost list for each program. If a county does not have a COLA, they should use the state cost list. When the data is pushed into the National Planning and Agreements Database (NPAD), it is associated with a county based on the office ID. The biggest challenge is an overlap between the offices and the counties. This means that some offices have multiple counties, and some counties have multiple offices. For ProTracts, this can be an annoying visual in the rates views. If the way this is processed challenges CD/CDAA or any other app, please give us details and options on what would work better. We are here to support you in overcoming these challenges. Testing is a crucial step that should be undertaken by the individual dev/test/uat

applications. We also conducted thorough testing last year, so testers have already seen the applications in action, ensuring their reliability.



# County Adjustments

| EQIP 2018 Cost List for Allen, Kansas FY 2024 (KansasEQIP-ALLEN-2024) |                                         |                                                                                                         |       |            |            |           | EQIP 2018 Cost List for Atchison, Kansas FY 2024 (Atchison KS EQIP-1-ATCHISON-2024) |                                         |                                                                                                      |       |            |            |           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|-----------|
| Code                                                                  | Practice                                | Component                                                                                               | Units | Unit Cost  | Cost Share | Cost Type | Code                                                                                | Practice                                | Component                                                                                            | Units | Unit Cost  | Cost Share | Cost Type |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Small Livestock Operations greater than 300 AU with Land Application and Minimal Engineering    | No    | 6582.5000  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Non Dairy Operation Less than 300 AU with Land Application                                   | No    | 7327.8031  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Small Livestock Operations less than 300 AU without Land Application                            | No    | 5241.5000  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Dairy greater than or equal to 700 AU with Land Application                                  | No    | 9707.0541  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Dairy greater than or equal to 700 AU with Land Application                                     | No    | 9546.6700  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Non Dairy Operation greater than 300 AU and less than 700 AU with Land Application        | No    | 9870.9114  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Dairy greater than or equal to 700 AU with Land Application                                  | No    | 11456.0000 | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Small Livestock Operations greater than 300 AU with Land Application and Minimal Engineering | No    | 6693.0860  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Livestock Operations greater than 300 AU without Land Application and Minimal Engineering    | No    | 4476.1500  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design-CHMP Revision                                                                              | No    | 4460.2339  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Small Livestock Operations less than 300 AU with Land Application and Minimal Engineering    | No    | 6233.9900  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Non Dairy Operation Less than 300 AU with Land Application                                | No    | 8793.3576  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Non Dairy Operation Less than 300 AU with Land Application                                   | No    | 8648.0700  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Dairy greater than 300 AU and less than 700 AU with Land Application                      | No    | 10460.1571 | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design-CHMP Revision                                                                                 | No    | 4386.5400  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Small Livestock Operations less than 300 AU without Land Application                         | No    | 5329.5572  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Dairy greater than 300 AU and less than 700 AU with Land Application                            | No    | 8572.7700  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Livestock Operations greater than 300 AU without Land Application                            | No    | 5813.7777  | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design- Non Dairy Operation greater than 300 AU and less than 700 AU with Land Application              | No    | 8089.8500  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Dairy greater than or equal to 700 AU with Land Application                               | No    | 11648.4608 | 100 %      | PR        |
| 101                                                                   | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | HU-Design- Small Livestock Operations greater than 300 AU with Land Application and Minimal Engineering | No    | 7899.0000  | 100 %      | PR        | 101                                                                                 | CHMP Design and Implementation Activity | Design-CHMP Revision                                                                                 | No    | 3716.8616  | 100 %      | PR        |

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Beginning fiscal year 2025, payment schedules will be adjusted at the county-level based on county of living adjustment based on the Office of Personnel Management.

## Nevada County Cost List State Guidance

- Producers must use the cost list of the county where the majority of the work is taking place.

# Wrapping It All Together

## Title 300 – Payment Schedule Handbook

- (ii) Producers or partners who request NRCS provide estimates of total practice implementation costs should be informed that the costs estimated through NRCS technical assistance in the conservation planning process is separate from the financial assistance of the NRCS program. The payment schedules represent a typical scenario and do not include all costs for implementation such as those associated with risk, administration, permitting, etc.
  - (iii) NRCS is responsible for providing the applicable payment rates associated with practice implementation. The applicant is responsible for making the final decision of whether the program payment will provide enough financial assistance to warrant continuing with the application/contract.
  - (iv) Maximum payment percentages established for programs are not cost-share percentages. These percentages are maximum payment limits applied to estimated incurred cost of practice implementation. Actual cost to the individual landowner/producer is not used for the determination of program payment as cost share is no longer calculated in approved contracting software for payment purposes.
- (3) Additional guidance regarding details to identify and document appropriate estimated incurred component costs is in subpart C of this handbook.

### E. Cost Categories

# Payment Rates ≠ Cost Share

Z h#gr#QRW#surylgh#Frw#Wkdul#Z h#Frqwdfw#Sd|p hqW#Jdwhv1

2007

| A             | B                | C                                      | D                                                                            | E         | F         | G         | H          |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Practice_Code | Cost_Share_Progr | Practice_Name                          | Component                                                                    | Unit_Type | Unit_Cost | Cost_Type | Share_Rate |
| 100           | EQIP 2002        | Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan | Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Incentive                            | Ea        | 500       | PR        | 100        |
| 313           | EQIP 2002        | Waste Storage Facility                 | Waste Storage Facility, Earth, Acre feet                                     | AcFt      | 1700      | AC        | 50         |
| 313           | EQIP 2002        | Waste Storage Facility                 | Waste Storage Facility, Concrete, cubic feet                                 | CuFt      | 20        | AC        | 50         |
| 314           | EQIP 2002        | Brush Management                       | Mechanical (root plow, diske harrow, Lawson aerator, other approved methods) | Ac        | 12        | AC        | 50         |
| 314           | EQIP 2002        | Brush Management                       | Mechanical intensive (hydro axe, rollerchop, chaining, dozing, hand pullout) | Ac        | 1385      | AC        | 50         |

VS

2009

| A             | B                  | C                                      | D                                                 | E         | F         | G         | H          |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Practice_Code | Cost_Share_Program | Practice_Name                          | Component                                         | Unit_Type | Unit_Cost | Cost_Type | Share_Rate |
| 100           | EQIP 2002          | Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan | Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Incentive | EA        | 500.00    | PR        | 100        |
| 313           | EQIP 2002          | Waste Storage Facility                 | Concrete storage unit                             | CY        | 250.00    | PR        | 100        |
| 313           | EQIP 2002          | Waste Storage Facility                 | Lined Pond                                        | CY        | 150.80    | PR        | 100        |
| 314           | EQIP 2002          | Brush Management                       | Chemical - Ground & Aerial Application            | Ac        | 37.80     | PR        | 100        |

## Payment Schedule Unique Scenario Identifiers

| Practice Code | Cost Share Program | Practice_Name                                | Component                                       | Unit Type | Unit Cost | Cost Type | Share Rate |
|---------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| 325           | EQIP               | High Tunnel System                           | High Tunnel System Gothic Style                 | SqFt      | \$3.28    | PR        | 100        |
| 325           | EQIP               | High Tunnel System                           | HU-High Tunnel System Gothic Style              | SqFt      | \$3.94    | PR        | 100        |
| 325           | EQIP               | High Tunnel System                           | Pr-High Tunnel System Gothic Style              | SqFt      | \$3.94    | PR        | 100        |
| 325           | EQIP               | High Tunnel System                           | Wp-High Tunnel System Gothic Style              | SqFt      | \$3.94    | PR        | 100        |
| E314A         | CStwP              | Brush management to improve wildlife habitat | SU-Brush management to improve wildlife habitat | Ac        | \$23.62   | PR        | 100        |

| Name                     | Prefix |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Historically Underserved | HU     |
| Supplemental Payment     | SU     |
| Source Water Protection  | Wp     |
| High Priority Practice   | Pr     |

Currently there are four unique identifiers in payment schedules. They are “HU” for Historically Underserved, “SU” Supplemental Payment, “Wp” Source Water Protection, and “Pr” High Priority Practice.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) High Priority Practices

The 2028 Farm Bill authorizes NRCS to provide higher payment rates for practices and activities that address High Priority Practices and Source Water Protection.

States may designate up to 10 High priority practices eligible for increased payment that:

1. Address water quality impairment due to excess nutrients
2. Address water conservation,
3. Meet other identified priority RCs in habitat or other area restoration plans, or
4. Are geographically targeted to a specific watershed

High priority practices (Pr) are coded differently from Source Water Protection practices (Wp) in the payment schedules

## State Priority Resource concerns (Pr):

- 314- Brush Management
- 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- 340 - Cover Crop
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 516- Livestock Pipeline
- 528- Prescribed Grazing
- 533- Pumping Plant
- 550- Range Planting
- 612- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- 614- Watering Facility

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Source Water Protection

Source water protection – protection of drinking water by implementing practices where those waters can be protected or improved.

Additionally, states will:

1. Identify local priority areas, and
2. Identify practices that address water quality and/or water quantity, and
3. Offer producers increased incentives and higher payment rates

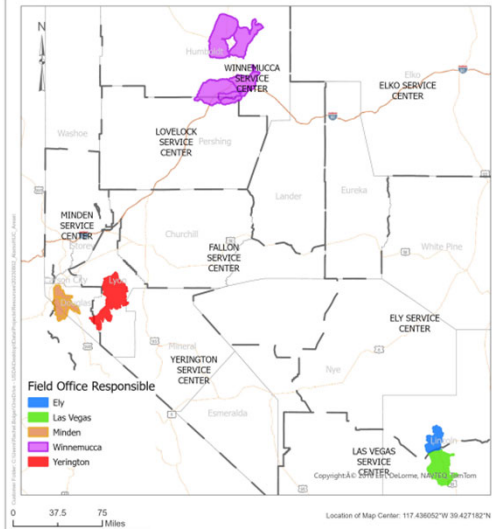
- Note: HPP's may be the same as SWP practices if the HPP's meet the SWP criteria.
- Refer to 530.403F for additional guidance.



## Source Water Protection Practices Priority resource concerns (WP)

- 340 - Cover Crop
- 430 - Irrigation Pipeline
- 442 - Sprinkler System
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 464 - Irrigation Land Leveling
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 587 - Structure for Water Control
- 590 - Nutrient Management
- 595 - Pest Management Conservation System
- 614 - Watering Facility

## Nevada Source Water Protection Areas 2024





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# How you can influence changes to the cost list



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## Quarterly Releases

The National Payment Schedule Core Team will be implementing quarterly releases (i.e., October, January, April, and July).

Quarterly releases will provide frequent waves of new practices and scenarios, offering fresh opportunities for growth and innovation.

Quarterly releases will include new practices, scenarios, omissions, and corrections.

From 2015 to 2024, states submitted waiver requests to add approximately 41,708 omitted scenarios or changes to existing payment schedules. There have been approximately 108,499 items added to cost list at least one day or more after initial release to business applications. States have submitted waiver requests historically due to various omissions. These requests are typically made at least months after the approved payment schedules (i.e., cost lists) are transmitted to contracting software applications such as Protracts, Conservation Desktop, Conservation Desktop Applications and Agreements, and the National Planning and Agreements Database.

# New Component Requests and Price Reconsideration Requests

3 itemized quotes (should represent the state)

Component pricing should represent the typical situation not the most expensive available on the market.

## Cost Details:

| Component Name                                       | ID   | Description                                                                                                                                                                                          | Unit        | Cost     | QTY | Total      |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|----------|-----|------------|
| <b>Equipment Installation</b>                        |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |          |     |            |
| Excavation, Common Earth, side cast, small equipment | 48   | Bulk excavation and side casting of common earth with hydraulic excavator with less than 1 CY capacity. Includes equipment and labor.                                                                | Cubic Yards | \$2.26   | 5   | \$11.30    |
| Earthfill, Manually Compacted                        | 50   | Earthfill, manually compacted, includes equipment and labor                                                                                                                                          | Cubic Yards | \$5.65   | 45  | \$254.25   |
| <b>Labor</b>                                         |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |          |     |            |
| General Labor                                        | 231  | Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc. | Hours       | \$27.83  | 10  | \$278.30   |
| <b>Materials</b>                                     |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |          |     |            |
| Rock Riprap, Placed with geotextile                  | 44   | Rock Riprap, placed with geotextile. Includes materials, local delivery within 20 miles of quarry, and placement.                                                                                    | Cubic Yards | \$144.13 | 2   | \$288.26   |
| Aggregate, Gravel, Graded                            | 46   | Gravel. Includes materials and local delivery within 20 miles of quarry or pit. Placement costs are not included.                                                                                    | Cubic Yards | \$33.82  | 5   | \$169.10   |
| Pipe, CMP, 36 in., 12 Gauge                          | 1825 | 36 inch Corrugated Metal Pipe, Galvanized, Uncoated, 12 gauge. Material cost only.                                                                                                                   | Feet        | \$62.87  | 40  | \$2,514.80 |
| <b>Mobilization</b>                                  |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                      |             |          |     |            |
| Mobilization, medium equipment                       | 1139 | Equipment with 70-150 HP or typical weights between 14,000 and 30,000 pounds.                                                                                                                        | Each        | \$246.15 | 2   | \$492.30   |

## New Component Requests

Please attach a narrative that clearly documents the criteria below.

- **Is there a component already available?** Please review the Comprehensive Component List available in the Payment Schedule Application (PSA) and the list of archived components.
- **Provide a general description of the proposed component.** (Include the general purpose, what and why it is necessary, typical size, etc.).
- **Is the proposed component typical?** Is it representative of the industry majority and/or a common cultural practice?
- **Are their technical requirements/specifications?** (i.e. ASTM standards, engineering drawings, manufacturer specifications, images/photos etc.). Please include with the request.
- **Current vendor/supplier resources and information.** (i.e. invoices, websites, catalogs, addresses and sales contact, etc.). Multiple data sources are preferred. However, one data source is acceptable. The data needs to be recent enough; within 1 year is the typical goal

## Price Reconsideration Request

Please document the following:

- **Brief description of the issue** with the current component cost. What makes the request necessary for successful practice implementation?
- **Justification that the cost reconsideration is based on a representative industry average** or majority and NOT an isolated brand or vendor associated cost.
- **Vendor/supplier resources and information** that are currently no more than one year, (i.e. invoices, websites, catalogs, addresses, sales contact and any additional useful information such as photos/drawing and specifications.

## Questions?

