

**NB 300-14-14 LTP – Honey Bee Pollinator Guidance – Fiscal Year (FY) 2014**

**National Bulletin:** 300-14-14 **Date:** January 9, 2014  
**Subject:** LTP – Honey Bee Pollinator Guidance – Fiscal Year (FY) 2014

**Action Required By: January 31, 2014**

**Purpose.** To provide State Conservationists (STCs) in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin with guidance for administering during FY 2014 the Honey Bee Pollinator (HBP) effort funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP).

**Expiration Date.** September 30, 2014

**Background.** To support efficient delivery of this focused opportunity to eligible producers, this bulletin provides guidance to support development or enhancement of HBP habitat with technical and financial assistance offered through EQIP and WHIP during FY 2014. State Conservationists (STC) are to use the attachment A guidance to prepare to offer this opportunity in a timely manner when program funding is allocated.

**Explanation.** This guidance establishes action items to be completed by STCs to support the HBP effort. Delivery and management of the program opportunity is subject to all agency program rules and policies including requirements in Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual (CPM), Part 512, "Conservation Program Contracting."

**Target Species and Participating States for FY 2014**

Species	Priority Locations
Honey Bee Pollinators (Apis mellifera)	Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin

In order to support the HBP effort during FY 2014, STCs, in regard to ProTracts please see National Bulletin 300-14-9, "LTP – National Programmatic and Landscape Conservation Initiative Guidance – Fiscal Year (FY) 2014."

States are to establish subaccounts and populate the ranking evaluation criteria in the ProTracts AERT and other actions no later than Friday, **January 31, 2014**.

**Core & Supporting Practices.**—Carefully review the guidance provided for the HBP to determine which practices are required to be offered. If a State does not need to offer one or more of the required or core practices (e.g., the practice is not needed to address a resource concern), the STC must notify the Financial Assistance Program Division (FAPD) EQIP Team leader by email which practices will not be offered.

States are encouraged, but not required, to offer all supporting practices listed in the attached guidance document. If a supporting practice is not needed by a State, or if additional supporting practices will be offered by a State, the STC should notify the FAPD EQIP Team leader by email stating why it will not be offered. If a State wants to add a practice, it must likewise notify the FAPD EQIP Team leader. Additional supporting practices offered by States must be consistent with the criteria below.

1. The proposed supporting conservation practice is needed to directly support a required or core practice.
2. The purpose of the proposed supporting conservation practice standard addresses one or more of the HBP effort natural resource concerns.
3. The national Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE) database indicates the proposed practice is assigned a "positive" value for the associated resource concern.

States are responsible for associating required core, and supporting practices with the new nationally approved resource concerns in ProTracts AERT, as indicated in the attached guidance document.

**Application Periods.**—In order to implement this HBP effort in fiscal year 2014, STCs may select the February 21, 2014, or March 21, 2014, application cutoff dates.

**Public Affairs - Outreach.**—State Conservationists may announce application periods for HBP at any time. No State media announcements of approved funding levels of the HBP effort may be made until after the national-level announcement, which will be issued from the Chief.

**Types in ProTracts.**—The HBP effort provides EQIP financial assistance for livestock-related projects; State Conservationists must ensure that applications are properly associated with the appropriate "Livestock Type," which is, "Bees."

The HBP effort provides WHIP financial assistance for habitat types; State Conservationists must ensure that applications are properly associated with the appropriate "habitat type," which is, "Pollinator."

**Contact.** If you have any questions regarding this guidance, contact the program manager listed in the attachment to this bulletin. If you have general questions about FAPD program rules or contracting guidance, contact Mark Rose, Director, FAPD, at (202) 720-1844 or [mark.rose@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:mark.rose@wdc.usda.gov). If you have any questions regarding technical requirements of this HBP effort, contact Terrell Erickson, Director, Ecological Sciences Division, at (202) 720-5992 or [Terrell.Erickson@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:Terrell.Erickson@wdc.usda.gov).

/s/

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[Attachment A](#)