

October 3, 2003

WEST VIRGINIA BULLETIN NO. WV330-4-2

Subject: MGT – FY 2004 Priorities

Purpose: To transmit information for FY 2004 Priorities

Expiration Date: September 30, 2004

The Natural Resources Conservation Service has made great strides in implementing the 2002 Farm Bill under the leadership of Chief Bruce Knight this past year. In FY-04, NRCS will join other federal agencies in reaching budget and performance integration. The agency will see that by each conservation program resource issues, program activities, outputs, performance measures and outcomes are linked.

As we continue our planning activities for FY 2004, the following priorities should serve as guidelines for evaluating the work we are doing and the new directions we need to address.

- 1. Streamline and Implement Conservation Programs**
- 2. Implement the President's Management Initiatives**
 - **Strategic Management of Human Capital**
 - **Competitive Sourcing**
 - **Improved Financial Performance**
 - **Expanding E-Government**
 - **Budget and Program Integration**
- 3. Increase Outreach Activities and Workforce Diversity**
- 4. Enable Conservation Delivery by modernization and Expansion of Technical Capacity**

In West Virginia, additional priorities include Watershed Operations and Flood Prevention, Watershed Rehabilitation, soil survey mapping areas that need high priority maintenance or updates, and other congressional earmarked projects. All priorities are to be reflected in FY 2004 Budget Decisions, Business Plans, Accountability Systems and Individual Performance Plans.

The President has signed H.J. Resolution 69, which is a Continuing Resolution to fund the Government through October 31, 2003. This means that we will operate assuming that our budget is the same as last year. For the immediate future, Field Offices should expect that their FY-04 Performance Reporting System (PRS) goals are the same as last years performance goals. Progress will be measured based on what Field Office employees record as planned or applied in Toolkit, PROTRACTS, or direct input into PRS.

We anticipate finalizing the state business and performance plans after the appropriations bill are passed and signed into law. These priorities are being furnished to you for your use in the business planning process for FY 2004 by looking at your specific workloads and local initiatives of our partners.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Piper at 304-284-7543 or your ASTC – FO.

/s/ Richard Heaslip, Acting for

**LILLIAN V. WOODS
State Conservationist**

DIST: AE