



United States Department of Agriculture

Attachment C

Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (SHT)

Description/Summary: The purpose of the Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops is to assist producers to extend the growing season for high value crops in an environmentally safe manner. The practice has the potential to assist producers to address resource concerns by improving plant quality, improving soil quality, and reducing nutrient and pesticide transport.

Cropland is the only approved land use for SHT initiative.

Seasonal High Tunnel is the only practice eligible for this initiative.

Screening is not required for NOI applications.

Business rules for ranking questions are available on the programs Utah SharePoint site: Programs -> FY 2014 -> Business Rules

Additional initiative guidance:

- a. Under 798, crops must be grown in the ground and the area covered may not exceed 5% (2,178 square feet) of an eligible acre per year. This can be one or more structures, and one or more contracts, for a maximum of five percent of one acre coverage. If a SHT was implemented in previous fiscal years an applicant is still eligible to apply for a SHT in FY2014.
- b. The seasonal high tunnel practice is gaining recognition in many populated or urbanized areas. NRCS must consider and support all producers who submit an application regardless of where their operation is located. It is important to note that program eligibility is not limited based on zoning. There is a common misconception that areas zoned as "urban" or "residential" (or other similar zoning types) are not eligible based on the zoning classification. However, while the applicant and land may meet program eligibility requirements, zoning or other local regulation may restrict a participant from installing certain practices. Participants who carry out conservation practices are responsible for obtaining the authorities, rights, easements, permits, or other approvals necessary for the implementation, operation, and maintenance of the conservation practices in keeping with the applicable laws and regulations.
- c. Niels Hansen is the UT Seasonal High Tunnel technical contact (niels.hansen@ut.usda.gov). James Huggard is the program contact for the seasonal high tunnel initiative james.huggard@ut.usda.gov .