Technical Assurance: What is it? Why is it Important?

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Pertinent Terminology and Acronyms

- **Technical Assistance = TA**
  - (aka Conservation Technical Assistance = CTA)

- **Technical and Administrative Assistance = T & A**

- **Technical Approval Authority = TAA**
  - (aka Job Approval Authority = JAA)

- **Technical Quality Assurance = TQA**
  - (aka Technical Assurance)
Technical Quality Assurance – What is it?

- Wikipedia – No definition for Technical Quality Assurance

- Quality Assurance: Administrative and procedural measures in a quality management system to ensure fulfillment of requirements and goals for a product, service or activity.

- Quality Assurance principles:
  - "Fit for the purpose", and
  - "Right the first time"

  Just add “Technical”
Technical Quality Assurance – Why is it Important?

- More grant funding and increased accountability
  - Office of Grants Management (OGM) established Sep. 2007
- Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment (2008)
  - FY 15 total all funds approx. $300M
  - FY 15 Clean Water Funds approx. $100M (33%)
Goal: Ensure long-term public benefit of practices and projects.

Grant recipient responsibilities:

- Technical assistance provider credentials
- Practice standards
- Practice certification
- Operation and maintenance plan
- Periodic inspection
BWSR Grants Admin Manual
Project Assurances Diagram
Sources of Technical Assistance for Technical Quality Assurance

- SWCD or NRCS staff with TAA
- SWCD TSA engineering staff
- USDA-certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs)
- Other qualified private consultants and vendors
- County engineers
SWCD Technical Assistance – Training and Credentialing

- BWSR coordinated SWCD TAA inventory and survey (2012)
- SWCD Technical Assistance and Capacity Summit (June 11, 2014)
- BWSR Exec. Director meetings with SWCD lead staff (summer 2014)
- BWSR coordinating with MASWCD and NRCS to follow up
- SWCD / LCD technical training and certification in other states
  - Wisconsin:
  - Ohio:
  - Missouri:
Presenter Transition