



Missouri  
Department of  
Natural Resources

Cow Creek AgNPS SALT Final Report

The Cow Creek Agricultural Nonpoint Source (AgNPS) Special Area Land Treatment (SALT) Project is located in the center of Saline County. The project covers 34,388 acres, which 70 percent of the area is cropland, 20 percent is pasture, 4 percent is woodland and 6 percent is urban and streams.

The primary purpose of this project was to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality by limiting nutrients and chemicals entering the streams. Because of the heavy cropping in this watershed, there were very high applications of nitrogen fertilizers used on corn crops as well as herbicides and pesticides that were used on the soybean acres. Original goals were set by the AgNPS SALT Projects Steering Committee and the Saline Soil & Water Conservation District board. These goals included improving and maintaining water quality and quantity, as well as reducing soil erosion. With the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP's), 81.34 percent of our project goals were met. The most successful BMP's were the reduction of Atrazine and Non-Residual Pesticides. Many operators in this watershed cropped to the edge of streams without a border or filter strip, which made water quality a very high concern.

During the project, the following accomplishments were made toward reaching the overall project goals.

Water Quality Plans Written	75 plans
Erosion on Crop Acres Reduced to T	2,095 acres
Introduced Forage Legume in Rotation	17 acres
Installed BMP's to Reduce Gully Erosion	77 acres
Installed Riparian Corridor Along Streams	14.4 acres
Reduced Atrazine on Corn Acres	15,237 acres
Used Non-Residual Pest on Crop Acres	16,928 acres
Introduced No-Till on Crop Acres	6,885 acres
Provided Education Workshops for Operator	85 operators

Another successful part of the Cow Creek Project was the information and education. Four newsletters were sent each year to every operator in the watershed and the out-of-state landowner in the project area. Burn workshops and no-till demonstrations were held in the watershed, along with a poster contest which targeted nine different schools with Children from 3rd to 6th grade. During the seven year project, two original goals were not successful, these included the grazing plans and private drinking sources tested.

With the completion of the Cow Creek project, the Saline County SWCD board and the project committee felt the Cow Creek AgNPS SALT project was a success. The success of this project raised additional interest with the landowners in the Finney Creek AgNPS SALT project, which began July 2002. The BMP's which were implemented by the landowners in this watershed will benefit the county for many years.

The Cow Creek AgNPS SALT project provided new and innovative conservation treatments to nonpoint sources of pollution and showed how government agencies can combine their resources to provide an effective conservation plan to benefit all citizens.