

SOIL AND WATER Resources

Volume 11 - Issue 2

July 2009

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Commission Approves Allocation Formula for Fiscal Year 2010 Cost-Share Funds

At its May meeting, the Soil and Water Districts Commission approved the allocation formula for fiscal year 2010 for cost-share funds with an anticipated appropriation of \$26 million; no district will receive less than its average amount claimed from FY05-08.

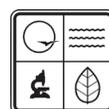
The formula stabilizes the amount of money spent on sheet/rill and gully practices grouping them into

one concern, and the other nine resource concerns will each receive an independent allocation. The formula utilizes past dollars claimed and information gathered from the needs assessments. It also provides the commission

with a measurable set of goals to work toward. A spreadsheet showing each district's allocation is attached to Memo 2009-026 available on the SWCP Web site, <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/swcp/correspondence.htm>.

During the work session, it was also discussed that districts that have obligated at least 80 percent of their funds may have the opportunity to receive more funds in that resource concern. This additional funding may become possible later in the year with the consent of the commission to over allocate in a particular resource concern. These additional allocations will depend on the total amount obligated for each particular resource concern and revenue projections from the sales tax.

Resource Concerns Allocation Based on Proposed Formula			
Resource Concerns	Statewide Allotment Based on Proposed Formula	Percent Funded of Anticipated FY 2010 Appropriation	Acre/Site Goals
Sheet/Rill and Gully Erosion	\$17,973,523.39	69.13%	34,848 ac.
Woodland Erosion	\$471,378.02	1.81%	9,040 ac.
Irrigation Management	\$707,387.67	2.72%	16,446 ac.
Sensitive Areas	\$973,094.79	3.74%	1,540 ac.
Animal Waste	\$404,233.00	1.55%	15 sites
Nutrient Management	\$786,728.50	3.03%	26,293 ac.
Pest Management	\$319,992.75	1.23%	21,333 ac.
Groundwater Protection	\$512,346.43	1.97%	386 sites
Grazing Management	\$3,893,060.48	14.97%	25,485 ac.
Streambank Erosion	\$170,693.60	0.66%	16,781 ft.
Statewide Allocation	\$26,212,438.64	100.82%	



Missouri Department
of Natural Resources
Soil and Water Conservation Program

The allocation process is in a transitioning phase expanding the cost-share docket to address other agricultural nonpoint source issues identified by the districts. The allocation amount for each resource concern will change from year to year based on the input from the districts through the needs assessments and possible special priorities identified in the state's nonpoint water pollution management plan. Information regarding updating your needs assessment will be provided very soon. We are anticipating the final needs assessments for FY11 will be due Nov. 1, 2009.

General Assembly Passes Bill Making Water Quality Practices Available Statewide

Due to the passage of House Bill 250 by the General Assembly, local soil and water conservation districts will have additional practices to address water quality concerns on agricultural land. House Bill 250 changes the current soil and water conservation statute language to be consistent with the constitutional amendment language. The original statute reads, "Soil and water conservation cost-share program, a state-funded incentive program designed for the purpose of saving the soil of the state through erosion control and abatement." The amended statute reads, "Soil and water conservation cost-share program, a state-funded incentive program designed for the purpose of saving the soil **and protecting the water resources** of the state **to preserve the productive power of Missouri agricultural land.**"

Typically after a bill is signed by the governor it becomes a law on Aug. 28, but if the bill contains an emergency clause, it allows implementation as soon as it is signed. HB250 contains an emergency clause and will become law the day it is signed. Funding will be available July 1 for districts that included water quality practices in their needs assessments. The additional water quality practices available are listed in the corresponding chart.

Additional Water Quality Practices Available Statewide July 1, 2009

- N317 Composting Facility
- N332 Contour Buffer Strips
- N585 Contour Stripcropping
- N386 Field Border
- N393 Filter Strip
- N316 Incinerator
- N442 Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- N443 Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- N447 Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
- N430 Irrigation Water Conveyance
- N634 Manure Transfer
- N590 Nutrient Management
- N595 Pest Management
- N655 Restoration of Skid Trails, Logging Roads, Stream Crossings and Log Landings
- N391 Riparian Forest Buffer
- N725 Sinkhole Treatment
- N574 Spring Development
- N587 Structure for Water Control
- N472 Use Exclusion
- N312 Waste Management System
- N633 Waste Utilization
- N351 Well Decommissioning
- C050 Alternative Watering System
- C650 Streambank Stabilization
- C100 Timber Harvest Plans

Commission Adds to DSP 3.3 Fence Policy

At the May meeting, the commission modified the DSP 3.3 Fence policy for grazing systems to include other types of deterrent fencing such as four-strand barbed wire fence. The new policy reads, "The Grazing System DSP 3.3 Fence practice is for the cost components for deterrent fencing necessary to install or intensify the grazing system. These components will be installed according to the NRCS Standard and Specifications for Fence, Code 382. The number of paddocks or number of acres must be increased in an existing system to utilize this practice. The maximum cost-share for this practice is \$60/acre and will be based on the number of acres within the paddocks where fencing is installed." The addition reads, "Cost-share will be provided based upon the least cost, minimum and necessary wire component. In most cases, this will be high tensile electric. However, if

the board of supervisors determines that fencing other than high tensile electric is the minimum and necessary for soil and water conservation for implementing the grazing system, then cost-share can be provided to install other types of deterrent fencing such as four-strand barbed wire fence. The board's justification must be properly documented as a practice plan note in the Missouri Soil and Water Information Management System for deterrent fencing when components other than high tensile wire are used." Justification is for documentation purposes only and will not determine eligibility. This addition to the policy went into effect May 27.

Commission Approves Consolidation of Cost-Share Component List

The commission approved grouping cost-share components together based on the minimum and necessary extents needed for seeding and site preparation practices which will result in consistent statewide cost-share payments and simplified administration of the cost-share program. The commission also approved staff to work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to consolidate available components for other practices to more closely parallel federal programs and bring back further recommendations for FYI I cost-share components.

Paying on minimum and necessary will allow the commission to fund more cost-share practices, and district requests for cost-share funds through the needs assessment will be more consistent in how districts elect to reimburse landowners. It will also reduce the number of components to collect cost data on and develop a state average cost for each year.

Commissioners Endorse Policy and Rule Changes to the Election Process

In an effort to make the supervisor election process as transparent as possible and encourage more voter participation, the commission developed policy to provide further direction to districts on the election process. At the May meeting, the commission voted to establish policy and begin the rule promulgation process. If these policies are effective in making the process more transparent and increasing voter participation, then the commission will cease the

election rules promulgation process with the Secretary of State.

The new policy is effective for all elections held after July 1, unless the nominating committee has already forwarded names to the district for an election prior to July 1, 2009. Some of the policies are mandatory and others are voluntary. Districts will be reimbursed for conducting the additional election policies.

New policies include:

- **Newspaper Election Advertisement (mandatory)** – Districts shall place an advertisement, in a newspaper of general circulation, with information about the district and the proposed election not less than three months before the election. The advertisement shall identify the three-member nominating committee and provide the district office phone number to enable a cooperator to submit their name for consideration. The district shall place a second advertisement in the same newspaper two months prior to the election to inform the public of individuals nominated. This advertisement needs to include the date, time and place of the election, as well as the rules to have their name placed on the ballot through petitions. Districts will be reimbursed up to \$500 for both advertisements.
- **Mailing Costs of Advertisement to Cooperators (voluntary)** – Districts may mail copies of the second advertisement to cooperator areas due for elections. Districts will be reimbursed up to \$100 for the cost of mailing the second advertisement.
- **Reimbursement for Keeping Election Polls Open (voluntary)** – Districts may be reimbursed to keep the polls open the hours of 12-6 p.m. to allow landowners to vote. Districts may also use this funding for food for an open house, etc. to encourage more participation. Districts are encouraged to keep the polls open longer than the timeframe outlined in this policy. Districts will need to provide a copy of the election certification to verify times polls were open. Districts will be reimbursed up to \$100 for the cost of keeping the polls open during this time period.

The commission also directed program office staff to begin the rules promulgation process to change the election rules. According to commission

guidance, the rules would be changed to allow any land representative, as defined by the rules, in the election area to run for office without having to get a petition of 10 landowner signatures. The nominating committee would only be used if no one in the area asked for their name to be placed on the ballot. In addition to the guidance provided for placing a name on the ballot, the commission also considered rule changes to make the voting process less restrictive. The commission would like to pursue the option of mailing ballots to all land representatives listed as a cooperator in the Missouri Soil and Water Information Management System. These ballots could be returned by mail to the district office. Also, the commission would still require the districts to have an open poll for land representatives not currently a cooperator to vote. These proposed election rule changes will be discussed further at area meetings in late August. If you have any questions, please contact your district coordinator.

Commission Removes Three Year Maximum on N590, N633 and N595 Practices

The commission approved a policy change to the N590 Nutrient Management, N633 Waste Utilization and N595 Pest Management practices, in which landowners/operators can receive incentives until they have reached a lifetime practice maximum. Previous policy included a maximum of three years of payment for each incentive practice. Lifetime practice maximums for the N590 and/or N633 combination are \$13,500 and \$7,500 for the N595. This streamlines the administration process and allows the producer to start with limited acres to try the practices. It will also help with implementation of these practices statewide. Participants will continue to receive up to three payments per field, and management plans must be followed in consecutive years to remain eligible for payment.

Update on the Technician II Certification Program

Since the beginning of the technician certification program, 88 district technicians passed all four tests and have their baseline certification. Lincoln University developed the test to assess the skill level and training needs of current technicians in the

areas of soils, surveying, conservation planning and conservation practices. Districts with technicians who pass the tests may receive an increase in their personnel grant, depending on the rate of pay that the technician is currently being paid. Lincoln University plans on holding baseline technician certification testing quarterly.

Lincoln University is currently developing the next phase of district technician certification in which four new certifications will be offered. Those new certifications include nutrient, pest and grazing management and pre-engineering for ponds, in which the district technician has the knowledge and skills to design a pond but staff from NRCS will still sign off on it. More details will follow as the tests are finalized.

For FY10, the commission has set aside \$164,005 for baseline technician certification and the new certification areas. For more information on technician certification, contact Ken Struempf or Bill Wilson at 573-751-4932.

Program Office Provides Training Modules to Educate New Supervisors

As district elections take place across the state, newly elected supervisors may want more information concerning the soil and water conservation district or their new roles as district supervisors. In an effort to help with the transition, the Soil and Water Conservation Program recently consolidated several sources of information into four modules that are available to district boards for training purposes. These modules should make it easier for recently elected supervisors to become familiar with their positions or can be used as a refresher for some of the more seasoned board members.

The four modules are broken down into Background and Overview, Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes, District Boards and the Sunshine Law. These cover basic information that is useful for board members.

Contact your district coordinator to cover these training modules at a board meeting or another time of the supervisors' choice. The modules are also posted on the SWCD Intranet site, <http://www.swcd.mo.gov/internal/sp.htm>.



Retiring Missouri State Conservationist, Roger Hansen, center, is shown holding a plaque of appreciation presented by Soil and Water Districts Chairman Leon Kreisler, left, and Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director Mike Wells, right. Hansen served as the State Conservationist for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in Missouri since Aug. 6, 1995. As State Conservationist, he was responsible for the management and direction of all NRCS operations in the state. He retired on June 3. Dwaine Gelnar is the acting Missouri State Conservationist until a replacement is named.

Green Named State Winner of Missouri FFA Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award

Jarrold Green, of the Norborne FFA Chapter, Norborne, Mo., was named state winner of the Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management Proficiency Award at the 81st Missouri FFA Convention held in Columbia, Mo., April 16-17.

Green, a junior at Norborne R-VIII High School, is the Son of Randy and Debbie Green. His advisors are Brenda Smith and Jennifer Courtney.

As an FFA member, Green attended the 2008 State FFA Convention and State FFA Public Speaking Academy. He was a 2008 State Fair Exhibitor and 2008 Area Fair Exhibitor. Outside of FFA, he has served as freshman and sophomore class president. Green's Supervised Agricultural Experience program includes visiting local farmers and helping them remove scrap off their farms to make it more environmentally friendly. He became interested in the recycling business because it has little competition and he thought it was a good way to

earn extra money. He plans to attend the University of Missouri-Kansas City and plans to pursue a degree in Environmental Engineering.

Proficiency awards recognize FFA members who excel as agricultural entrepreneurs, employees or volunteers while gaining hands-on career experience. Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management is one of 47 proficiency awards presented at state level and was sponsored by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

The Missouri FFA has 24,410 members representing 317 chapters. The national organization has more than 507,000 members representing 7,439 local chapters in 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin Islands.

The FFA mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.

{Source: Missouri FFA Convention Media Web Site at <http://agebb.missouri.edu/news/moffaconv/>}



Jarrold Green, of the Norborne FFA Chapter, accepts his first place Environmental Science and Natural Resource Management Proficiency Award from Mark N. Templeton, Director of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

New Staff Members

Join the Program Office

Steve Walker recently joined the Soil and Water Conservation Program on April 27. He is an environmental specialist for the special practices unit.

Walker was born and raised in Hastings, Nebraska and previously worked for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality for more than 25 years. After moving to Columbia in early 2008, he took a job with an environmental consulting firm, MEC Water Resources, Inc., before accepting a position with the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

He has a degree in agriculture from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and also holds a master's degree in forestry, fisheries and wildlife, specializing in fisheries biology.

Much of Walker's previous work experience in Nebraska and MEC involved nonpoint source pollution monitoring and abatement, evaluation of innovative best management practices and watershed management projects. He is looking forward to continuing that type of work for the Department.

During his free time, Walker enjoys traveling to scenic and historic places, fishing, golfing, attending sporting events and collecting baseball memorabilia and American Indian artifacts.



Jesse Higginbotham is the new district coordinator for the south central part of the state. He started on April 28 and is stationed in Jefferson City.

Higginbotham, who is originally from Nashville, Tenn., worked for Mill Creek Landscaping in Columbia as a

landscape designer/salesman for the past two years.

He attended the University of Tennessee-Knoxville where he majored in plant sciences with an emphasis in landscape design and construction.

He is looking forward to working at the Department because soil and water quality issues are becoming increasingly important, and he wanted to get involved in working directly with the current problems landowners are facing in the state.

When he is not at work, Higginbotham enjoys spending time with his girlfriend, playing fetch with his dogs, mountain-biking, hiking and doing anything outdoors.

Pembroke Hill Wins Top Spot at State Envirothon

Talk about bursting onto the scene. In only its second year participating in the Missouri Envirothon, Pembroke Hill High School won the 2009 state competition, held May 7 in Camdenton.

It's been an impressive two years for the private Kansas City high school. Not only did they win this year, but they also placed second in last year's competition; seems like this school is looking to dominate for years to come.

The Envirothon consists of high school students competing at five outdoor testing stations – aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife and the 2009 current conservation issue, biodiversity in a changing world. Test stations require the five-student teams to answer a variety of both hands-on and written natural resource questions. Each team also gives an oral presentation to a panel of judges.

The team will go on to compete at the 2009 Canon Envirothon in Asheville, N.C., Aug. 2-8. The Envirothon is North America's largest high school natural resources competition, with more than 40 states and seven Canadian provinces competing at the national level.

Sponsors for the Missouri Envirothon include the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, local soil and water conservation districts, the Missouri Department of Conservation, the Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Districts Employee Association, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, the University of Missouri Extension and the Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

In this year's state competition, 20 teams competed. The placement results of all the teams are listed on the following page.

The top 10 teams came from five of the seven regional events held throughout the state.

1. Pembroke Hill High School – Jackson County
2. Parkway North B – St. Louis County
3. Parkway North A – St. Louis County
4. Eureka High School – St. Louis County
5. Ava High School – Douglas County
6. Blue Springs South A – Jackson County
7. Boone County Career Center – Boone County
8. Valle Catholic High School – Ste. Genevieve County
9. Licking High School – Texas County
10. Oak Grove High School – Jackson County
11. North Shelby A – Shelby County



First place winners of the Missouri Envirothon, Pembroke Hill from Kansas City, pose with their award. Back row left to right, Thomas Hodgman, Richard Wright, Isaac Alpert, Peter Vale, front row, Advisor SueAnne Wright and Austin Caldwell.

Regular Cost-Share and AgNPS SALT Snapshot

Allocated:	\$34.2 million
Obligated:	\$29 million
Claimed:	\$22.4 million
Obligated Contracts:	6,835
Contracts Paid:	5,005
As of June 23, 2009	

12. North Shelby B – Shelby County
13. Norborne High School – Carroll County
14. Houston High School – Texas County
15. Pilot Grove High School – Cooper County
16. Blue Springs South B – Jackson County
17. South Holt B – Holt County
18. Mark Twain High School – Ralls County
19. Mexico High School – Audrain County
20. South Holt A – Holt County

For more information about the regional competition dates, contact your local soil and water conservation district office. For more information on the Missouri Envirothon, contact Peggy Lemons at 573-893-5188, ext. 3 or Judy Stinson at 573-751-1783.

Missouri Envirothon and FFA Team Up for Pilot Project in 2010

Beginning in 2010, Missouri Envirothon scores for FFA teams will be used for the wildlife qualifying scores for the state FFA awards. Missouri Envirothon and Missouri FFA are coordinating this pilot project, which allows Missouri FFA to send teams to the national FFA competition to compete in wildlife. The 2010 Envirothon year officially starts with the fall regional competitions held in October for some of the Missouri Envirothon regions. This means that the Missouri Envirothon will need to be held the week of the Missouri FFA State Convention in 2010. The date selected for the Missouri Envirothon is April 13, 2010, at the Runge Nature Center in Jefferson City. Teams still need to qualify to advance from regional competitions to the state competition.



SOIL AND WATER *Resources*

This publication is produced after each Soil and Water Districts Commission meeting by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Program. Funds for this publication are provided by Missouri's parks, soils and water sales tax.

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