



10-Minute Supervisor Trainings

Kentucky Soil and Water Conservation Commission

JULY 2010

Soil Erosion and Water Quality Cost Share Program

BACKGROUND: The Kentucky Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost Share Program was established in 1994 by the Kentucky General Assembly to help producers engaged in Agriculture and/or Silviculture operations better address nonpoint source pollution problems. The best management practices approved for Cost Share reduce the loss of topsoil and reduce sediment, animal waste nutrients and other nonpoint source pollutants going into Kentucky's streams, rivers, lakes, and groundwater supplies.

Responsibilities: Who's in charge of what?

Conservation Districts:

- Advertise and solicit applications
- Review & determine the eligibility of all applications
- Boards shall VOTE upon the eligibility of applications at board meeting
- Suggest new cost share practices to the Ky. Soil & Water Conservation Commission
- Administer funds approved for applications, execute contract and ensure maintenance of practice
- Submit to the Kentucky SWCC a monthly report indicating the obligated and unobligated balance of practices for active years
- Submit to the Kentucky SWCC an annual progress report showing accomplishments "to date" for current year program
- Assemble case files for each approved application, filed by program year



NRCS

- Responsible of all technical aspects of state cost share – planning, design, inspections, and certification.

Soil & Water Conservation Commission

- Shall establish for each program year, a deadline for submittal of applications
- Shall evaluate applications based on established criteria and earmark funds for qualified applications as funds are available
- Any contract modifications must be made in writing to the Commission for approval

Now how does this all work?

As funds become available through the Kentucky Division of Conservation Budget to the Kentucky Soil & Water Conservation Commission, the Ky. SWCC will decide when to solicit applications thru the Conservation Districts. The Conservation Districts will then advertise, take applications, review eligibility, and enter all applications into the computer and send to the Kentucky Division of Conservation.



During the time of taking applications, NRCS along with the Conservation District will go out to applicants site and see what practices are needed and advise the applicant as to which practice will work the best to address the nonpoint source problems on his/her operation. Once the applications are received at the Division of Conservation, the applications are then ranked by the scoring criteria established by the SWCC. Once ranked the applications are reviewed during a SWCC board meeting and the decision as to award funding is made. This information is then sent to the Conservation Districts where they in turn notify the applicant of their approval. The applicant then has 1 year to complete their practice. It is during this time that NRCS will assist the applicant in getting the practice designed, constructed, and certified complete. Once the practice has been certified and complete, the Conservation District will submit the proper paperwork requesting the funds from the Division of Conservation. When the funds are received in the Conservation District's account, the applicant can be paid.

PRACTICES LANDOWNERS CAN SIGN UP FOR:

Vegetative Filter Strips	Pesticide Containment Facilities
Sinkhole Protection	Heavy Use Area Protection
Rotational Grazing System Establishment	Water Well Protection
Animal Waste Utilization	Strip Intercropping System
Forest Land Erosion Control Systems	Stream Crossing
Cropland Erosion Control Systems	Streambank Stabilization
Pasture and Hayland Erosion Control	Riparian Area Protection
Agriculture (Animal) Waste Control Facilities	On-Farm Animal Composting
Closure of Agricultural (Animal) Waste Impoundment	
Precision Nutrient Management and Farming Incentives (producers in the MRBI watersheds)	

The Conservation District can also apply for an Environmental Grant. This grant can assist local government with environmental issues (ex. White goods pick up, dead animal removal, illegal dump clean-ups, etc.)

For more detailed information on each practice available for Cost Share, please refer to the current Soil Erosion & Water Quality Cost Share Program manual. This manual should be current and on file at the Conservation District Office.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- 1. What new cost share practices could be used in your area to reduce soil erosion and improve water quality?**
- 2. What results from the state cost share program have you seen in your community?**
- 3. If your district receives an environmental grant, what results have you seen from that? If not, what kind of projects does your community need that could be funded by an environmental grant?**