NRCS State Technical Committee Meeting 9:30am Wednesday, May 18, 2022 UACES, Little Rock, AR and via Zoom

Agenda attached.

Members present: (Sign in Sheets attached)

Welcome and Opening Remarks – Mike Sullivan

- Priorities
 - Urban Conservation
 - Social Justice and Equity
 - Climate Smart
 - State Priority- complete and diverse workforce, including partners
 - State Priority- continue partnerships and build new
- NRCS Staff Activities
 - o 19 New PL566 projects funded \$96 million
 - Currently back to 100% capacity in field offices- subject to COVID numbers
 - Price increases to implement conservation practices has been brought to attention of NRCS-nationally looking for more flexibility/ways to address and improve payment schedule process
- Looking to get input needed for FY23 so that program delivery can occur quickly after the new FY
- Thanked the subcommittees for their work and reiterated the importance of the committees.

Subcommittee Reports

- **Grassland** Jeremy Huff
 - Subcommittee reviewed pasture practice implementation data
 - o Pasture Talks being held weekly and open to anyone interested in pasture management − average 60 − 80 folks participating
 - Thanked AACD, UACES, UAPB and ATTRA, NCAT, AGLC for their outreach
 - Recommendations

- Code 810 multiple new payment scenarios crafted
- New payment scenario for endophyte tall fescue
- Recommended establishing one pasture and hay land scenario that would allow field offices to choose either cool or warm season forage

• Water Quality Report – Canton Ford

- NWQI Existing Projects funded
 - Departee Creek
 - Brush Creek-Roberts Creek
 - Greasy Creek Strawberry River
- Watershed Assessments- shared info on two watershed assessments completed in FY22 for NWQI and MRBI
 - Upper Village Creek NWQI
 - West Craighead- MRBI
- Partners provided updates
 - ADA-NRD -
 - Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy
 - Nonpoint Source Projects Annual Meeting
 - ADEQ working on rules and regulations
 - UACES
 - Forestry Discovery Farm
 - Soil health Field Day at Adam Chappell in Cotton Plant on May 25, 2022
- No formal recommendations

Soil Health Subcommittee – Keith Scoggins

- Multiple partners (30+) attended the meeting
- Reviewed soil health practices usage, cover crop initiative, Climate Smart Ag and Forestry Proposal
- Discussed practices caps tabled until the fall subcommittee meeting
- Large growth in cover crops from 97-2017- discussed any continued barriers to adoption
- Stacking sheds in the Delta is this a practice we need to give more consideration
- o Soil Health Field Day May 25, 2022

- Farm Journal Field Tour June 30, 2022 Bus Tour in Desha County
- No formal recommendations

• Water Quantity – Cory Perrin

- No recommendations at this time.
- Some discussion on AGWI modeling related to groundwater decline
- Irrigation Field Days with the irrigation trailer field days will be open to anyone interested – U of A Extension will partner with NRCS on these events.

• **Energy** - Britt Hill

- Recommendation to establish a small group with collaborate on how the ranking process could be adjusted to ensure sustainability and long-term benefits
- Recommendation to consider removal of an energy scenario under practice code 374.
 - Recover the heated air waste- Recover any hot air to reuse in the heating process. Some of the vents do not function properly which results in the loss of efficiency. Some integrators have them bolted shut to prevent this loss
- Solar panels discussion that most benefits would be seen from houses that have been upgraded recently

• Wildlife – Ryan Diener

- Recommendation to adjust the lifespan of the 646 practice from 5 years to 1 year to allow for annual planning.
- Code 643 gaining use due to the new glade restoration scenario and new implementation sheets will be coming out this summer.
- Code 420- practice should be used for all wildlife plantings. It has the most eco benefits and no fertilizer requirement.
- CRP SAFE FSA is accepting new proposals for state projects.
 - SAFE Proposal a subcommittee will meet to develop a proposal to submit
- o Feral Swine Eradication Project

- Good removal success being seen in places.
- General discussion on some of the resource issues and concerns related to the program

• Forestry – Doug Akin

- Committee reviewed prior year forestry practice implementation data.
- o Reviewed new Climate Smart Ag and Forestry proposal
 - Coastal Plaine will be focus area. Key practice will be 612
 Tree establishment with site prep practices available.
- Noted that several changes to forestry enhancements in CSP have been made
- Recommendation to re-submit the Joint Chief's proposal, after some revision to address new areas, may request \$1.7M a year for 3 years.
 - Waiting for deadline for proposals

• **Urban Conservation** – Troyce Barnett

- o 27 members attended the first Urban Subcommittee meeting.
- o Amanda Perez provided an overview of Urban Ag in Arkansas
- One of the challenges is the high cost of high tunnels, the price has increased greatly in the past year.
- There was discussion to form an internal committee to review recommendations on how best to improve for FY23
- Recommendation- more targeted funds for urban agricultural producers.
- Recommendation more technical assistance with the construction of the high tunnel to ensure it is done properly
- Recommendation- urban conservation should include all communities regardless of size, seek more projects via CIGs, etc.
- Recommendation development of a support group to understand the USDA programs and practices
- Recommendation- CIG funds for high tunnel and plants demonstrations to be held (Compared to Florida NRCS)

- Recommendation- Practice to allow rain barrels be used to irrigate the high tunnels using rainfall.
- Recommendation- Demonstration sites need to be developed to allow small urban producers to be educated on practices, etc. (note all of the sites that are available)
- Recommendation- Demonstrations and practices for washing out equipment, micro-irrigation tape (how to recycle), etc.
- Recommendation- More of an emphasis on pest management in high tunnel and sustainable farming using a pollinator and beneficial insect approach

Outreach, Equity and Inclusion – Alvin Peer

Committee Suggestions

- The goal is to be the bridge between the clients and NRCS to help landowners participate and achieve their goals
- Identify employee training related to soft skills when working with HU producers and cross training
- Create outreach materials with explanations
- Help new farmers/Heir property owners understand requirements when applying for Farm Bill programs
- Irrigation concerns that are limiting programs funding and practice
 use due to state policy that has been implemented through the EQIP
 guide. (Such as: additional work relating to specific acre of
 treatment, or reducing wells size to ensure they are used for irrigating
 crops)
- Looking at data to be consider for unmet funding requests for HU applicants
- Develop a committee to which looks at innovative opportunities (Value added, cooperatives, etc.)

Concerns

- NRCS Guidelines (current)
- Irrigation history on part of the field does not equate to the ability to use irrigation practices to irrigate the remaining portion of the field.

- Does this result in an inequity for HU producers? Subcommittee members stated that they believe it does result in ongoing inequities.
- This practice is the only identified NRCS practice that a producer can't go over and beyond (at the landowner expense) with implementation due to policy which is inequitable.
- Alternative crop producers are regulated by policy when installing
 wells to meet the policy standards in which well drillers are now
 limited to well size much larger than our required standards, this also
 limits the producers from utilizing crop rotation to a degree when
 marketing such as row crop producer with larger acres.
 - o Recommendation: This verbiage should be removed.
- Discussion on how much flexibility the state has in adjusting these items.
 - Mike Sullivan stated that the agency was going to look at this and identify exactly what elements were statutory requirements, what is national and what is within state control

High Priority Practice Designation – Clyde Williams

- See attached PowerPoint
- While the state can identify high priority practices and pay higher payment rates, it is important to note that the program is already heavily oversubscribed. Paying more for practices will affect the number of projects that can be funded/implemented.
- Explanation on how payment rates are calculated
 - Payment rates start are established as a percentage of an overall average cost for practice implementation. For example, if the 100% rate were \$100 per acre to establish practice X.
 - General EQIP- the state currently uses a base rate of 60%.
 i.e. \$60 when 60% is applied to the \$100 (100%) rate
 - Historically Underserved participants qualify for 90% of the \$100 (100% cost) rate. In the example above this would be \$90
 - Some Initiatives (i.e. MRBI) allow for a 75% rate, in this example would be \$75
 - There was interest in perhaps making season high tunnels a high priority practice

Program Updates

Partnership Programs – Dianne Schlenker

- See PowerPoint slides
- Priority Watersheds
 - o MRBI Focus Areas FY23
- Implementation Phase (Multi-year managing program)
- FY22 Funding MRBI Projects
 - Reviewed active MRBI Projects
 - Implementation Phase Funding
 - \$13 million funded but \$22 million requested
- Potential Implementation Phase FY23
 - Four watershed have been submitted for consideration
- RCPP Easement Projects
- New RCPP Proposals
 - o War Eagle Creek Watershed Initiative
 - Conjunctive Water Use Protects Mid-South Aquifer
 - o Both had components for HU producers

Source Water Protection Strategy – Edgar Mersiovsky

- See Powerpoint Slides
- Map Green matches the Groundwater decline areas
- Map Purple matches Source Water areas
- Map Areas in red have been selected for Source Water Protection
 - o Beaver Water
 - Maumelle Area
 - Clarksville
 - o Conway Corp
- Practices
 - o Code 328, 329, 340, 390, 391 & 393
 - o 90% cost share on some of these practices
- Conservation Districts Local Work Group
 - Highlighted in blue responded they have concerns about SWP
- Proposed Addition for FY23
 - Yellow Scott County (Fourche)
 - o Yellow Millwood Lake
 - Related to the poultry industry

Response to LT (animal health – dead bird disposal)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Corey Cornelious

- o Demand remains very high, over 6 thousand apps for EQIP this year
- Climate Smart Ag and Forestry NRCS plan
 - Soil Health & Nitrogen Management w/supporting practices in NE AR – 6 counties
 - Agro Forestry Category
 - I-30 Corridor & Gulf Coastal Plains Area
 - Tree planting along with supporting categories
 - o Rice Category
 - CSAF focus on Tier 3 of AR Groundwater Initiative with supporting practices. Row rice with alternating wet and dry.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - Sherri DeGraphenreed

- Focus on High Priority Practices
 - Soil Health
 - o Crop Rotation
 - Cover Crop Acres
 - o Nutrient Management
 - Discussed the 'cooling off period'. The cooling off period has been waived. 7 CFR 1470.26(c).

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) – Lori Barker

- Provided an overview of the Conservation Innovation Grant program
 - Wants to start earlier
 - Nutrient and Sediment Reduction
 - Irrigation & Irrigation for Alternative Crops
 - Soil Health
 - o Would like input on FY23 Emphasis areas by June 8, 2022
- Provided an overview of the Locally Led Workgroup
- Provided an overview of EQIP, CSP, Climate Smart, Equity & Social Justice, Urban Agriculture and Customer Service and questions related to these programs

 Already has 2023 CIG Areas of Concern and will send out to all subcommittees. Needs answers soon.

Easements and Watershed Programs – Randy Childress (handout attached)

- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) updated committee on acres and contracts restored and what is still remaining.
- Update committee on Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)
 - o 10% funding set up to go to HU landowners
 - 2022 Wetland Reserve Easements 23 contracts
 - o \$21 million for acquisition and restoration
 - Geographic Area Rate Cap has been approved. Next year a new area wide market analysis will be needed.

19 Watershed projects recently funded - \$96M

 List of projects and areas, along with what is funded was provided in handouts (attached)

Closing remarks were made by Mike Sullivan.

- The watershed program is an "old" program but it has been so long since it was really active that it is really like a "new" program.
- NRCS is committed to fully considering the recommendations that were presented, some will require NRCS to dig deeper but we will follow up and be accountable.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

State Technical Committee Meeting Agenda

State Extension Office Building Auditorium 2301 South University, Little Rock, AR 72204

Registration for in-person attendance: https://uada.formstack.com/forms/tech_committee_meeting

Registration for ZOOM: https://uada.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJIrf-Gprz4uGtRZpb1-KGWMv-2 RgmZTJk2

May 18, 2022

9:30 am - 1:30 pm

Welcome & Opening Remarks Mike Sullivan

Subcommittee Reports (max 10 mins each)

Grassland Jeremy Huff Water Quality Canton Ford Soil Health **Keith Scoggins** Water Quantity Cory Perrin Britt Hill Energy Wildlife James Baker Forestry Doug Akin **Urban Conservation** Troyce Barnett Outreach, Equity, and Inclusion Alvin Peer

High Priority Practice Designation Clyde Williams

Lunch

Source Water Protection Strategy Edgar Mersiovsky

Program Updates-

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Corey Cornelious

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Sherri DeGraphenreed

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Lori Barker

Partnership Programs (RCPP/MRBI) Dianne Schlenker

Agriculture Conservation Easements Program (ACEP) and

Watershed Programs Randy Childress

Open Discussion All Attendees

Closing Remarks & Adjourn Mike Sullivan



Recommendations from the Spring 2022 Grazing Lands Subcommittee Meeting

- 1) Request the approval of the following scenarios to be adopted for the practice Annual Forages for Grazing Lands (810) Arkansas for FY2023.
 - a. 810 Prolific Re-Seeding Annual Forage Low Fertility Requirement
 - b. 810 Prolific Re-Seeding Annual Forage Medium Fertility Requirement
 - c. 810 Prolific Re-Seeding Annual Forage High Fertility Requirement
 - d. 810 Emergency Forage Crop Low Fertility Requirement
 - e. 810 Emergency Forage Crop Medium Fertility Requirement
 - f. 810 Emergency Forage Crop High Fertility Requirement
 - g. 810 Annual Legumes Low Fertility Requirement
 - h. 810 Annual Legumes Medium Fertility Requirement
 - i. 810 Annual Legumes High Fertility Requirement
- Request the approval for a novel endophyte tall fescue scenario which would be a higher payment rate due to additional site preparation and competition control. The scenario recommended is Novel Endophyte Tall Fescue (Spay-Smoother-Spray) for the practice Pasture and Hayland Planting (512) in Arkansas for FY2023.
- Request the approval for a Pasture and Hayland scenario that would allow field offices to choose either cool or warm season forages. The scenario name would be Introduced Warm or Cool Season Forages. Request is this to be implemented in Arkansas for FY2023.

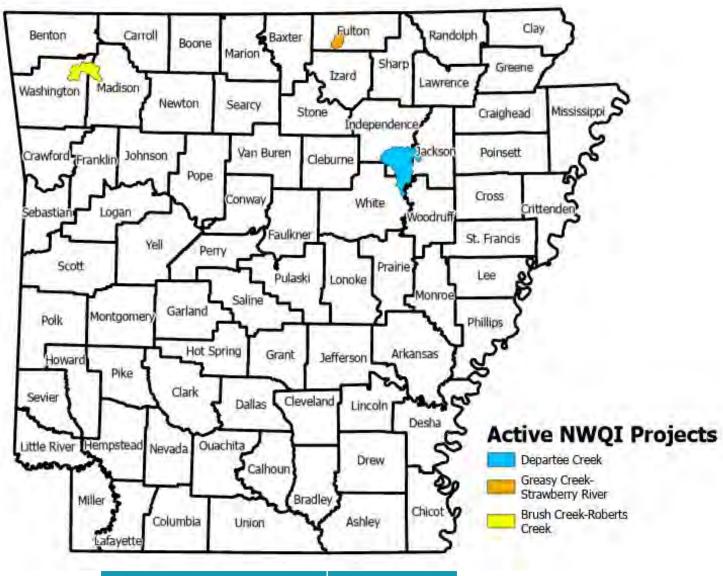


National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Update

Canton Ford
Water Quality Specialist
Work Phone: 501-388-2963
canton.ford@usda.gov







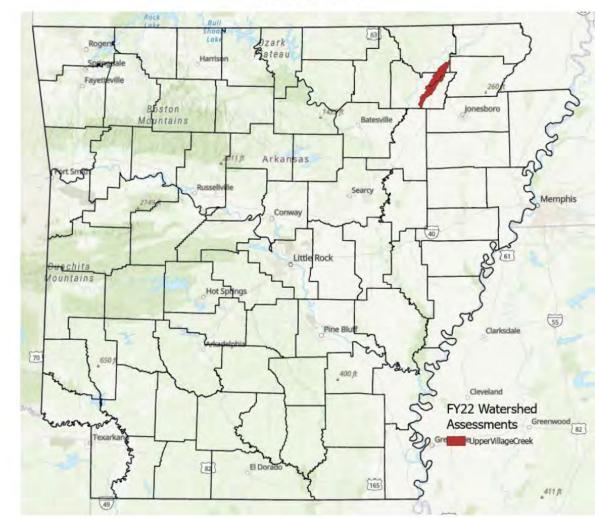
NWQI Project FY22 Alloca	
Departee Creek	\$1,100,000
Brush Creek-Roberts Creek	\$416,214
Greasy Creek-Strawberry Ri	\$237,957

Watershed Assessments

Readiness Phase (Watershed Assessment Phase)

- Upper Village Creek is the only NWQI project with a Watershed Assessment for FY22.
- Active support from field office staff and Conservation Districts
- 60,000 acre project area that is primarily cropland
- Watershed Assessment will be completed within the next month

NWQI





Watershed Assessments

Readiness Phase (Watershed Assessment Phase)

- West Craighead is the only MRBI project with a Watershed Assessment for FY22.
- Active support from field office staff and Conservation Districts
- 120,000 project area that is primarily cropland
- Watershed Assessment will be completed within the next month



MRBI





Partner Updates











Arkansas Natural Resources Division

- Arkansas Nutrient Reduction Strategy is moving into public comment phase
 - First public meetings will be held May 24, 2022, in Little Rock and Morrilton
- Nonpoint Source Projects Annual Meeting will be June 28, 2022

Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality

 Actively working on the triennial update for EPA Rule 2, next meeting is May 19, 2022

University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service

- Edge of field monitoring is continuing and doing well
- Planning to establish two new Discovery Farms, funding is contingency
 - Working to establish a forestry/wildlife Discovery Farm in Ouachita County
- Soil Health Field Day at Adam Chappell Farm in Cotton Plant, AR on May 25, 2022



Natural Resources Conservation Service



United States Department of Agriculture







Outreach, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center • Outreach, Equity and Inclusion Committee is to advise the State Conservationist and provide partnership with an analysis of how the programs, policies, and practices that contribute to barriers that include but not limited to inclusion or access, systemic discrimination, and provide potential recommendations for action.



Implicit Bias is: Individual AND Institutional

- A lot of racial inequities occur without intention or malice. It does not require "racists." Implicit bias helps explain how racism can be subtle in appearance but significant in impact.
- In institutions, the bias of individuals is routinely replicated through collective decisions and actions. It becomes compounded unless it's consciously counteracted.
- "Implicit Bias...offers the idea that discrimination and bias are social, rather than individual issues, and that we can thus all participate in promoting equality."
- --American Values Project

Implicit Bias and Public Policy

- Most policies are facially neutral (race silent) but not racially neutral—they have negative or positive
 racial impacts.
- Negative racial impacts may or may not have been intentional. Positive racial impacts often require intentionality.
- When racial impacts are not consciously considered during the lawmaking/decision-making process, there is more likelihood that negative racial impacts will result-- implicit bias is the default.

Choice Points: The Crossroads to Change



Choice Points

- Choice points are decision-making opportunities that influence outcomes.
- The cumulative impacts of many small choices can be as significant as the impacts of big decisions.
- When we're conscious of choice points and the related impacts, we're less likely to replicate implicit bias and the status quo, and we open new possibilities for equitable change.

Choice Points: Examples

Personal	Institutional	
Consumer decisions: where to shop, what to buy, or boycott?	Planning: what to change and prioritize in programs/workplans?	
Volunteer work: what causes to get involved in?	Budgeting: what items to prioritize, add or cut?	
Charitable contributions: what organizations to support?	Personnel: who to hire, retain, promote, or develop as leaders?	
Socializing: who to spend time with?	Policy Development: what to propose or modify?	
Voting: which candidates or causes to support?	Practices: routines/habits to continue, change, or cut?	

Outreach, Equity and Inclusion Committee Suggestions

- The goal is to be the bridge between clients and NRCS/USDA to help landowners participate and achieve their goals.
- Identify employee training related to soft skills when working with HU producers., and cross agency training for employees.
- Create outreach material with explanation of Historically underserved definition.
- Help new farmers/Heir property owners understand requirements when applying for Farm Bill programs. What are the barriers, survey, title, etc. Finding resources to help landowners secure funding to help with legal work such as title and survey to clear Heir property.
- Looking at data to be consider for unmet funding request for HU applicants.
- Develop a committee to which it looks at innovative opportunities.(Value added, Cooperatives and etc.)

Outreach, Equity and Inclusion Committee Concern

NRCS Guidelines (current)

- Irrigation history on part of the field does not equate to the ability to use irrigation practices to irrigate the remaining portion of the field.
- Does this result in an inequity for HU producers? Subcommittee members stated that they believe it does result in ongoing inequities.
- This practice is the only identified NRCS practice that a producer can't go over and beyond (at the landowner expense) with implementation due to policy which is inequitable.
- Alternative crop producers are regulated by policy when installing wells to meet the policy standards in which well drillers are now limited to well size much larger than our required standards, this also limits the producers from utilizing crop rotation to a degree when marketing such as row crop producer with larger acres.
- Recommendation: This verbiage should be removed.







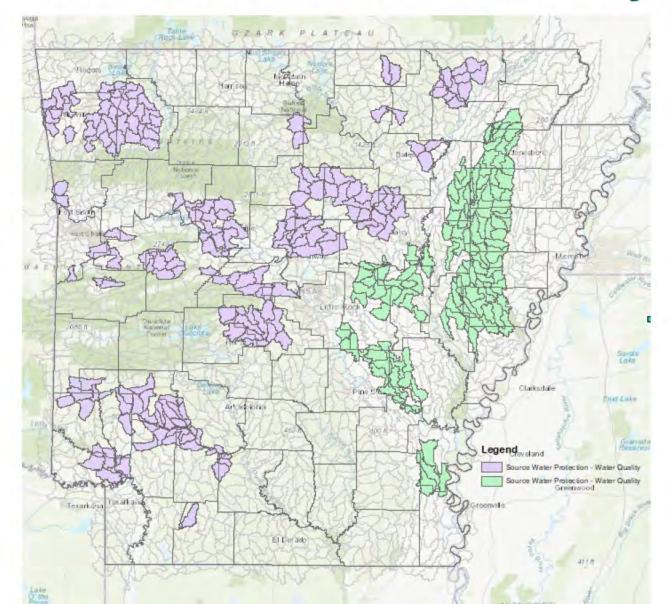
Spring Technical Committee Meeting

Arkansas NRCS

Edgar Mersiovsky, State Soil Scientist edgar.mersiovsky@usda.gov

Source Water Protection

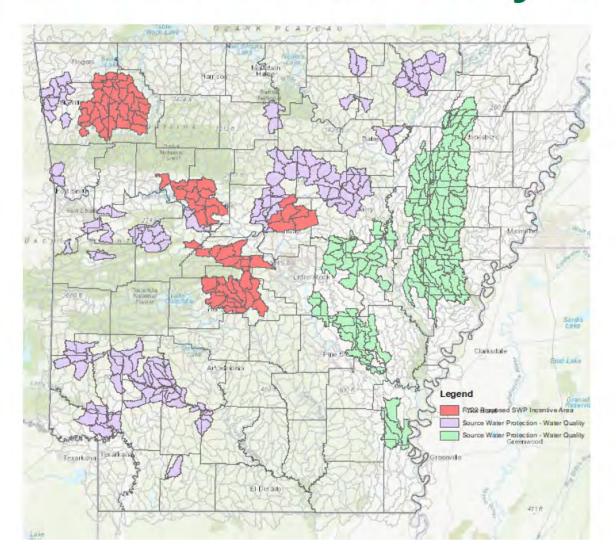
Source Water Protection Priority Areas







FY22 SWP Local Priority Area







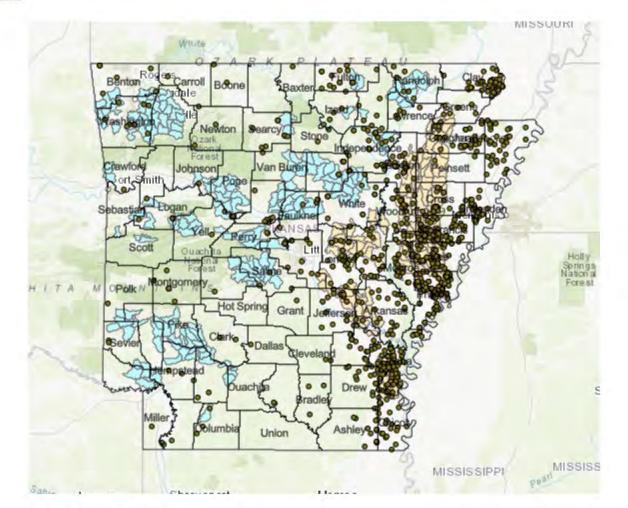
Source Water Protection Local Priority Practices

SWP Core Practices	Code
Conservation Crop Rotation	328
Residue and Tillage Management, No Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	329
Cover Crop	340
Riparian Herbaceous Cover	390
Riparian Forest Buffer	391
Filter Strip	393



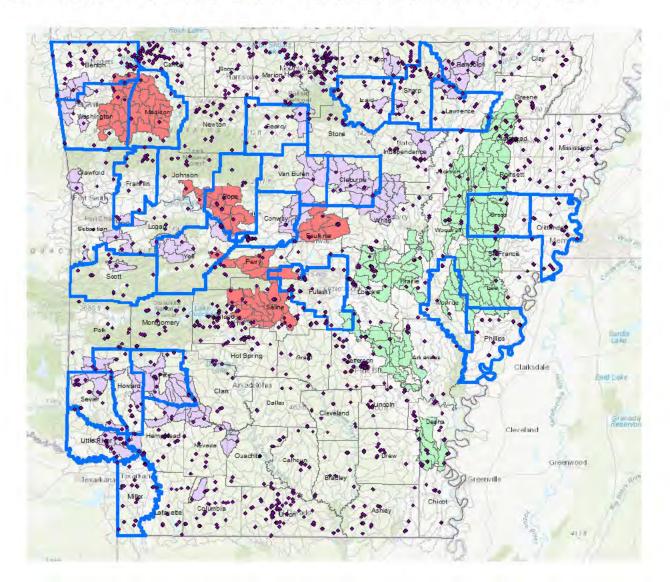


SWP Priority Practices Statewide FY21





Conservation District LWG







Conservation District LWG

Code	Conservation Practice Name
313	Waste Storage Facility
316	Animal Mortality Facility
327	Conservation Cover
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
340	Cover Crop
342	Critical Area Planting
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
350	Sediment Basin
367	Roofs and Covers
378	Pond
382	Fence
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip





Minute Parker Television Committee C

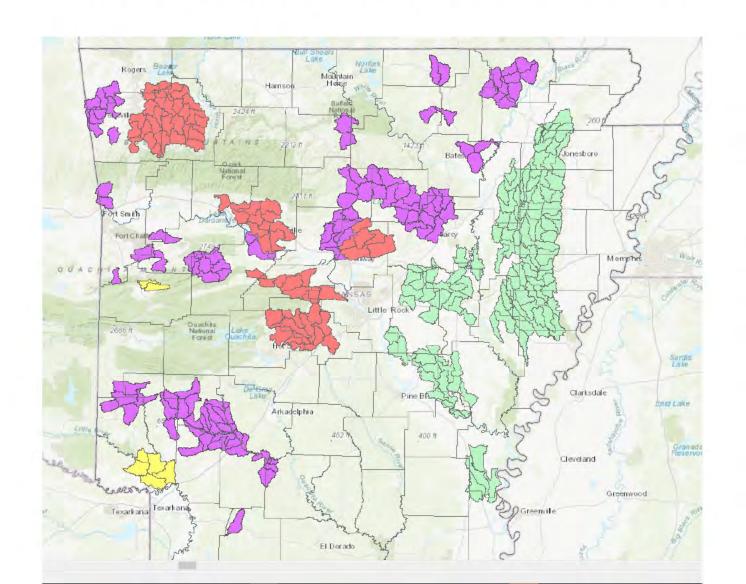
Conservation District LWG

561	Heavy Use Area Protection	
578	Stream Crossing	
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	
587	Structure for Water Control	
590	Nutrient Management	
595	Pest Management Conservation System	
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	
614	Watering Facility	
646	Shallow Water Development and Management	





Proposed Addition for FY23







Proposed Addition for FY 23

Rock Creek-Poteau River
East Fork-Poteau River
Blacks Branch-Millwood Lake
Hudson Creak
Little River-Red River
Beaver Creek-Millwood Lake
Millwood Lake







High Priority Practices







- The 2018 Farm Bill allows States to provide increased payment rates for high-priority practices. In consultations with the State Technical Committee, State Conservationists may designate up to 10 practices to be eligible for increased payments.
- Eligible high-priority practices include those that address specific causes of ground or surface water impairment relating to excessive nutrients, address the conservation of water to advance drought mitigation and declining aquifers, meet other environmental priorities and priority resource concerns identified in habitat or area restoration plans, or is geographically targeted to address a natural resource concern in a specific watershed.



- NRCS, with input from the State technical committee, may designate up to 10 practices to be eligible for increased payments for conservation practices that
 - Address specific causes of ground or surface water impairment relating to excessive nutrients;
 - Address the conservation of water and declining aquifers, and mitigate drought
 - Meet other environmental priorities and other priority resource concerns identified in habitat or other area restoration plans; or
 - Are geographically targeted to address a natural resource concern in a specific watershed

- States might also consider the following for selection of their high priority practices
 - Practices identified as a priority through assessments completed at the area or State level
 - Practices that have high potential for conservation benefit but are underutilized
 - Specific geographic areas where a practice is historically underutilized, or
 - Practices with an underutilized practice purpose (e.g., over crop purpose is to improve water quality by planting crops that take up excess soil nutrients



FY 22 High Priority Practices

- The FY22 High Priority Practices are:
 - 340-Cover Crop
 - Practice with an underutilized practice purpose
 - Typically, Cover Crops are used for Soil Health. Another benefit and purpose is to improve water quality by planting crops that take up excess soil nutrients.
 - 329-Residue Management (No Till)
 - High potential for conservation benefit but is underutilized
 - 646- Shallow Water Development and Management
 - High potential for conservation benefit but is underutilized



FY 2023 High Priority Practices

- Solicit feedback from Subcommittees for recommendations
 - Practice
 - Criteria
 - Location
- State Programs and Technical staffs will work internally gathering data for potential HPP's



Questions & Answers





Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Corey Cornelious Resource Conservationist, Program Staff



Background

NRCS technical specialists have identified several conservation practices and enhancement activities that deliver quantifiable climate solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sequestration in a quantifiable manner, which help to reduce the carbon footprint of the U.S. agricultural sector. Each state was given the authority to implement Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry through EQIP.

Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories

- 1. Soil Health Conservation Cover, Cover Crop, Conservation Crop Rotation, Residue and Tillage Management, Mulching, Field Border, Filter Strip
- 2. Nitrogen Management Nutrient Management
- 3. Livestock Partnership Anaerobic Digester, Waste Separation Facility
- 4. Grazing and Pasture Prescribed Grazing, Pasture and Hay Planting
- 5. Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat Tree & Shrub Establishment, Silvopasture, Riparian Forest Buffer, Windbreak/Shelterbreak Establishment
- 6. Restoration of Disturbed Lands Land Reclamation (Abandoned Mined Acres)
- 7. Rice- Irrigation Water Management (Alternated Wetting and Drying of rice fields or Row Rice)

NRCS Arkansas established a CSAF Team early this fiscal year to identify what work is currently being implemented through CSAF, align our efforts with the national priority for CSAF, and to work with partners and Arkansas Leadership Team to provide recommendations and strategies for EQIP assistance with CSAF for FY 2022.

The CSAF Team members are:

Corey Cornelious – EQIP Program Manager

Keith Scoggins – State Agronomist

Keri Neal – Easement Coordinator

Doug Akin – State Forester

Rodney Wright – Acing Water Management Engineer

Gary Bennett – State Engineer

Arkansas NRCS will meet the objectives of CSAF through the following Climate Mitigation Categories:

- Soil Health Category with Nitrogen Management
- Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat
- Rice

Soil Health and Nitrogen Management Category

- This category was recommended with a focus on counties in NE Arkansas and some counties in the South Arkansas with an increasing unmet demand for Cover Crop and Soil Health management practices.
- The primary conservation practices for this category are 340 Cover Crop, 328 Conservation Crop Rotation, 329 Residue and Tillage Mgmt., No-Till, 345 Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till, and 590 Nutrient Management.
- Supporting practices will include 595 Integrated Pest Management, 449 Irrigation Water Management, and 808 Soil Carbon Amendment.
- Counties of consideration for Soil Health Category include Craighead, Mississippi, St Francis, Lee, Phillips, Monroe, Cross, Crittenden, Woodruff, Greene, Arkansas, Jefferson, Desha, Lincoln, and Chicot.

Agroforestry Category

- This category was recommended with a focus on Forestry with counties along the Interstate 30 corridor and Gulf Coastal Plain areas within the state with an increasing demand for Tree Establishment.
- The primary conservation practice for this category is 612 Tree & Shrub Establishment with supporting practices of 490 Tree Site Preparation, 338 Prescribed Burning, and 666 Forest Stand Improvement.
- Counties of consideration for the Forestry Category include Saline, Hot Spring, Clark, Nevada, Hempstead, Lafayette, Columbia, Grant, Dallas, Ouachita, Union, Bradley, Cleveland, Jefferson, Ashley, Drew, and Lincoln.

Rice Category

- This category was recommended with a focus on Irrigation Water Management with a specific interest in AWD and Row Rice with counties in the Arkansas Groundwater Decline Area specifically those identified in the Tier 3 of the Arkansas Groundwater Initiative. There is also in growing interest in Row Rice in some counties along of Crowley's Ridge.
- The primary conservation practice for this category is 449 Irrigation Water Management with a specific concentration on AWD component.
- Supporting practices may include but limited to 464 Irrigation Land Leveling, 430 Irrigation Pipeline, 587 Structure for water control, 410 Grade Stabilization Structure, and some Soil Health management practices also.
- Counties of consideration for the Rice Category may include Craighead, Poinsett, Cross, Lonoke, Prairie, Arkansas, Mississippi, Crittenden, and St Francis.

On April 11th we announced the EQIP CSAF signup for FY 2022 with accepting applications through the May 13th, 2022, for this funding round. Applications accepted after May 13th, 2022, will be considered in later funding periods, subject to funding availability.

Selections will be made in each of the CSAF Mitigation Categories based on the demand and funds availability.



Conservation Stewardship Program

Sherri DeGraphenreed Resource Conservationist, Program Staff



Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Practice Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name	Enhancement Code	Enhancement Activity	
	327	Conservation Cover (Acres)	E327A	Conservation cover for pollinators and beneficial insects	
			E327B	Establish Monarch butterfly habitat	
			E328A	Resource conserving crop rotation	
			<u>E3288</u>	Improved resource conserving crop rotation	
			E32RE	Soil health crop rotation	
	328	Conservation Crop Rotation (Acres)	E328F	Modifications to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter	
			E328G	Crop rotation on recently converted CRP grass/legume cover for soil organic matter improvement	
			E328N	Intercropping to improve soil health	
			E3280	Perennial grain crop conservation rotation	
			E329A	No till to reduce soil erosion	
			E3299	No till to reduce tillage induced particulate matter	
Soil Health	329	Residue and Tillage Management, No Till (Acres)	E329C	No till to increase plant-available moisture	
			E329D	No till system to increase soil health and soil organic matter content	
			E329E	No till to reduce energy	
	332	Contour Buffer Strips (Acres)		None Available	
			E340A	Cover crop to reduce soil erosion	
	340	Cover Crop (Acres)	<u>E3408</u>	Intensive cover cropping to increase soil health and soil organic matter content	
			E340C	Use of multi-species cover crops to improve soil health and increase soil organic matter	
			E340D	Intensive orchard/vineyard floor cover cropping to increase soil health	
			E340F	Cover crop to minimize soil compaction	
			E340G	Cover crop to reduce water quality degradation by utilizing excess soil nutrients	
			<u>E340H</u>	Cover crop to suppress excessive weed pressures and break pest cycles	
			E3401	Using cover crops for biological strip till	



Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Practice Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name	Enhancement Code	Enhancement Activity	
Soil Health	345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till (Acres)	E345A	Reduced tillage to reduce soil erosion	
			E345B	Reduced tillage to reduce tillage induced particulate matter	
			E345C	Reduced tillage to increase plant-available moisture	
			E345D	Reduced tillage to increase soil health and soil organic matter content	
			<u>E345E</u>	Reduced tillage to reduce energy use	
		Field Border (Acres)	E386A	Enhanced field borders to reduce soil erosion along the edge(s) of a field	
			E3868	Enhanced field borders to increase carbon storage along the edge(s) of the field	
	386		E386C	Enhanced field borders to decrease particulate emissions along the edge(s) of the field	
			E386D	Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field	
			<u>E386E</u>	Enhanced field borders to increase wildlife food and habitat along the edge(s) of a field	
	393	Filter Strips (Acres)	E393A	Extend existing filter strip to reduce water quality impacts	
	412	Grassed Waterways (Acres)	<u>E412A</u>	Enhance a grassed waterway	
	484	Mulching (Acres)	E484A	Mulching to improve soil health	
			E4848	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch	
			<u>E484C</u>	Reduce particulate matter emissions by using orchard or vineyard generated woody materials as mulch	
	585	Stripcropping (Acres)		None Available	
	601	Vegetative Barriers (Feet)			
	603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers (Feet)			
	590	Nutrient Management (Acres)	<u>E590A</u>	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses	
Nitrogen Manusement			<u>ES908</u>	Reduce risks of nutrient loss to surface water by utilizing precision agriculture technologies	
Nitrogen Management			E590C	Improving nutrient uptake efficiency and reducing risk of nutrient losses on pasture	
			E590D	Reduce risks of nutrient losses to surface and groundwater by increasing setback awareness via precision technology	



imate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Practice Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name	Enhancement Code	Enhancement Activity	
Livestock Partnership	366	Anaerobic Digester (Number)			
	632	Waste Separation Facility (Number)	None Available		
Grazing and Pasture	512	Pasture and Hay Planting (Acres)	E512A E512B E512C E512D E512E E512I E512I	Cropland conversion to grass-based agriculture to reduce soil erosion Forage plantings that help increase organic matter in depleted soils Cropland conversion to grass for soil organic matter improvement Forage plantings that help increase organic matter in depleted soils Forage and biomass planting that produces feedstock for biofuels or energy production. Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect and/or monarch habitat Establish wildlife corridors to provide habitat continuity or access to water Establishing native species into forage base to improve diversity for both livestock and wildlife	
	528	Prescribed Grazing (Acres)	E512L E512M E528A E528D E528E E528E E528E E528H E528H	Diversifying forage base with interseeding forbs and legumes to increase pasture quality Forage plantings that improve wildlife habitat cover and shelter or structure and composition Maintaining quantity and quality of forage for animal health and productivity Grazing management for improving quantity and quality of food or cover and shelter for wildlife Improved grazing management for enhanced plant structure and composition for wildlife Stockpilling cool season forage to improve structure and composition or plant productivity and health Improved grazing management on pasture for plant productivity and health with monitoring activities Prescribed grazing to improve/maintain riparian and watershed function-elevated water temperature Grazing management that protects sensitive areas -surface or ground water from nutrients Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion.	
		9 0-	E528L E528M	Prescribed grazing that improves or maintains riparian and watershed function-erosion Grazing management that protects sensitive areas from gully erosion	



Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Practice Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name	Enhancement Code	Enhancement Activity	
Grazing and Pasture	528	Prescribed Grazing (Acres)	E5280 E528P E528R E528S	Clipping mature forages to set back vegetative growth for improved forage quality Implementing Bale or Swath Grazing to increase organic matter and reduce nutrients in surface water Management intensive rotational grazing Soil Health Improvements on Pasture Grazing to Reduce Wildfire Risks on Forests	
	550	Range Planting (Acres)	E550A E550B	Range planting for increasing/maintaining organic matter Range planting for improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife	
Agroforestry, Forestry and Upland Wildlife Habitat	311	Alley Cropping (Acres)			
	379	Multi-Story Cropping (Acres)		None Available	
	380	Windbreaks/Shelterbelt Establishment and Renovation (Feet) [2]			
	381	Silvopasture (Acres)	E381A	Silvopasture to Improve wildlife habitat	
	390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Acres)	E390A E390B	Increase riparian herbaceous cover width for sediment and nutrient reduction Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat	
	391	Riparian Forest Buffer (Acres)	E391A E391B E391C	Increase riparian forest buffer width for sediment and nutrient reduction Increase stream shading for stream temperature reduction Increase riparian forest buffer width to enhance wildlife habitat	
	422	Hedgerow Planting (Feet)	None Available		
	612	Tree/Shrub Establishment (Acres)	E612A E612B E612C E612G	Cropland conversion to trees or shrubs for long term improvement of water quality Planting for high carbon sequestration rate Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities Tree/shrub planting for wildlife food	
	645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Acres)	E645B	Manage existing shrub thickets to provide adequate shelter for wildlife Edge feathering for wildlife cover	
	650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (Feet) [1]		None Available	



Climate Change Mitigation Practice Categories	Practice Code	Conservation Practice Standard Name	Enhancement Code	Enhancement Activity
Restoration of Disturbed Lands	453	Land Reclamation, Landslide Treatment (Acres)		
	543	Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land (Acres)		None Available
	544	Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land (Acres)		
Rice	449	Irrigation Water Management (Acres) [46]	E449B	Alternated Wetting and Drying (AWD) of rice fields



TCH – Conservation Practice Variance Request – Arkansas

- Variance requested for Practice Code 646 Shallow Water Habitat Management to reduce life span from 5 years to 1 year granted to Arkansas State Office for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2027 or up until one year after any revision to Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 646, whichever comes first, and so long as the basis and circumstances for this request remain unchanged.
- CSP Enhancements that are connected to this practice include; Enhancements E646A, E646B. E647A, E647C, E644A and E449B.

CSP-Classic Application Processing 530.304

Along with submitting Form NRCS-CPA-1200, "Conservation Program Application," an applicant must—

- Provide a map that identifies and delineates the boundaries of all eligible land uses and acres included in the operation.
- Identify any ineligible land that is part of the operation.
- Applicants should use the updated Form NRCS-CPA-1200 dated 10/2021 for any new applications received after October 20, 2021.
- NRCS will however, continue to accept Form NRCS-CPA-1200 dated 3/2019 throughout FY 2022 to account for the transition period.

CSP regulation at 7 CFR §1470.26(c)

The existing CSP regulation at 7 CFR §1470.26(c) imposes a 2 year ineligibility upon prior participants for their ability to enroll lands in CSP if they do not enter a renewal contract at the end of their initial contract period, also known as the "2 year cooling off period." This provision is as follows:

"(c) NRCS will determine a participant ineligible for a new CSP contract on an agricultural operation for 2 years following expiration of their prior contract if the participant does not enter a renewal contract on the agricultural operation at the end of the prior contract period."

POLICY WAVIED UPDATED LANGUAGE

- As such, for any past, current, or future participant with an unfunded pending, or expired, renewal application, I hereby waive the 2-year cooling off period, and the participant will not be determined ineligible to apply for any current or future CSP sign-up opportunity based upon their failure to enter a renewal contract at the end of their prior contract. Further, to ensure equitable treatment to all prior, current, and future CSP participants, I am hereby waiving 7 CFR §1470.26(c) to any application for CSP enrollment.
- At the soonest opportunity, develop an amendment to the CSP regulation to remove the 2-year ineligibility provision to impact this waiver more permanently.



2023 Local Led Work Group Summary

Lori Barker Resource Conservationist, Program Staff



2023 LLWG Summary

- √ 19 Questions across different program, polices and resource issues in Arkansas
- ✓ Great response across Arkansas LLWG providing input to each question with ideas on what programs, practices or outreach resources needed.
- ✓ This information is summarized and will be provided to the subcommittees to address the LLWG for FY 2023



Local Input

- 1. Are there any impaired watersheds or water bodies in the county?
- 2. What type project(s) would provide benefit and how? (i.e. MRBI, NWQI)
- 3. Provide any recommendations for new/revised practices needed, including adjustments to payment rates and caps.
- 4. Are current cultural resource review processes impacting conservation implementation in the county?
- 5. Does your county receive adequate funding for CSP and/or EQIP?



Agreements

Each year, Arkansas NRCS announces competitive funding opportunities for partners and groups to assist with conservation technical/outreach assistance projects and identifying innovative approaches, through agreements and/or Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). CIG is a component of the EQIP Program. It is a grant program used to apply or demonstrate previously proven technology. It does not fund research projects. CIG is an effort to address some of the state's most pressing natural resource conservation needs and in hopes to utilize these successful projects for new technology or innovative solutions for EQIP

- 6. Are there any areas of interest where we should focus to achieve higher levels of conservation?
- 7. Is your local work group interested in seeking funding for a special project or initiative under any of the covered programs?
- 8. Describe ideas for special technical assistance or outreach projects that would benefit the county.



Conservation Stewardship Program

9. Rate local customer interest in participating in CSP.

10. Does CSP offer enough activities beneficial to customers' agricultural operations? Does this vary whether the application is for a Renewal CSP vs CSP Classic?

11. What improvements are recommended to deliver the program more efficiently?



Environmental Quality Incentives Program

12. What improvements are recommended to deliver the program more efficiently?



Source Water Protection

2018 Farm Bill included specific provisions to protect sources of drinking water by identifying practices that have a significant water quality or water quantity benefit and implementing those practices where source waters can be protected or improved.

13. Identify priority areas for the protection of source waters for drinking water.

14. Is there local support for implementation of the voluntary adoption of conservation to protect source water when selecting priority areas?



Customer Service

- 15. What is the most significant barrier to providing high quality customer service in the county?
- 16. Are there opportunities to increase the outreach for underserved customers within the county?

Climate Smart Ag

17. Is there additional interest in the county to address any of the following climate mitigation categories through Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry: Soil Health, Nitrogen Management, Livestock Partnership, Grazing and Pasture, Agroforestry/Forestry/Upland Wildlife Habitat, or Rice?



Equity and Social Justice

18. Does the program participation data reflect participation by women, minorities, and persons with disabilities?



Urban Agriculture

19. Is Urban Agriculture a concern or interest in your county?



2023 Conservation Innovation Grant

Lori Barker Resource Conservationist, Program Staff



2023 CIG Areas of Concern: DRAFT

Nutrient and Sediment Reduction in Impaired Watersheds

 Demonstrate effectiveness of "high potential" conservation practices (such as drainage management, wetlands designed for nutrient reduction, conservation buffers, cropping systems including cover crops, manure management with bioremediation application, in-field nutrient management) in reducing nutrient leaching and runoff and document benefits in small watersheds





2023 CIG Areas of Concern: Irrigation DRAFT

- Demonstrate innovative irrigation water management techniques documenting water quality improvements associated with irrigation systems in Arkansas;
- Demonstrate drone use with Irrigation Water Management uniformity and crop monitoring
- Conduct in field trials for alternative crops that uses in field weather stations that can integrate evapotranspiration data and soil moisture sensors. These trials should be able to evaluate real crop water use during alternative crop growth stages. Develop brochures to help producers incorporate both methods of irrigation water management into farm practices.





2023 CIG Areas of Concern: Irrigation DRAFT

 Development of an evapotranspiration network to be used for alternative crops in order to better plan and manage irrigation events. Develop instructional documents for producers to incorporate evapotranspiration base scheduling into their IWM plans based on crop type. Example networks are mesonet used in Oklahoma.





2023 CIG Areas of Concern: Irrigation DRAFT

 Irrigation Water Management project for alternative crops to provide more instructional documents to producers on how to use irrigation water management devices to trigger irrigation for alternative crops. The documentation should indicate the number of devices needed, measurement depths, and how to use the device reading to know when to irrigate; base on crop and irrigation water management device type





2023 CIG Areas of Concern: Soil Health DRAFT

- Demonstrate and quantify the impacts of cover crops, crop rotations, tillage and/or soil amendments on soil chemical, physical, and/or biological properties and their relationships with nutrient cycling, soil water availability, and plant growth in areas that have been land leveled in Arkansas;
- Transfer and demonstration of row rice technology can improve soil health, reduce irrigation, and allow rice production to use no-till methods. Demonstration of the use of soil health practices (i.e. cover crop, nutrient management, irrigation water management) in a row rice cropping system, including cost-benefit information and yields.





2023 CIG Areas of Concern: Soil Health DRAFT

 Promote practice that further develops soil carbon amendments to increase organic matter and improve aggregate stability that will increase irrigation water efficiency and support microbial communities





Questions & Answers





United States Department of Agriculture



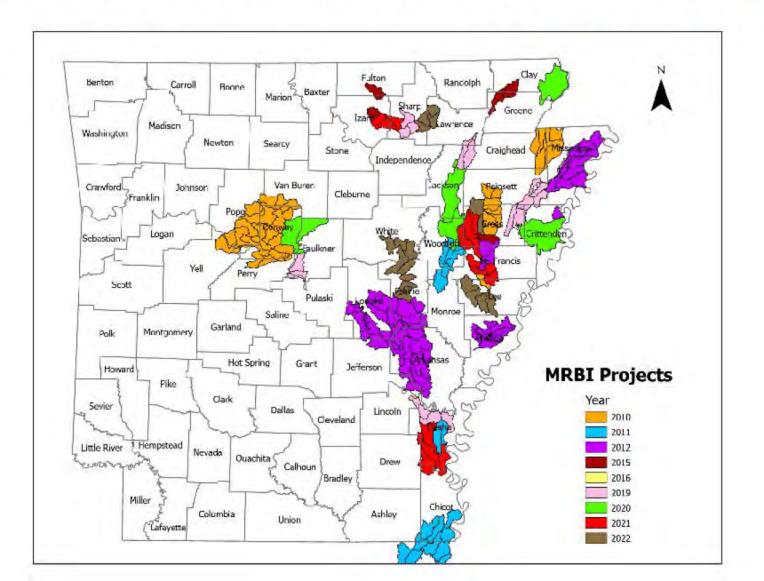
Update







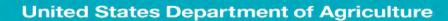
MRBI Projects from 2010-2022





Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/







2 Phase Process Readiness/Planning Phase:

First year fact finding-gather information through the watershed assessment.

Implementation Phase:

Second year starts managing the program with funding cycles for conservation practices

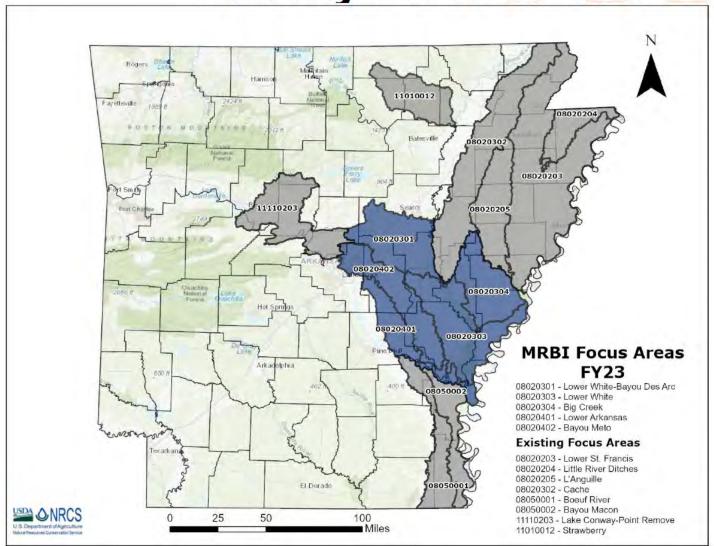


Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Priority Watersheds





Implementation Phase



- > 4 year budget
- > EQIP and CSP
- ➤ Financial Assistance for EQIP 75/25
- Concentrates on system approach using core and supporting practices
- Adaptive management
- Target producers in the watershed
- Outreach
- Goals are developed with obtainable outcomes
- Partner support through in-kind or cash



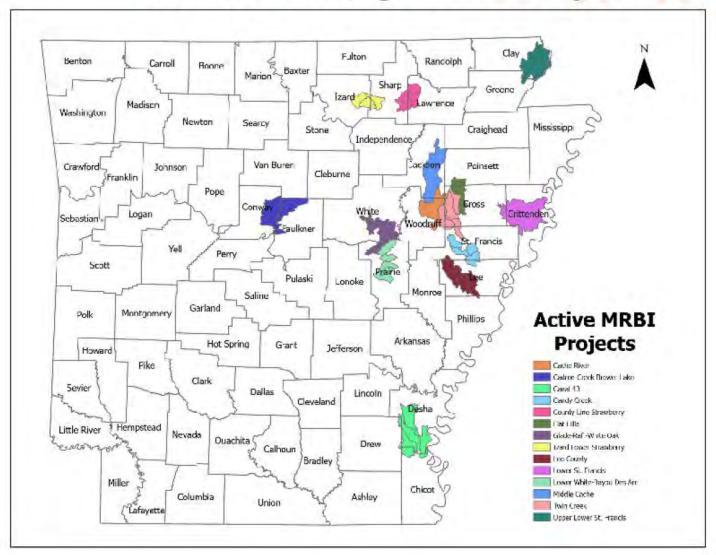








FY22 Funding MRBI Projects







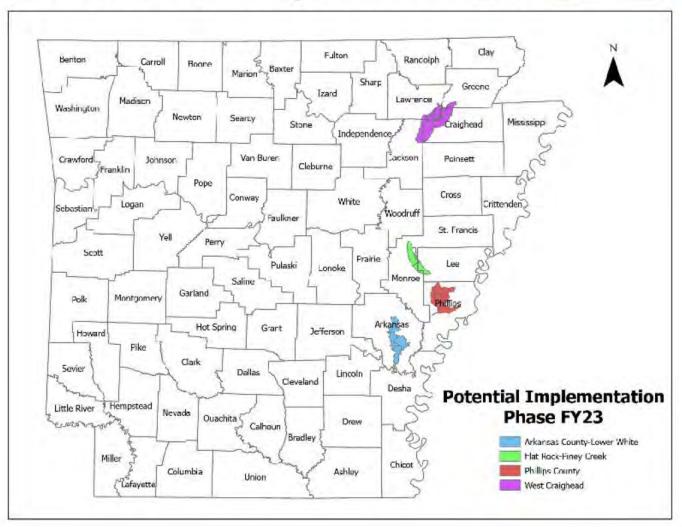
Implementation Phase Funding

MRBI Project	EQIP	
Twin Creek	\$1,143,464	Cross / Woodruff
Izard Lower Strawberry	\$360,000	Izard / Sharp
Candy Creek	\$350,000	Lee / St. Francis
Canal 43	\$1,350,003	Desha / Chicot
Cache	\$818,497	Woodruff / Jackson
Middle Cache	\$900,000	Jackson
Lower St. Francis	\$908,142	Crittenden
Upper Lower St. Francis	\$855,000	Clay / Greene
County Line Strawberry	\$364,408	Lawrence / Sharp
Cadron Creek-Brewer Lake	\$446,179	Conway / Faulkner
Flat Hills	\$606,979	Poinsett / Cross
Glade-Raft-White Oak Creek	\$1,328,849	White / Prairie
Lower White -Bayou Des Arc	\$1.846,417	Prairie
Lee County	\$1,500,000	Lee /St. Francis/Phillips
Total	\$13,831,939	





Potential Implementation



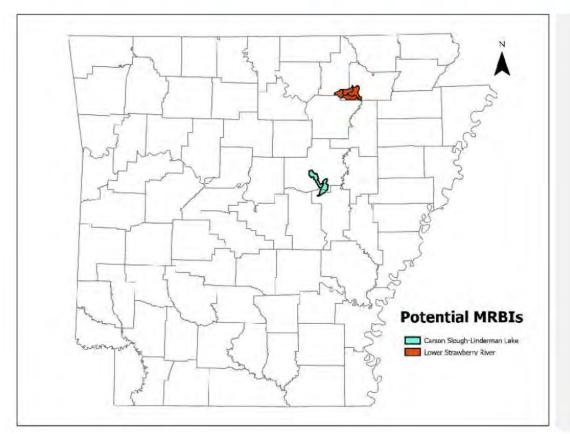


Planning Stage MRBI for FY23 Watershed Assessment

Lower Strawberry River

Carlson Slough-Linderman Lake

Producer interest
Partner Interest
Unfunded
Applications
Source Water
Protection



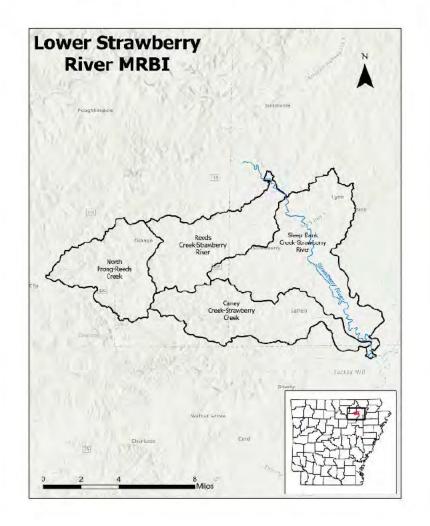


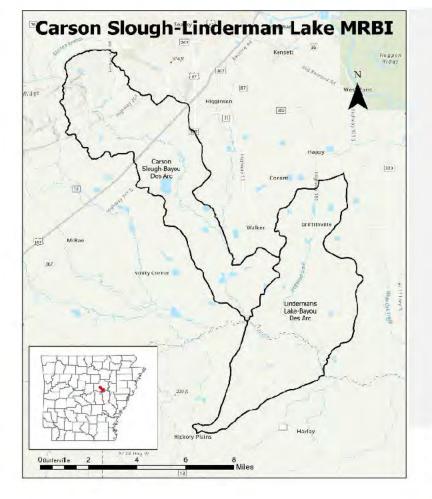




Potential MRBI for FY23 Watershed Assessment











Other Proposed MRBI's?

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/





United States Department of Agriculture



Regional Conservation Partnership (RCPP) Update

Dianne Schlenker Initiatives Coordinator Cell: 501-412-9852

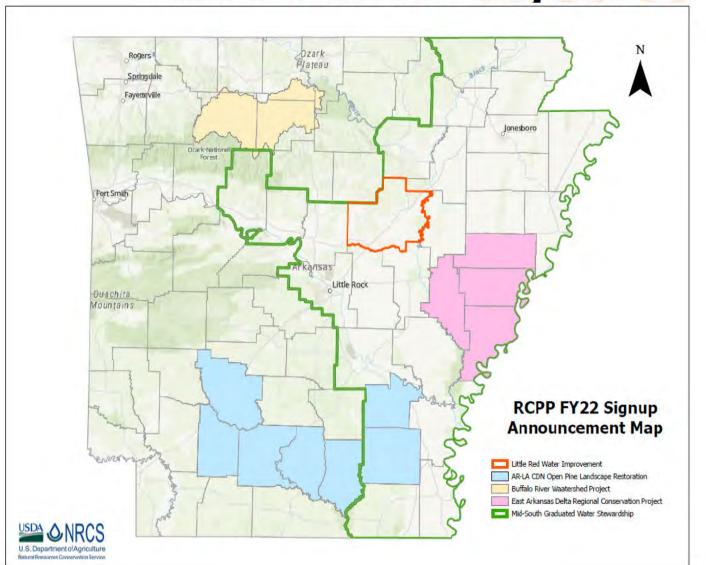
dianne.schlenker@usda.gov







RCPP Active Projects







RCPP

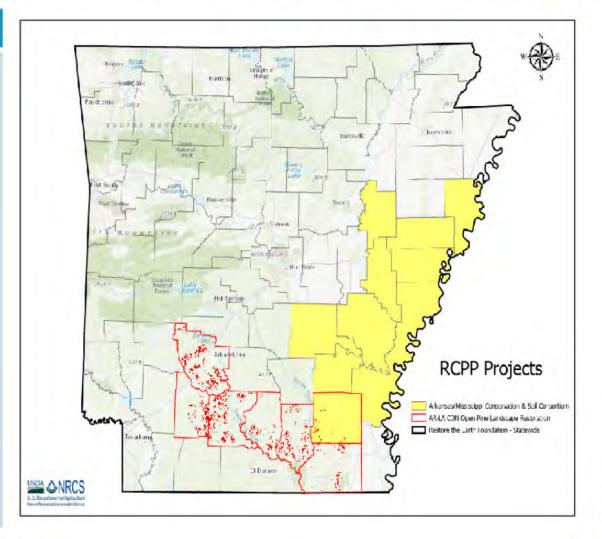
Project	EQIP/Land Management Funding	Financial Assistance Rate
Buffalo River Watershed Partnership	\$400,000	75/25
East Arkansas Delta Regional Conservation Project	Planning Phase for FY22 \$2,800,000 for FY23 \$2,800,000 for FY24	75/25
Little Red Water Improvement	\$370,461	60/40
Mid-South Rice Renewal	\$2,660,000 for FY22	60/40
Open Pine	\$309,750	60/40
Total funding for FY22	\$3,369,750	





RCPP Easement Projects

Project	Awarded
AR-MS Conservation and Soil Consortium	\$2.5 million easement work
Restore the Earth	\$7 million easement work



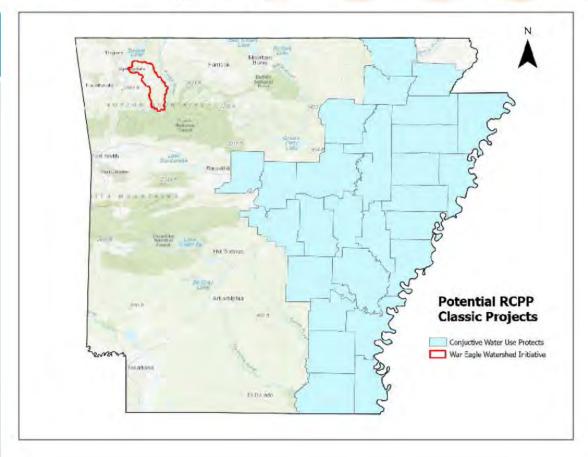






New RCPP proposals

Project	Lead Partner
War Eagle Creek Watershed Initiative	Beaver Watershed Alliance \$2.4 million
Conjunctive Water Use Protects Mid- South Aquifers	Ducks Unlimited \$10 million







United States Department of Agriculture

Questions



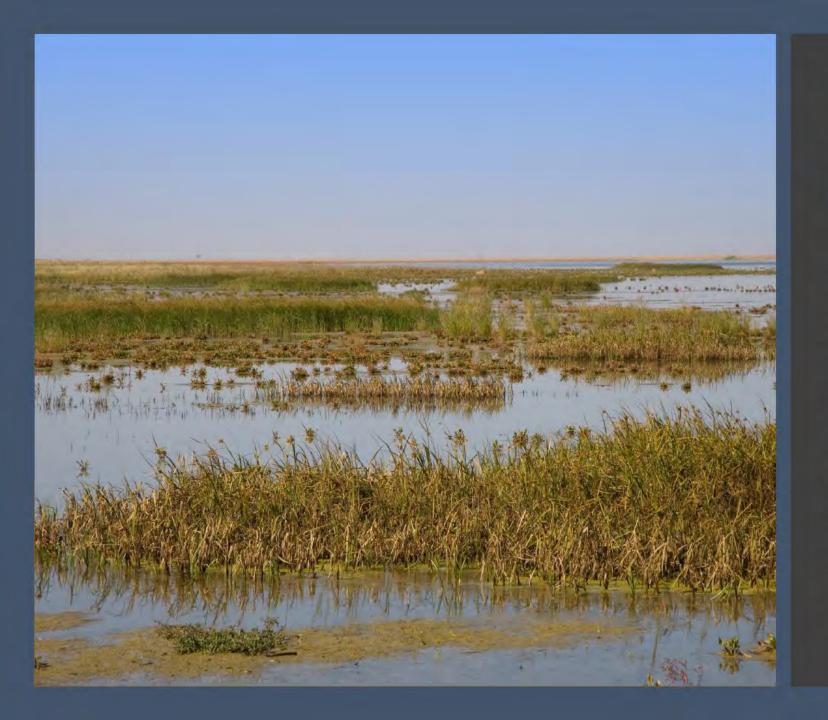
Dianne Schlenker Initiatives Coordinator

Telework: 501-412-9852

dianne.schlenker@usda.gov







Arkansas

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

ACEP

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)
Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

Presented by:

Randy Childress
Assistant State Conservationist
for Easements and Watersheds

State Technical Committee Meeting 5/18/2019

Arkansas Natural Resources Conservation Service - Easement Program

Conservation Easements in Arkansas - 272,092.91 Acres on 720

Easements Easements Restored – 267,749.97 Acres on 702

Easements Easement Restoration Remaining - 4,342.94 Acres on 18 Easements

FY 2022 Wetland Restoration and Reforestation Activities - Wetland Reserve Easements

- Wetlands Created, Restored or Enhanced 7 Easements 2,196.45 Acres*Tree Planting Hardwoods – 15 Easements – 2,217.15 Acres*
- Number of Easements Tentatively Selected for Acquisition 23 Easements
- Number of Easement Acres Tentatively Selected for Acquisition –6,574.59 Acres

2022 Wetland Reserve Easements - Activities

Item	Amount	
Number of Easements Selected for Acquisition*	23	
Number of Easement Acres Selected for Acquisition*	6,574.59	
2022 Funding to be Obligated for Acquisition and Restoration*	\$21,114,758	

^{*}these are anticipated figures pending final APCE's and Obligations

2022 Wetland Restoration and Reforestation Activities - Wetland Reserve Easements

- · Number of Easements Tentatively Selected for Acquisition 13 Easements
- Number of Easement Acres Tentatively Selected for Acquisition –3,998.47
- 2022 Funding to be Obligated for Acquisition and Restoration \$14,367,920

2022 Wetland Restoration and Reforestation Activities - Tri-State WREP

- Number of Easements Tentatively Selected for Acquisition 9
 Easement
- Number of Easement Acres Tentatively Selected for Acquisition 2,059.12 Acres
- 2021 Funding to be Obligated for Acquisition and Restoration -\$5,607,478

2022 Wetland Restoration and Reforestation Activities - Batture Lands

- Number of easements Tentatively Selected for Acquisition -1
- Number of Easement Acres Tentatively selected for Aquisition - 547
- 2022 Easement Funding to be Obligated for Acquisition and Restoration - \$1,139,360



ACEP-WRE and FPE Market Areas

Arkansas River Valley

Irrigated Cropland	\$2,600.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$2,000.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$900.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,200.00
Pasture Land	\$2,100.00
·	



Mississippi River Valley

Irrigated Cropland	\$3,200.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$2,500.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$900.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,400.00
Pasture Land	\$1,900.00



Gulf Coastal Plain

Irrigated Cropland	\$2,900.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$1,800.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$800.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,000.00
Pasture Land	\$1,300.00



USDA







Presentation

Small Watershed Program (PL-566) Overview and **Opportunities** DATE | PRESENTER'S | State Technical Committee Meeting

May 2022 | Randy Childress, ASTC Easements and Watersheds

United States Department of Agriculture

Active Watershed PL-566 Program Projects

Grand Prairie Irrigation Project - Construction Bayou Meto Irrigation Project - Construction Lake Bennett – Watershed Plan Development West Fork White River – Design Departee Creek - Construction Muddy Fork of Illinois River – Design 19 Projects - Preliminary Investigation Reports to Develop 7 Projects – Planning, Design, Construction 7 Projects – Planning

Funding – Excess of \$212 million presently in AR NRCS Accounts Additional Request - \$58 million presently for BM and GP projects















Natural Resources Conservation Service

TERRY COSBY





SPECIAL

ANNOUNCEMENT

FORREST CITY, AR



11:00AM- LUNCHEON 12:00PM- ANNOUNCEMENT



FORREST CITY CNIC CENTER

1335 N. WASHINGTON ST. FORREST CITY, AR



https://iis02web.zoom.ns//82398754254?pwd=UW9BREs3S0VzY3JvZk9oenptTDHQT09

NZk90enptTDHQT09 WATCH LIVE VIA THE CITY OF FORREST CITY PAGE

Meeting ID: 823 9875 4254 Passcode: 003169 One tap mobile 13017158592

\$96 Million Dollars Awarded to AR NRCS

- Technical and Financial Assistance through the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation Program for 19 watersheds
- To relieve flooding issues in Historically Underserved and Socially Disadvantaged Communities
- Funded through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act







Project Name	PIFR, Planning, Design, and Construction Funded	PIFR and Planning Funded	PIFR Funded
City of Wilmot - AR4	Yes		
City of Pine Bluff - AR4	Yes		
Long Lake Bayou-Little Bee Bayou Watershed – AR1	Yes		
Lick Creek-Big Creek Watershed – AR1	Yes		
Cities of Forrest City – Haynes – Marianna – AR1	Yes		
City of El Dorado – AR4	Yes		
City of Camden – AR4	Yes		
City of Turrell – AR1		Yes	
Cities of Stamps and Lewisville – AR4		Yes	
City of Madison – AR1		Yes	
City of Hughes and Jennette – AR1		Yes	
City of Eudora – AR1	<u> </u>	Yes	
City of Dumas – AR1		Yes	
City of Altheimer – AR4		Yes	
City of Menifee – AR2			Yes
City of Fulton – AR4			Yes
City of Fountain Hill – AR4			Yes
City of Cotton Plant – AR1			Yes
City of Blytheville – AR1			Yes

Watershed Projects Requested In Arkansas Ozerk Rogers Plaisau Springdale Eayettevilla Burtale. National Fiver City of Blytheville Ozani National City of Turrell Arkansas Cities of Forrest City-Haynes-Marianna Fort Smith City of Menifee City of Cotton Plant City of Hughes and Jennette Little Rock etingend Lick Creek-Big Creek tountains City of Madison City of Altheimer City of Pine Bluff Long Lake -Little Bee Bayou City of City of Fulton Camden City of Dumas and McNab City of Fountain Hill City of El Dorado Cities of Stamps & Lowisville City of Wilmot City of Eudora 100 U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service

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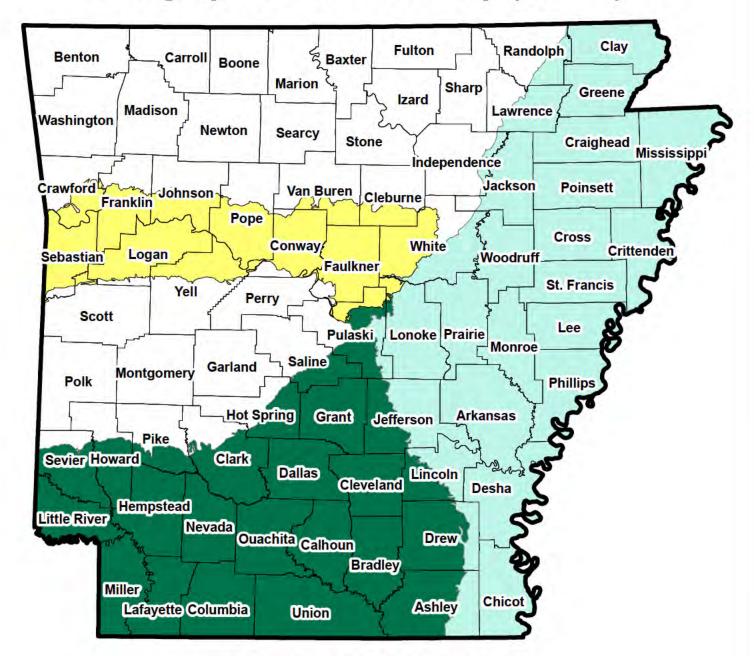
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Arkansas WRE and FPE - FY 2022 Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC)



ACEP-WRE and FPE Market Areas

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Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,200.00
Pasture Land	\$2,100.00

Mississippi River Valley

Irrigated Cropland	\$3,200.00
Non-Irrigated Cropland	\$2,500.00
Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land	\$900.00
Wooded-CRP Planted Lands	\$1,400.00
Pasture Land	\$1,900.00

Gulf Coastal Plain

Irrigated Cropland \$2,900.00

Non-Irrigated Cropland \$1,800.00

Wooded Non-CRP and Incidental Land \$800.00

Wooded-CRP \$1,000.00

Planted Lands \$1,300.00

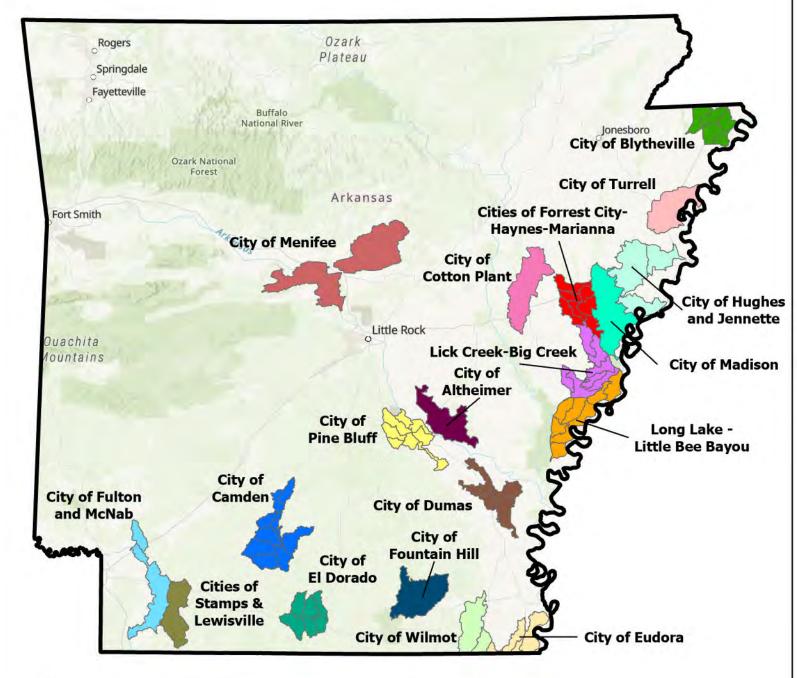


Remainder Of State

80% of Appraisal, not to exceed \$3,000/ac. Values shown are per acre units



Watershed Projects Requested In Arkansas









Project Name	PIFR, Planning, Design, and	PIFR and	PIFR
	Construction Funded	Planning Funded	Funded
City of Wilmot - AR4	Yes		
City of Pine Bluff - AR4	Yes		
Long Lake Bayou-Little Bee	Yes		
Bayou Watershed – AR1			
Lick Creek-Big Creek	Yes		
Watershed – AR1			
Cities of Forrest City – Haynes	Yes		
– Marianna – AR1			
City of El Dorado – AR4	Yes		
City of Camden – AR4	Yes		
City of Turrell – AR1		Yes	
Cities of Stamps and Lewisville		Yes	
– AR4			
City of Madison – AR1		Yes	
City of Hughes and Jennette –		Yes	
AR1			
City of Eudora – AR1		Yes	
City of Dumas – AR1		Yes	
City of Altheimer – AR4		Yes	
City of Menifee – AR2			Yes
City of Fulton – AR4			Yes
City of Fountain Hill – AR4			Yes
City of Cotton Plant – AR1	_		Yes
City of Blytheville – AR1			Yes

South Area:	Northeast Area:	Northwest Area:
Ashley – Jennifer Griffin	Crittenden – Elisha Throesch	Conway – Tiffany Williams
Chicot – Erica Longoria	Lee – Mary Wheeler	
Desha -Stephanie Priest	Mississippi – Julie Bennett	
Hempstead – Lucas Burriel	Phillips – Sherri Degraphenreed	
Jefferson – Charlie Hunter	St. Francis – Johnathan Sanchez	
Lafayette – James Reynolds	Woodruff – Tim Malone	
Ouachita – Kaitlyn Malock		
Union		

NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL
Keith Suggins	NKCS	
and Williams	MARS	
Dury Corneliaus	NACS	
Bit Hill	NRCS	
Martha Manley		
Debbie Mosland	low	
Haven Thompson	(38	
I manda mathi	this	
Dove Akin	NKCS	
Morada Motrisset	NRCS	
Breeden Andersen		
Eugene Cours	WASS	
Emily Woodall	USA Ase	
Josh Hankins	USA Rig	
Diamis Sellink	2000	

NAME	AGENCY	EMAIL
Shiri Darahemed	Neas	
	NEWS	
JAMES FORD	Wees	
The A	MRCS	
Bushar	NRCS	
The Sullina	NPAS	
Cora Perris	NRCS	
Shonon Griffin	YRCS	
Bob Fowler	NRD ADA	
Nick Pichwolson	NRD-4DA	
Harry For	USDA-NRES	
Daria Routh	ADH- Suin	
Lore Barlow	Mess	
Victors	VofA DofA,	
The Smith	100	

Technical Committee Meeting-May 18, 2022												
NRCS State Technical Commi	AGENCY	DR Nature Res	DECTA PLASTICS	NRCS	URES	- 72						
NRC	NAME	Lest Johans	Matt Linds Ey	GARY BENNETT	Countellam	D					0	

8, 2022		
l ecnnical Committee Meeting-May 18, 2022		
AGENCY	ARCS Forestry Division ANCD ANCD ANCO NRES NRES NRES NRES NRES NRES NRES NRES	tomestry Div
NAME	Rodney Wight Datteu Stiaks Nicole Blanks Neven Terris	De tox