

RE LEE SWCD announces 2010 BMP Cost-Share Program

Hey folks – the economy is bad but guess what ? Our state BMP program has been funded at a higher level than last year. I think that's great news for anyone that just heard about it or hasn't been able to get funded the last few years.

Worried about the government making you get your livestock out of the creeks or just like to do some cross-fencing to get better utilization of your grass? We have several practices that will meet these objectives. Most pay a cost-share of 75% plus a state tax credit of 25% of your out of pocket expenses of eligible components. These practices cost-share the fencing as well as wells, troughs and pipeline necessary to replace the source of water lost from the creek.

How about that cropland ? Tired of growing high priced crops that are risky and like to plant everything in grass ? Any cropland with at least 3 years of cropping history can be converted to grass with 75% cost-share of all aspects of the planting (seed, lime, fertilizer, pesticides, tillage, other labor) plus an incentive payment of \$25/acre. This practice must be maintained for 5 years. Additional incentive money is available for longer periods of grass maintenance.

If you want to keep cropping but notice that things are washing a little more than you like; we have a variety of practices to meet your needs. We offer cover crops in two types – one that you can harvest and one that must be killed by May 15th. Cost –share ranges from \$25-\$60 per acre depending on which type, when you plant and what type of small grain you use. Cost-share is also available for establishing or reestablishing grass waterways and terraces.

Cropland or pasture land can also be planted to pine or hardwood species with incentive payments between \$175 and \$250 per acre depending on which you choose. Actual planting costs can be cost-shared through other sources in conjunction with this incentive.

There are numerous other practices such as continuous no-till, animal waste control, split application of nitrogen on corn to fulfill any special need you may have.

Please feel free to call me at 434-352-2819 or stop by the office at 7631-A Richmond Highway, Appomattox to get more details on any of these practices.

Signup is now open.

Mark R. Davis
RELSWCD
Ag. BMP Cons. Spec.