Conservation Cost Share Program Year 22 Guidelines were presented and approved at the February 3rd Commission meeting. Your board and district staff are responsible for implementation and management of your local program. There are significant program changes for Program Year 22 that require careful review. It is your (board members and staff) responsibility to read and understand the Program Year 22 Guidelines as presented.

TRAINING

I have scheduled two training teleconferences for 10:00 am and 1:00 pm on Tuesday, February 18. Watch your email for additional training materials.

I will also have a brief training session on Monday, February 24 at the OACD State Meeting.

PROGRAM YEAR 22

February 18, 2020 – August 31, 2021

ALLOCATION PERIOD

February 18, 2020 – August 31, 2020

If a conservation district fails to obligate all of their allocation by August 31, 2020, the unobligated amount will be withdrawn and made available for reallocation to other districts by the Commission.

ALLOCATION REPORT

All districts are required to submit an allocation report to the Commission by September 1, 2020 for review. All funds that have not been obligated by districts at that time will be reallocated to districts that have approved alternates listed on their allocation report.

The new allocation report form will be similar to the old monthly report. The new form will be available soon.

ALLOCATED FUNDS

Locally Led Conservation Initiative - $3,000,000
Reduction of Feral Swine Population - $80,000
Conservation district allocations range from $75,000 – $15,000. A list of district allocations can be found on page 12 of the Guidelines.

CARRY OVER FUNDS
Conservation districts will **not** be allowed to carry over unobligated Program Year 20 funds to Program Year 22.

APPLICATION RANKING SYSTEM
Conservation districts **must** develop an application ranking system that will be used during the application approval process. The ranking system should address applicant eligibility requirements first to determine if additional consideration towards approval is necessary. Conservation district staff and technical representatives, based on best professional judgment and site specific evaluations should provide information to assist the district board during the application ranking process.

Each conservation district **must** submit their local program priorities and application ranking system for the Commission's review and approval prior to starting the application process. Cost share funds become available to conservation districts for obligation after the Commission approves their local program priorities and application ranking system. The application process cannot begin prior to receiving Commission approval.

ELIGIBLE CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- 314 Brush Management
- 340 Cover Crop
- 362 Diversion
- 386 Field Border
- 394 Firebreak
- 410 Grade Stabilization Structure
- 561 Heavy Use Area Protection
- 516 Livestock Pipeline
- 378 Pond
- 528 Prescribed Grazing
- 550 Range Planting
- 600 Terrace
- 614 Watering Facility
- 327 Conservation Cover
- 342 Critical Area Planting
- 382 Fencing
- 393 Filter Strip
- 512 Forage and Biomass Planting
- 412 Grassed Waterway
- 315 Herbaceous Weed Control
- 590 Nutrient Management
- 338 Prescribed Burning
- 533 Pumping Plant
- 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
- 642 Water Well

MAXIMUM COST SHARE PAYMENT
Not to exceed $7,500.

MAXIMUM COST SHARE RATE
Not to exceed 85%.

REDUCTION OF FERAL SWINE POPULATION
House Bill 1150 authorized the Commission to set aside cost share funds for the purpose of purchasing electronic hog traps to assist landowners’ in reducing the feral
swine population on their lands. Only conservation districts are eligible to apply for these funds. Districts applying for these funds must submit a business plan to the Commission by May 1, 2020. The funds can only be used to purchase the trap and cannot be used for any other associated costs. Interested districts can find more detailed application requirements on pages 9 and 10 of the Guidelines.

CONSERVATION PLANNING
Cost Share Program applications that are approved for funding will need to have a conservation plan developed prior to practice implementation. NRCS provided guidance (see attached) to all field offices for assisting with state cost share conservation plans.

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