

Little Dark Run and Robinson River Water Quality Improvement Plan

AGRICULTURAL WORKING GROUP MEETING

June 15, 2010 at 8:00 PM (Madison Fire Station)

BMP Identification

Table 1. Estimated component costs for various livestock exclusion systems.

Component	Component per System	Component Cost (\$)	CREP Average Cost (\$)	LE-1T, CRP, SL-6AT Average Cost (\$)	LE-2T Average Cost (\$)
Fencing, ft	2,425	4 or 6	14,600	14,600	9,700
Watering trough, #	1	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Groundwater well, #	1	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Piping, ft	500	3	1,500	1,500	1,500
Plantings, system	0 or 1	2,000	2,000	0	0
TOTAL			26,100	24,100	19,200

Table 2. Potential BMPs with estimated landowner and agricultural cost-share program costs.

Practice	Program Code	Unit	Average Cost/Unit to Landowner (\$)	Average Cost/Unit to State or Federal Program (\$)
Livestock exclusion with 35 ft buffer	CREP	System	0	26,100
	LE-1T	System	3,615	20,485
Livestock exclusion with 20 ft buffer	CRP	System	6,025	18,075
Livestock exclusion with 10 ft setback	LE-2T	System	9,600	9,600
Horse exclusion with 35 ft setback	SL-6AT	System	12,050	12,050
Prescribed grazing	528	Acres	5	30
Fencing/buffer maintenance program	WP-2D	System	25% Tax Credit, VADCR currently evaluating incentive	
Permanent vegetative cover on cropland	SL-1	Acres	50	375
	WQ-1	Acres	50	225
Reforestation of erodible crop and pastureland	FR-1	Acres	150	450
Continuous no-till	SL-15A	Acres	0	100
Cover crops	SL-8B	Acres	10	35
Sod waterways	WP-3	Acres	400	1,200
Animal waste control facility	WP-4	System	18,750	56,250
Loafing lot management system	WP-4B	System	6,250	18,750

Do these costs seem pretty typical for these practices? If not, what figures need to be changed?

Do you see any opportunities to reduce the cost of different practices?

In your experience, do any of the practices above generate a greater economic return when compared to the investment cost?

On average, 75% of these practice costs are covered through state and federal cost share programs, would these practices be affordable for farmers? If not, what % would need to be covered through cost share to make them affordable?

BMP Implementation

What are the constraints / obstacles to implementation?

Financial: *initial cost, production losses, maintenance*

Cultural: *distaste for cost-share, desire for “clean” stream banks, 5-10 yr contract*

Technical: *contractor availability, feasibility of cost-share practices, lack of information*

What educational / outreach methods will work best?

Literature: *newsletters, brochures, post-cards, newspapers*

Demonstrations: *field days, farm tours*

Displays: *county fair and horse show, library, courthouse, restaurants*

What alternative funding sources / partnerships are available?

County, tax breaks, environmental groups, private foundations, businesses, fee

Priority / Targeting

Is there a source that should be addressed first?

- Livestock access to stream
- Pasture
- Cropland

Should there be a geographical preference?

- Particular watershed
- Portion of watershed due to livestock density

Does priority for funding need to be established?

- Producers with livestock access get preference to producers with livestock located upland
- Confined animal feeding operations