

2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Customer Focus—

Mr. Sidney Fitzhugh, Sr., owns about 72 acres of cropland that produces soybeans and wheat. The soil, foley silt loam, is not highly productive. Mr. Fitzhugh applied for assistance through the EQIP program for an irrigation well to grow alternative crops as well as to help irrigate the rest of the 72 acres he farms.

Mr. Fitzhugh agreed to plant grass filter strips along the drainage ditches and to lime and fertilize according to soil test recommendations. He also agreed to flood 30 acres to create a temporary shallow water area for wildlife. By agreeing to these practices and reducing his cost-share rate to 40 percent of the cost, his application was selected for implementation.

By installing the well, Mr. Fitzhugh will be able to irrigate 5 acres of alternative crops and use the well to water an additional 35 to 40 acres of conventional crops. He plans to convert part of his acreage to rice production since the foley soil is well suited to this. The soil quality will be improved through improving the organic matter percentage.

Being able to irrigate can increase Mr. Fitzhugh's farm income by as much as twice his present income as well as protect and improve the water and soil quality. Because of the lack of rainfall and high temperatures during the past 3 years, this increase in income will help Mr. Fitzhugh keep his family farm.

Arkansas Summary

Overview

The State of Arkansas had an overwhelming EQIP interest in 2000. Nearly 2,500 landowners applied for funding which totaled more than \$12 million. NRCS assisted landowners to develop over 900 contracts, which obligated nearly \$3 million in federal cost-share assistance. These contracts resulted in assistance to address critical resource concerns such as ground water decline, animal waste management, water quality enhancement, erosion and sediment reduction, and wildlife enhancement.

Accomplishments

EQIP has assisted landowners in addressing critical resource issues across the State of Arkansas. During the 4 years of the program existence, more than 4,300 landowner contracts have been written to address individual landowner resource concerns. About 60 percent of the funding have been made available to livestock operations for addressing animal waste management and water quality issues.

Outlook

Financial and technical assistance is needed to assist Arkansas farmers address their critical water quality, critical ground water decline and water conservation, soil erosion, animal waste management, and other resource concerns. Additional funding would provide critically needed resources for farmers to address their resource concerns during a period of low farm income.

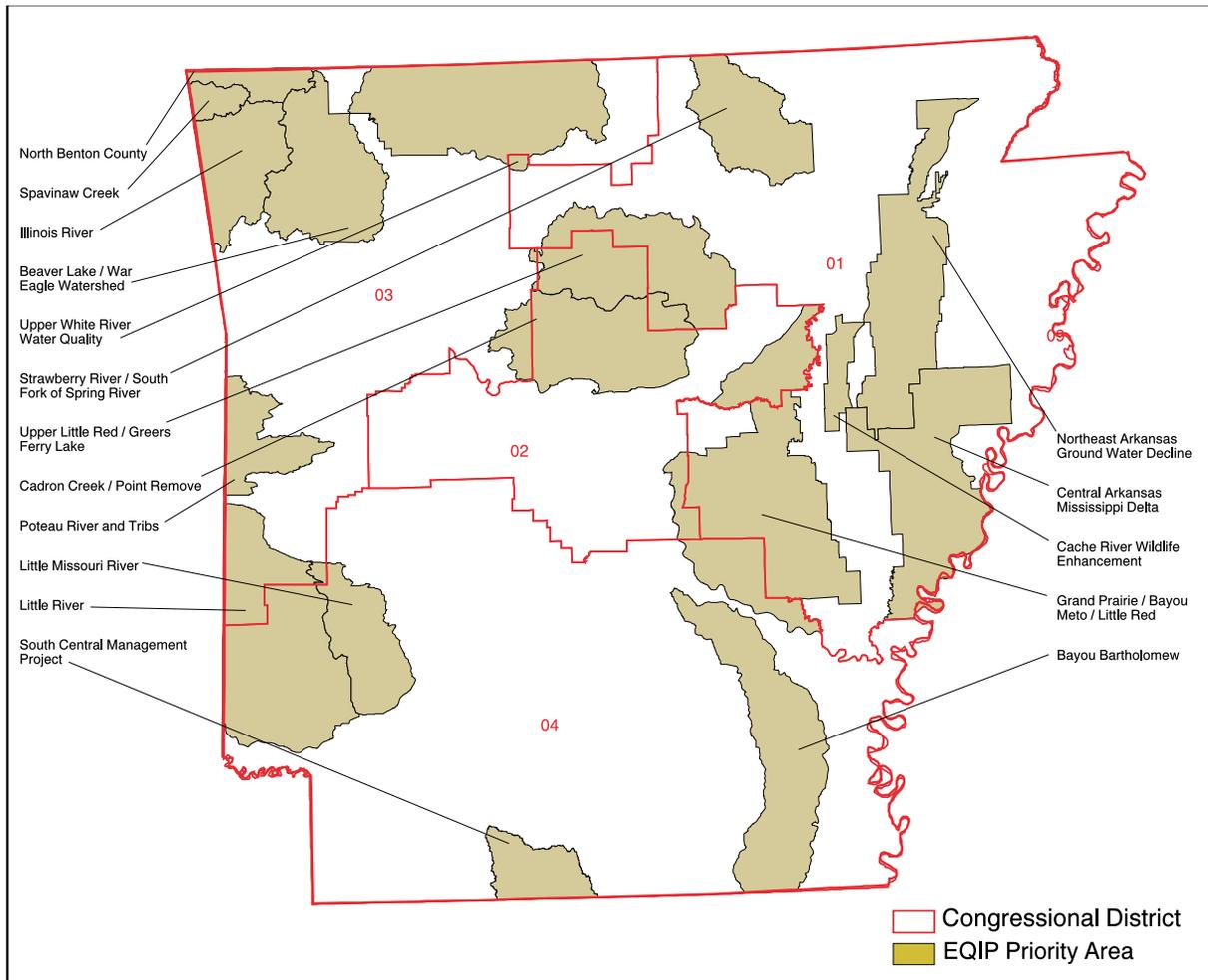
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*Mr. Sidney Fitzhugh, Sr.
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Arkansas*

Arkansas EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Arkansas EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$896,147	399	\$4,673,006	1,602
District 1	647,568	220	3,084,816	796
District 2	365,969	77	2,377,931	394
District 3	761,498	162	4,376,382	778
District 4	271,374	58	1,791,976	299
State Totals	\$2,942,556	916	\$16,304,111	3,869

Note:EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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