United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Water Quantity Enhancement Activity – WQT06 - Conversion to Non-Irrigated Crop Production

Enhancement Description
This enhancement consists of the conversion of land that has been irrigated 2 out of the last 5 years to crops or pasture production that does not require irrigation.

Land Use Applicability
Cropland and pastureland.

Benefits
The conversion of irrigated cropland or pasture to non-irrigated (dry) cropland, non-irrigated pasture or range land, in areas where ground water or surface water supplies are limited, has the immediate benefit of conserving a scarce resource. Where irrigation water is pumped, elimination of pumping will also reduce energy usage and improve air quality if internal combustion engines were used for pumping on the farm.

Criteria

1. Land eligible for this enhancement must have irrigation water available and have been under irrigation for 2 of the last 5 years.
2. The water that would have been used for irrigating land where this enhancement is implemented cannot be used to irrigate other acreage on the farm or the water rights sold to another landowner.
3. The land must be converted to growing crops, pasture species or other vegetation that can be expected to survive under the normally expected rainfall regime.
4. Regardless of the type of vegetation grown on the land after removal of irrigation, invasive species must be controlled.
5. The conversion should include the necessary changes in management of the land to improve the success of the change, such as, changes to drought tolerant crops, changed crop rotations and installation of moisture capturing practices.

Documentation Requirements

1. A map showing areas to be converted to non-irrigated land.
2. Documentation of the amount of water used for irrigation in the previous 5 years.

This activity may NOT be used with the following enhancements: ANM01, ANM02, ANM03, ANM04, ANM05, ANM06, ANM07, ANM08, ANM12, ANM21, ANM22, ANM23, SOE02

No potential duplicate practices.
--Landowner should consider the impact on their water rights when using WQT06.--