

Missouri State Technical Committee Meeting
UMC BRADFORD FARM
Columbia, MO
9:00 a.m. – Noon
June 23, 2010

Opening Comments – Dwaine Gelnar, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Operations, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced J. R. Flores, NRCS State Conservationist.

Flores welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked people to introduce themselves. He explained the role of the State Technical Committee and reviewed the meeting agenda. Flores pointed out that Missouri has a very diverse State Technical Committee and that he looked forward to building a strong working relationship with them.

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Gelnar pointed out that every county in Missouri (except St. Louis) had at least one EQIP application in 2010. He stated that Missouri received 3,159 applications totaling just over \$48 million. Gelnar said that Missouri funded 983 applications totaling just over \$15 million.

Flores pointed out that he anticipated receiving an additional \$1 million EQIP allocation later in the year to further address forestry issues in the state.

Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP)

Gelnar stated that in 2010 Missouri had 250 WHIP applications, requesting just over \$1.3 million. He pointed out that with the limited funding, 104 contracts were signed totaling \$583,065. He presented to the committee a handout that illustrated the number of contracts each county received.

Gelnar informed the group that the 2010 WHIP funding in Missouri was considerably less than it was in 2009 due to a new funding formula used at that national level.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Gelnar presented a handout which outlined all of the current CSP agricultural land funding pools in Missouri. Non-industrial private forest land applications are submitted in a statewide funding pool. Gelnar pointed out that Missouri funded 1,007 CSP contracts in 2010 totaling just over \$8.2 million. Of the 1,007 contracts, 236 were NIPF contracts totaling \$336,584.

Easement Programs

Harold Deckerd, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Water Resources, presented a recap of the 2010 easement programs in Missouri. He presented the committee numerous handouts which broke down easement participation.

Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)

Deckerd said the purpose and emphasis of WRP. He pointed out a new eligibility issue in WRP. He indicated that landowners will need to have ownership of the offered tract for at least seven years prior to applying.

Deckerd covered the three levels of participation a landowner can apply for as well as the reserved rights of the participant. He presented the committee examples of restoration techniques and mentioned that Missouri was in the top five states in the nation in WRP.

Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)

Deckerd covered the program objectives and options as well as the eligibility requirements of participants. He outlined the prohibited and allowable activities that could occur on GRP contracted acres. He presented the committee with the current GRP rental rates.

EQIP Subcommittee Update

Gelnar presented the committee with a handout that outlined the EQIP subcommittee's recommendations for future changes and concerns. He opened the floor for discussion and asked the committee to send any program recommendations to J.R. Flores for consideration. He pointed out that NRCS is well under way establishing 2011 program policies and that Flores would appreciate their input.

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

Bob Ball, NRCS State Resource Conservationist, presented handouts to the committee breaking down MRBI activities in Missouri. He stated that Missouri had 12 accepted MRBI projects in 2010 with over \$6 million available for EQIP, WHIP and CSP contracts in the project area. He stated that Missouri will be partners with Arkansas on a couple of projects in the Bootheel area.

Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Allen Powell, FSA Conservation Program Specialist, informed the committee that he anticipated a general CRP sign up in August. He stated that no formal notification has been given and the FSA National Office has not established an acre limit to this point. Powell mentioned that he is anticipating a large sign up when an announcement is made.