

CONSERVATION INNOVATION GRANTS
Semi-annual Progress Report (FINAL)

Grantee Name: East Arkansas Enterprise Community, Inc.	
Project Title: Outreach Strategies for beginning Farmers, Socially Disadvantaged Farmers and Limited Resource Farmers to Implement Best Management Practices (BMP)for Nutrient Control in the Mississippi River Basin	
Agreement Number: 69-3A75-10-171	
Project Director: Dr. Robert L. Cole	
Contact Information: Dr. Robert L. Cole, Consulting Director	Phone Number: 870-630-2005 E-Mail: eaec@sbcglobal.net
Period Covered by Report: April 1, 2013 – September 30, 2013	
Project End Date: September 30, 2013	

Note: Reporting is according to timeline provided in the initial grant approval.

A) Summarize the work performed during the project period covered by this report:

1. EAEC staff and consultant participated in an outreach meeting conducted by the St. Francis County Conservation District at Mikes Restaurant in Colt, Arkansas. During this public meeting information was presented to promote the L'Anguille River MRBI project to local producers.
2. EAEC staff and consultants worked with NRCS state office staff in reviewing FY13 Fact Sheet for EAEC, L'Anguille River MRBI for final approval
3. A continuous dialog with local sponsor and NRCS District Conservationist is being maintained to assure that all producers are aware of the MRBI Projects. We keep them informed of the outreach performed by EAEC and coordinate future communication and application processes with targeted groups.

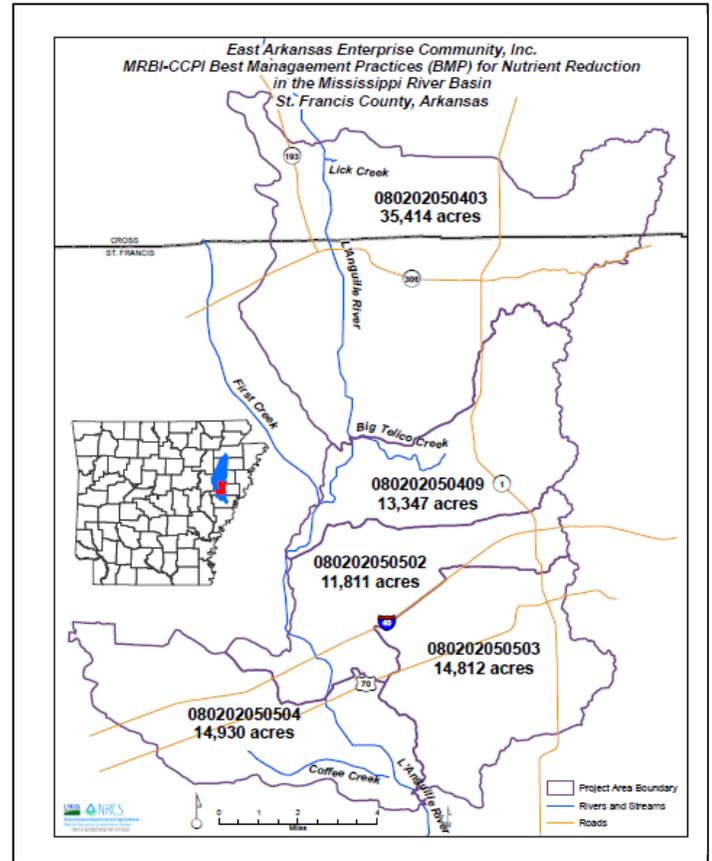
B) Describe significant results, accomplishments, and lessons learned. Compare actual accomplishments to the project goals in your proposal:

Larkin Creek Watershed encompasses a small portion of the overall area that we conduct outreach in. According to the St. Francis and Lee County Conservation District they have a mailing list with 38 producers. They are contacted regularly with mail out concerning the programs. This mailing list contains the names of both land owners and producer. There are 19 producers on the list and 17 of those are participating in the project – 89%. They have 65% participation of the total number of producers on the list. Approximately 5% of the producer in the Larkin Creek Watershed is socially disadvantaged, limited resource, or new and beginning farmers. As a result of the outreach conducted by EAEC we feel that the outreach effort has made a significant difference in the overall participation. EAEC staff and Consultants will

continue to seek out new potential customers and conduct outreach on the benefits of this project and other USDA Programs.

EAEC MRBI L'Anguille River CCPI Project Watershed encompasses an area in St. Francis and Cross Counties consisting of a total of 90,301 acres.

The project will establish on-farm water quality demonstrations, innovative pilot projects, and provide outreach efforts with underserved communities. The program will improve producer adoption of conservation practices/resource management systems and approaches to manage nutrients. This will reduce nutrient loadings while maintaining agricultural productivity. Also, the program will provide informational and educational efforts to help prepare traditionally underserved communities, associated partners, and others who respond to MRBI Request for Proposals.



C) Describe the work that you anticipate completing in the next six-month period:

Although the funding for this outreach project ended on September 30, 2013, East Arkansas Enterprise Community (EAEC) will continue working with the producer and NRCS in implementation of this project that will include a combination of avoiding, controlling, and trapping practices to manage nutrients and reduce nutrient loads. EAEC staff and consultant will continue hosting outreach meetings as part of its normal operations which will provide outreach to the targeted socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and new and beginning farmers about the purpose of the MRBI Project and other programs.

EAEC staff and consultants will continue providing one-on-one technical assistance to socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and new and beginning farmers in the targeted area to stress upon them the importance of their participation in this project. EAEC staff and consultants also anticipate over the next six months that we will be working with more local producers in implementing conservation practices approved through the EAEC L'Anguille River MRBI

Project. During Fy-2013 (April through September) NRCS had 26 applications for approximately \$1,445,409.00 with 6333.4 acres being enrolled in the EQIP program.

EAEC staff and consultants are now working with NRCS and the St. Francis and Cross Counties Conservation District in assisting socially disadvantaged, limited resource and new and beginning farmers in applying for technical and financial assistance through the EAEC L'Anguille River MRBI Project.

During this reporting period (July through September) EAEC staff and Consultants met with Corey Cornelious (NRCS staff), Dr. Yushen Chen (UAPB staff) and Mr. Ellis Bell (producer) on farm to begin phase two of the project. Specific fields have been identified by Mr. Bell and Dr. Chen that will be monitored for various nutrients loading over the next 10 years.

D) Provide the following in accordance with the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and CIG grant agreement provisions:

1. A listing of EQIP-eligible producers involved in the project, identified by name and social security number or taxpayer identification number.
 - This information is available from the local NRCS Office in Lee, St. Francis and Cross Counties.
2. The dollar amount of any direct or indirect payments made to each individual producer or entity for any structural, vegetative, or management practices. Both biannual and cumulative payment amounts must be submitted.
 - This information is available from the local NRCS Office in Lee, St. Francis and Cross Counties.
3. A self-certification statement indicating that each individual or entity receiving a direct or indirect payment for any structural, vegetative, or management practice through this grant is in compliance with the adjusted gross income (AGI) and highly-erodible lands and wetlands conservation (HEL/WC) compliance provisions of the Farm Bill.
 - This information is available from the local NRCS Office in Lee, St. Francis and Cross Counties.