

2011 Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Local Work Group Summary for the Santa Rosa Field Office

Introduction:

The Santa Rosa Field Office is located in Northeastern New Mexico and is part of the East Area of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The general agricultural setting is made up of small farms along the Pecos River mainly in the Anton Chico and Puerto De Luna communities. Ranching makes up the majority of the land use outside of the Pecos River system. Ranches vary in size from small to very large holdings within the Santa Rosa Field Office service area.

Local Work Group:

The Local Work Group meeting was held at the Comfort Inn in Santa Rosa, New Mexico at 1:00 p.m. on September 22, 2010. There were 34 people in attendance. They included a county commissioner, a member of the NMSU cooperative extension service, a member of El Llano Estacado RC&D, four members of Guadalupe SWCD, several members of local acequias, 5 NRCS personnel and 19 local producers or members of the public.

The LWG documented the various resource concerns for the area.

Priority Resource Concerns:

- Grazing Lands – inadequate stock water, noxious and invasive plants and classic gully erosion.
- Irrigated Croplands- inefficient water use on irrigated land, sheet and rill erosion, noxious and invasive plants, organic matter depletion, and fish and wildlife habitat.

Funding Considerations:

Allocation of funds was discussed and it was decided the allocation should remain the same as 2010 EQIP.

80% Grazing Lands

20% Irrigated Cropland

In the event that money remains in any category, the remaining money may be moved to another category.

Cost Share Rate Factor:

There is no change in the LWG recommendation on cost-share rates. This includes a 75% rate on structural practices.

The LWG did not recommend payments for any management practice.

The LWG did not recommend a practice cap on any practice.

Please refer to the FY 2011 EQIP cost list for final practice payment rates.

Ranking Criteria:

The national ranking tool will be used for evaluating applications. Local issues will be incorporated into the ranking tool. LWG agreed that the Ranking Criteria should remain substantially the same as FY2010. Some minor changes were discussed.

Tie breakers will be addressed as follows:

Grazing Lands – The tie breaker will be awarded to the application that has the higher point total in the local issues section of the ranking questions

Irrigated cropland – The tie breaker will be awarded to the application with the higher efficiency percentage total based on the Farm Irrigation System (FIRS) worksheet.

Please refer to the ranking criteria links for specific information.

Watershed Initiative:

The LWG recommended a continuation of funding for the Pintada Watershed Initiative for the second year. They recommended allocating \$60,000.00 with the hope that the state office would match that amount. In the event that money remains in this account, it may be moved to the general fund account. Funding for this initiative would go to grazing land only and the resource concerns and ranking questions used would be the same as grazing land.

Small Acreage Initiative:

The LWG recommended allocating \$60,000 to the small acreage initiative with the hope that the state office match that amount. Initially that money would be equally split between cropland and grazing. Primary resource concerns are the same as grazing lands and irrigated cropland in the general account. This initiative will target those producers who have 15 acres or less of irrigated cropland and 640 acres or less of grazing land. There will be a \$10,000 cap per contract. The initiative will cover the entire FO area. In the event that money remains in this account, it may be moved to the general fund account.