

2014 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Proposal

For the Fort Sumner Field Office

Introduction:

Fort Sumner Field Office is located at 101 Stearns, Fort Sumner, NM. De Baca County is 1,509,120 acres, with the Pecos River bisecting the county. Elevation ranges from 3,800 to 4,400 feet. Fort Sumner is an agricultural community with approximately 7,100 acres flood irrigated farm land in the valley and about 2,800 acres sprinkler irrigated farmland outside the valley. The remainder of the county is rangeland.

Local Work Group:

The Local Work Group is comprised of individuals representing the following groups, De Baca SWCD, NM State Land Office, De Baca County Extension, Fort Sumner Irrigation District, NMACD/SWAT, Farm Service Agency and NRCS staff. The LWG meeting was held on September 5, 2013 at the County Annex Meeting Room, 248 Ave C, Courthouse Complex, Fort Sumner. The meeting was attended by 15 individuals with the purpose of providing local input into the FY 2014 Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Priority Resource Concerns:

A. Rangeland:

1. Plant Condition- Noxious and Invasive Plants, Productivity Health and Vigor
2. Water Quantity- Rangeland Hydrologic Cycle
3. Soil Condition- Sheet and Rill
4. Fish and Wildlife- Inadequate Cover/Shelter; Food; Space and Water.
5. Domestic Animals- Inadequate Stock Water, Inadequate Quantities and Quality of Feed and Forage

B. Cropland

1. Water Quantity – Inefficient Water use in Irrigated Land, Excessive runoff, Flooding or Ponding
2. Soil Erosion – Irrigation Induced, Wind
3. Water Quality – Excessive Nutrients and Organics in Surface water

Funding Considerations:

The LWG discussed the allocation of EQIP funds received and decided that the funds will be allocated as follows:

Watersheds - \$75,000.00 from the initial Field Office allocation (See attachment #3)

Small Acreage Initiative - \$7,500 from initial field Office Allocation (See attachment #3)

Grazing Lands- 60% of the remaining balance

Cropland- 40% of the remaining balance

After discussion the LWG reached a consensus to place a \$30,000 practice cap on 314-Brush Control for the FY14 EQIP program.

Cost Share Rate Factor:

The cost-share rate factor for the most commonly used practices in the payment schedule is expected to be 75%, with 90% for the HU category participants.

Ranking Criteria:

The LWG discussed the ranking criteria and decided to make no changes from FY 2013 for Rangeland and Irrigated Crop, and the Watershed Initiative will use the same ranking criteria as regular EQIP Irrigated Crop. The 2013 Watershed had a slightly different ranking criteria than Irrigated Crop, but there is no need for that distinction this year.

All ties will be broken by the highest number from the randomly assigned Tracking Code in Protracts.

Watershed Initiative:

See Attachment #3

Small Acreage Initiative:

The LWG has elected to pursue a small acreage initiative. See attachment #3.

Timeline:

The LWG agreed to the proposed schedule of Activities/Deadlines for EQIP FY 2014.