



**Natural Resources
Conservation Service**

Room 3416, Federal Building
700 W. Capitol Ave.
Little Rock, AR 72201
Web: <http://www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov>

FACT SHEET

January 2018

2018 National Water Quality Initiative Buffalo Slough-Cache River Watershed

Overview

The Buffalo Slough-Cache River Watershed National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Project is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers for addressing water quality concerns in this watershed located in portions of Greene and Lawrence counties. The project area covers 22,274 acres.

Resource Concerns Addressed by the Project

- Water Quality Degradation - Excessive nutrients in surface and ground waters (primary)
- Water Quality Degradation – Excessive sediment in surface water (primary)
- Water Quantity – Inefficient Use of Irrigation (secondary)
- Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife - Habitat degradation (secondary)

Project Goals

- Reduce soil loss in the watershed to improve water quality in a segment of the Upper Cache River as well as soil loss along agricultural drainage ditches and other surface waters that eventually discharge to the Upper Cache River.
- Voluntarily implement a systems approach of conservation practices to reduce nutrient and sediment by 2023 in target acres.
- The documented water savings for basic irrigation water management and associated supporting practices will be 10-25 percent.

Conservation Practice Funding

Funding will be available to eligible landowners through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS will provide financial assistance for a systems approach using approved conservation practices for the purpose of addressing resource concerns. Land and producer eligibility, adjusted gross income, and all other program criteria for participation must be met to participate in this initiative. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.

Approved Conservation Practices

Core Practices

- 327 – Conservation Cover
- 328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
- 340 – Cover Crop
- 342 – Critical Area Planting
- 390 – Riparian Herbaceous Buffer
- 391 – Riparian Forest Buffer
- 393 – Filter Strip
- 436 – Irrigation Reservoir
- 443 – Irrigation System-Surface and Subsurface
- 447 – Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery
- 449 – Irrigation Water Management
- 590 – Nutrient Management
- 612 – Tree/Shrub Establishment

Supporting Practices

- 201 – Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring Data Collection and Evaluation
- 202 – Edge of Field Water Quality Monitoring System Installation



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- 333 – Amending Soil Properties with Gypsum Products
- 345 – Residue & Tillage Management-Reduced Till
- 386 – Field Border
- 410 – Grade Stabilization Structure
- 430 – Irrigation Pipeline
- 464 – Irrigation Land Leveling
- 484 – Mulching
- 490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- 533 – Pumping Plant
- 587 – Structure for Water Control
- 607 – Surface Drain - Field Ditch
- 608 – Surface Drain - Main and Lateral
- 644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 646 – Shallow Water Development and Management

How to Apply for NWQI

NRCS and associated conservation partners will deliver this program collaboratively. Applications may be obtained and filed with NRCS at:

Greene County

Paragould Field Service Center
206 N. Rockingchair Rd.
Paragould, AR 72450
(870) 239-8586, ext. 3

Lawrence County

Walnut Ridge Field Service Center
1100 W. Main
Walnut Ridge, AR 72476
(870) 886-7791, ext. 3

For More Information

If you need more information about NWQI, please contact one of the above offices or visit the NRCS Arkansas Web site at: www.ar.nrcs.usda.gov

