

Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)



Project Overview

The Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI) is a targeted approach to address the critical groundwater decline issues in the Arkansas Delta. Through this voluntary program, financial and technical assistance will be provided to agricultural producers in seven counties: Arkansas, and Prairie; and portions of Craighead, Cross, Lonoke, Poinsett, and St. Francis.

Resource Concerns Addressed

- Water Quantity (primary)
- Soil Health (secondary)

Project Goals

Address critical groundwater decline by:

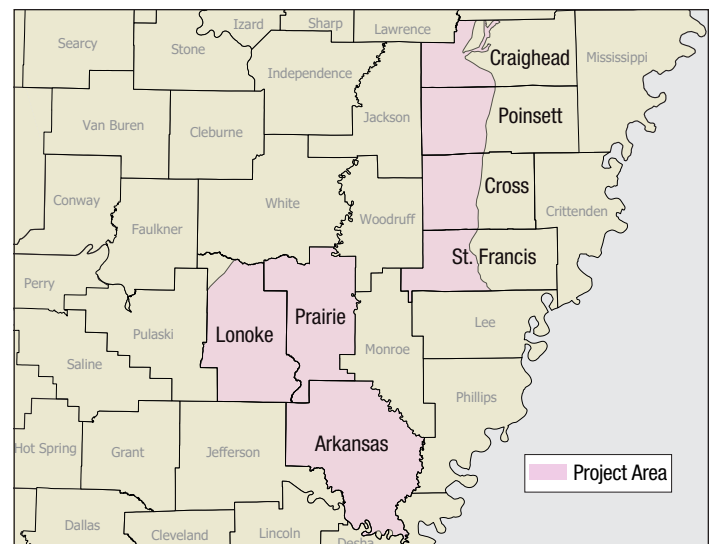
- Implementing conservation practices that convert to surface water usage;
- Implementing management plans that create water savings through innovative equipment technology and management techniques;
- Installation of permanent flowmeters on wells and relifts for contracted acreages;
- Monitor and collect accurate well water use within the critical groundwater areas creating a comprehensive network of measured wells;
- Addressing soil health concerns through implementation of cover crop science in order to build and retain soil moisture throughout the soil profile.

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. Funding will be prioritized based on a tiered approach with areas with highest groundwater drawdowns being the highest priority. Agricultural lands are eligible for enrollment in the initiative.

Approved Conservation Practices

- Cover Crop (340)
- Critical Area Planting (342)
- Grade Stabilization Structure (410)
- Irrigation Land Leveling (464)
- Irrigation Pipeline (430)
- Irrigation Reservoir (436)
- Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation (441)
- Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface (443)
- Irrigation System, Tailwater Recovery (447)
- Irrigation Water Management (449)
- Mulching (484)
- Nutrient Management (590)
- Pest Management (590)
- Pumping Plant (533)
- Residue and Tillage Management; No-till (329)
- Residue and Tillage Management; Reduced-till (345)
- Sprinkler System (442)
- Structure for Water Control (587)
- Surface Drain, Field Ditch (607)
- Surface Drain, Main or Lateral (608)
- Water Well Decommissioning (351)
- Well Water Testing (355)



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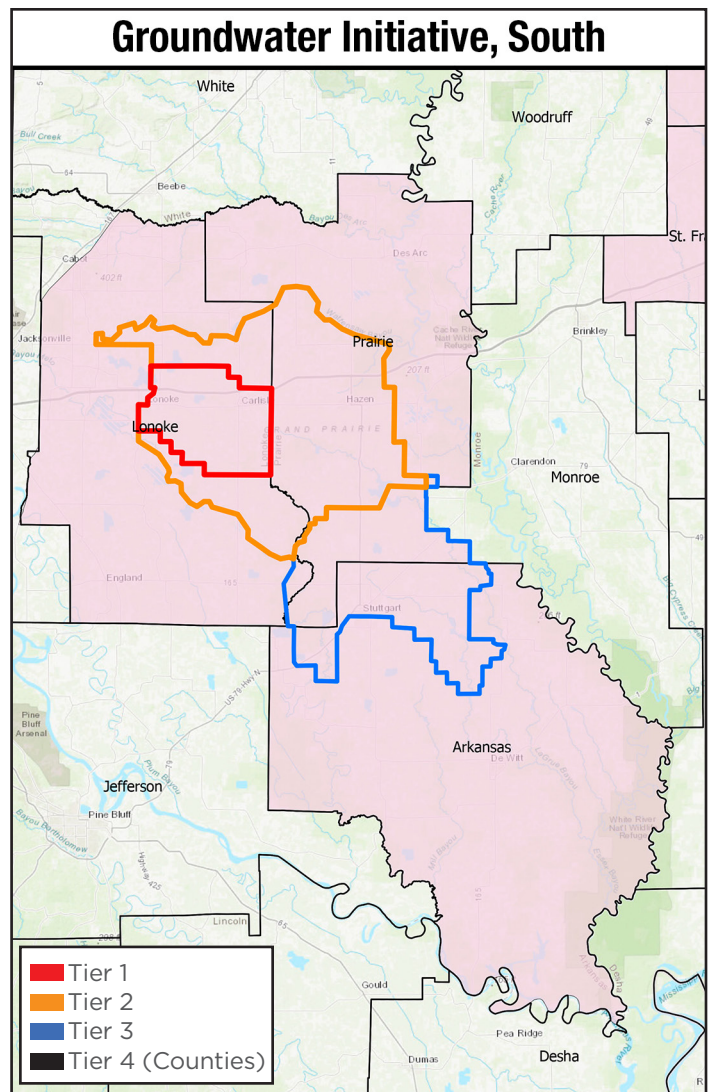
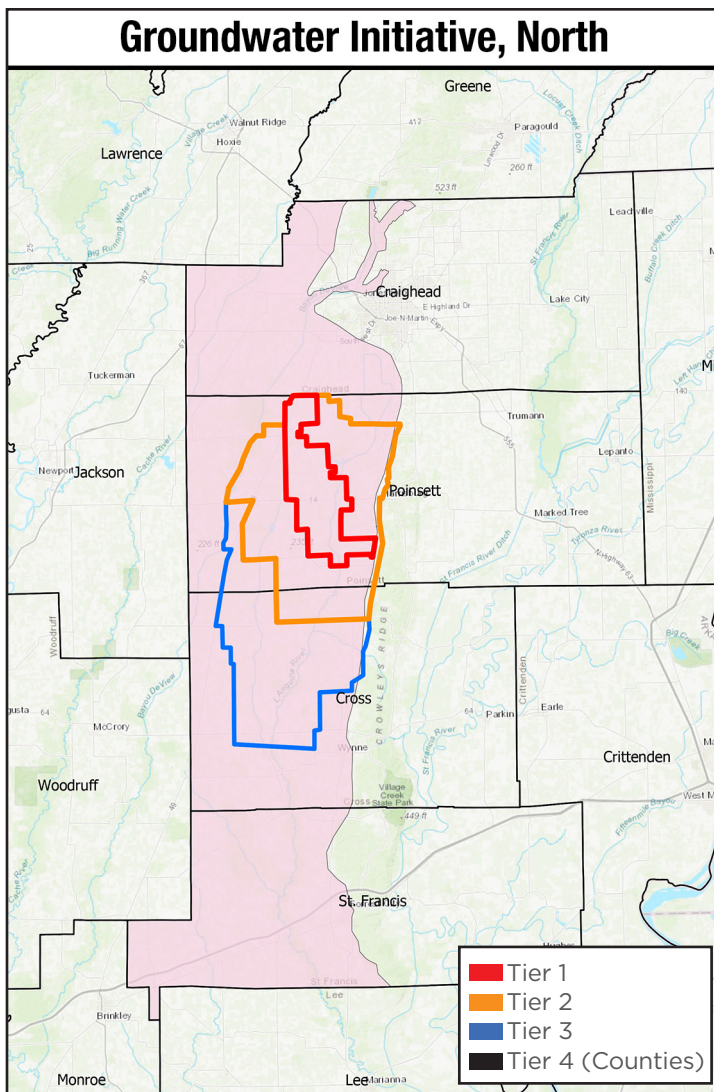
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How To Apply

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

Arkansas County

DeWitt Field Service Center
1015 West 2nd St.
DeWitt, AR 72042
(870) 946-3331

Poinsett County

Harrisburg Field Service Center
505 Brooks Street
Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2444

Craighead County

Jonesboro Field Service Center
3407 South Caraway Road
Jonesboro, AR 72404
(870) 972-4671

Prairie County

Hazen Field Service Center
909 1600 Industrial Street
Hazen, AR 72064
(870) 255-3573

Cross County

Wynne Field Service Center
810 Highway 64 East, Suite 13
Wynne, AR 72396
(870) 238-3285

St. Francis County

Forrest City Field Service Center
4401 North Washington Street
Forrest City, AR 72335
(870) 633-3055

Lonoke County

Lonoke Field Service Center
1300 North Center Street, Suite 8
Lonoke, AR 72086
(501) 676-5116

Partners

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS)
United States Geological Survey (USGS)
Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC)

For More Information

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

For more information on the Arkansas Groundwater Initiative (AGWI), please contact the Lonoke Technical Service Center at (501) 676-0283.