

**STATE GUIDELINES
FOR THE
CONSERVATION COST-SHARE PROGRAM**

PROGRAM YEAR 13

Program Year Begins: September 1, 2011
Program Year Ends: June 30, 2013

Allocation Period Begins: September 1, 2011
Allocation Period Ends: June 30, 2012

Oklahoma Conservation Commission
in cooperation with
Oklahoma's 87 Conservation Districts

Approved by the Conservation Commission on September 1, 2011.

1. GENERAL

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission hereby declares that the following problems are having a detrimental affect on the renewable natural resources of our state:

Oklahoma's water and soil resources are an important foundation of the state's economic infrastructure. Natural climatic events as well as human activity are impacting these two natural resources. As long as farmers and ranchers produce food from the land to feed the world and the wind blows and the rain falls, we will continue to see impacts on soil and water. Our task as stewards of these natural resources is to minimize these impacts. Protecting these vital natural resources is paramount in preserving the state's economic future. In order to accomplish this goal, the Conservation Commission hereby establishes the following goals and objectives to address these problems affecting our renewable natural resources:

Make cost-share funds available to conservation districts so that they can implement cost-share practices which will protect our soil and water natural resources.

The Conservation Commission herein establishes the complete list and description of the conservation Cost-Share Program policies and conservation practices approved for use by the conservation districts during Program Year 13. See Section II for the approved list of conservation practices with their respective range of cost-share rates for each of the Conservation Cost-Share Program initiatives. State cost-share average costs (unit cost) are based on Oklahoma Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) data.

Any exceptions from these established Conservation Cost-Share Program policies and guidelines shall be approved by the Conservation Commission.

II. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

A. Locally Led Conservation Initiative

The Conservation Commission allocates the \$739,391.00 FY 2012 appropriation and \$411,136.00 of the un-obligated balance from previous program years for a total of \$1,150,527.00 to the Conservation Cost-Share Fund for the purposes of providing cost-share payments to eligible participants for implementing approved cost-share conservation practices.

B. Conservation District Allocation

The amount of funds allocated to each conservation district appears in pages 10-12. These funds will be available to conservation districts on September 1, 2011.

III. POLICIES

A. Allocation Period

The allocation period shall start September 1, 2011 and end June 30, 2012. Any funds allocated to districts and not obligated during the allocation period for Program Year 13

will be released by the district and made available for reallocation by the Conservation Commission. Funds become obligated to a participant after approval of the application by the board and a performance agreement has been signed and dated by the district board and the participant.

B. Authorized/Designated Representatives

The district board must designate an authorized district representative. This person can sign all forms. The authorized district representative must be a district board member. It cannot be a district employee.

The district must designate a technical representative. The designated technical representative will assist in developing conservation plans and determining the need for conservation practices. The representative will also be responsible for design and layout of approved conservation practices, determining compliance with approved standards and specifications, and certifying conservation practice quantities and completion of conservation practices.

C. Conservation Practices

Each district board may select any of the approved cost-share conservation practices within the Locally Led Conservation Initiative for inclusion in the district's local guidelines. The selection should be based on which practices will best address the district's highest priority problems affecting renewable natural resources.

Cost-share practices shall be implemented according to NRCS standards and specifications. In the event NRCS standards and specifications do not exist, conservation practices must meet Conservation Commission approved standards and specifications.

D. Average Costs

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

E. Cost-Share Payments

The minimum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$100. The maximum cost-share payment amount that shall be made to any participant from these funds is \$5,000.

F. Cost-Share Rate

The maximum cost-share rate for these practices is 75%. District boards may choose to set cost-share rate less than the specified rate.

G. Eligibility

Applicants for the Conservation Cost-Share Program must be a district cooperator with a conservation plan. The applicant must certify that they own or operate at least 20 acres of land from which more than \$1,000 of soil-dependent products are sold annually.

Conservation Commissioners, Conservation Commission staff, conservation district employees or the spouses of any of these people shall not be eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program.

On November 1, 1999 conservation district directors became eligible to participate in the Conservation Cost-Share Program. Due to the limited amount of funds available for Program Year 13 individual directors should give careful consideration to public perception when making their decision to participate in the Program. If the local board decides that board members can apply and board members choose to apply for Program Year 13 the guidelines below must be followed.

1. Individual district board members applying cannot discuss any element of the Cost-Share Program including but not limited to practices, rates, average costs, selection criteria, application approval/disapprovals, cost-share payments, and extensions.
2. Individual district board members applying for the Cost-Share Program must abstain from voting on all elements of the Program.
3. Individual district board members cannot use their position as a conservation district board member to improve or elevate their individual chances of becoming a successful applicant.

H. Agreements

All Program Year 13 performance agreements must be signed and dated by the district board and participant on or before June 30, 2012. All Program Year 13 performance agreements must be completed and the check in the hand of the participant on or before June 30, 2013. Installation of conservation practices can not begin until an effective performance agreement is in place. A performance agreement becomes effective on the last date of signature. Each participant should have only one performance agreement.

Each participant is required to sign a maintenance agreement. Completion of the maintenance agreement and signature of the participant are required prior to the disbursement of the cost-share payment.

IV APPROVED CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Contained in this section is a list of all conservation practice's approved for use in the Program Year 13 Locally Led Conservation Initiative. The conservation district shall only use conservation practices listed here unless a special request is approved by the Conservation Commission. In order for a conservation practice special request to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting documentation. The special request must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to the board's approval of Program applications and performance agreements being signed.

State average cost (unit cost) for these practices is based on Oklahoma NRCS data. In order for a variance to be considered the request must be in writing and accompanied by supporting data compiled by the district. The variance rate must be approved by the Conservation Commission prior to performance agreements being signed.

Below are the conservation practices approved for Program Year 13.

314 - Brush Management

Definition: Removal, reduction, or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.

Purpose: This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Restore natural plant community balance.
- Create the desired plant community.
- Reduce competition for space, moisture, and sunlight between desired and unwanted plants.
- Manage noxious woody plants.
- Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow.
- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including that associated with threatened and endangered species.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock.
- Protect life and property from wildfire hazards.
- Improve visibility and access for handling livestock.

342 - Critical Area Planting

Definition: Planting vegetation on highly erodible or critically eroding areas.

Purpose: To stabilize the soil, reduce damage from sediment and runoff to downstream areas.

362 † Diversion (new structures only)

Definition: A channel constructed across the slope with a supporting ridge on the lower side.

Purpose: To divert excess water from one area for use or safe disposal in other areas.

378 † Pond (new structures only)

Definition: A water impoundment made by constructing a dam or an embankment or by excavating a pit or dugout.

Purpose: To maintain or improve water quality.

382 - Fencing

Definition: Enclosing or dividing an area of land with a suitable permanent structure that acts as a barrier to livestock, big game, or people. (Does not include temporary fences).

Purpose: Exclude livestock or big game permanently from areas that should be protected from grazing (vegetated and seeded areas, tree planting, wildlife areas, recreational areas, brush management areas, structural measures, cropland or other areas requiring special treatment).

NOTE: This practice is to be used only in conjunction with the Pond (378) or as cross fencing for grazing management.

410 - Grade Stabilization Structure

Definition: A structure used to control the grade and head cutting in natural or artificial channels.

Purpose: To stabilize the grade and control erosion in natural or artificial channels, to prevent the formation or advance of gullies, and to enhance environmental quality and reduce pollution hazards.

412 ¥ Grassed Waterway (new structures only)

Definition: A natural or constructed channel that is shaped or graded to required dimensions and established in suitable vegetation for the stable conveyance of runoff.

Purpose: To convey runoff from terraces, diversions, or other water concentrations without causing erosion or flooding and to improve water quality.

512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

Definition: Establishing native or introduced forage species.

Purpose: Reduce soil erosion by wind and/or water.

516 - Pipeline

Definition: Pipeline installed for conveying water for livestock or for recreation.

Purpose: To convey water from a source of supply to points of use.

550 - Range Planting

Definition: Establishing adapted plants by seeding on native grazing land.

Purpose: To prevent excessive soil and water loss and improve water quality.

590 ¥ Nutrient Management

Definition: Managing the amount, form, placement, and timing of applications of plant nutrients.

Purpose: To supply plant nutrients for optimum forage and crop yields, minimize entry of nutrients to surface and groundwater, and to maintain or improve chemical, physical and biological condition of the soil.

NOTE: To be use in conjunction with other approved conservation practices that specifically refer to Nutrient Management (590) for fertilizing.

595 - Pest Management

Definition: Manage weeds (including invasive and non-invasive species) that directly or indirectly cause damage or annoyance.

Purpose: Minimize negative impacts of pest control on soil resources, water resources, air resources, plant resources, animal resources and/or humans.

600 ¥ Terrace

Definition: An earth embankment, a channel, or a combination ridge and channel constructed across the slope.

Purpose: To reduce erosion, reduce sediment content in runoff water, and improve water quality.

614 ¥ Watering Facility

Definition: a trough or tank, with needed devices for water control and waste water disposal installed to provide drinking water for livestock.

Purpose: To provide watering facilities for livestock at selected locations that will protect vegetative cover through proper distribution of grazing or through better grassland management for erosion control. Another purpose on some sites is to reduce or eliminate the need for livestock to be in streams, which reduces livestock waste there.

642 - Water Well

Definition: A well constructed or improved to provide water for irrigation, livestock, wildlife, or recreation.

Purpose: To facilitate proper use of vegetation on rangeland, pastures, and wildlife areas; to supply the water requirements of livestock and wildlife; to provide an adequate supply of water for conservation irrigation; and to provide for human use at recreation sites.

V CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Please refer to the Natural Resources Conservation Service standards and specifications book.

IV CONSERVATION PRACTICE COST-SHARE STATE AVERAGE COSTS

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
314	BRUSH MANAGEMENT		10 yrs		
		Chemical Brush Control – Remedy		AC	\$33.58
		Chemical Brush Control - 24D		AC	\$15.00
		Chemical Brush Control - Tebuthiuron		AC	\$87.44
		Mechanical Level 1 - <30% canopy		AC	\$166.67
		Mechanical Level 2 - >30% canopy		AC	\$250.00
		Cut & Spray - <30% canopy		AC	\$124.40
		Cut & Spray - >30% canopy		AC	\$183.30
		Chemical IPT		AC	\$19.20
342	CRITICAL AREA PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Critical Area Sprigging		AC	\$252.17
		Critical Area Planting		AC	\$193.86
		Shaping and Filling Gullies		AC	\$1,123.10
362	DIVERSION		10 yrs		
		Diversion Terrace - Ridge or Channel		CY	\$1.50
378	POND		20 yrs		
		Barrel and/or Riser-Plastic		DIFT	\$1.39
		Barrel and/or Riser-Steel		DIFT	\$2.06
		Excavation and/or Embankment		CY	\$2.43
382	FENCE		20 yrs		
		Critical and Small Area		LF	\$2.93
		Cross Fencing		LF	\$1.55
410	GRADE STABILIZATION STRUCTURE		20 yrs		
		Barrel and/or Riser-Steel		DIFT	\$2.06
		Barrel and/or Riser-Plastic		DIFT	\$1.39
		Concrete-Concrete/Steel in Structural Item		CY	\$440.68
		Excavation and/or Embankment		CY	\$2.43
		Riprap and Filter		CY	\$57.00
		Trash Guard - dimensions sized		PF	\$17.00
412	GRASSED WATERWAY		10 yrs		
		Grading/Shaping/Filling		AC	\$1,207.62

Practice Code	Practice Name	Component	Life Span	Units	Unit Cost
512	PASTURE AND HAY PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Bermudagrass Sprigs		AC	\$88.85
		* Introduced Species (ie. Bermudagrass, Old World Bluestem, Tall Fescue, Weeping Lovegrass, etc.)		AC	\$57.31
		* Native Species (ie. Big Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indiangrass, Eastern Gamagrass, etc.)		AC	\$83.89
		* Price includes seedbed preparation, seed, and seeding.			
516	PIPELINE		20 yrs		
		Livestock Pipeline		FT	\$1.66
550	RANGE PLANTING		10 yrs		
		Native Mixture, seedbed prep, seed, & seeding		AC	\$82.15
590	NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT				
		Fertilizer for establishment year only		AC	\$40.00
		Lime for grass for establishment year only		AC	\$35.00
		Fertilizer Critical Area Planting		AC	\$125.00
595	PEST MANAGEMENT				
		Thistle Weed Control – Chemical		AC	\$13.11
		Sericea Lespedeza Weed Control – Chemical		AC	\$16.66
600	TERRACE		10 yrs		
		Fill Section		CY	\$1.50
		Removal of Ridge		LF	\$0.60
		Terrace Construction		LF	\$0.65
		Terrace Reconstruction		LF	\$0.56
614	WATERING FACILITY		10 yrs		
		Drinking Tank or Trough		DF	\$172.15
		Energy Free Fountains		GAL	\$32.94
		Freeze Proof Tank		EA	\$1,150.00
642	WATER WELL		20 yrs		
		Well Drilling and Casing		LF	\$19.00

CONSERVATION DISTRICT COST-SHARE PROGRAM YEAR 13 ALLOCATIONS

District	PY 013 Allocation
Adair County	\$ 14,018.00
Alfalfa County	\$ 14,018.00
Arbuckle	\$ 14,018.00
Atoka County	\$ 10,514.00
Beaver County	\$ 10,000.00
Blaine County	\$ 14,018.00
Bryan	\$ 14,018.00
Caney Valley	\$ 14,018.00
Central North Canadian River	\$ 14,018.00
Checotah	\$ 14,018.00
Cherokee County	\$ 10,000.00
Cimarron County	\$ 14,018.00
Cimarron Valley	\$ 14,018.00
Cleveland County	\$ 10,000.00
Coal County	\$ 10,000.00
Comanche County	\$ 14,018.00
Cotton County	\$ 14,018.00
Craig County	\$ 14,018.00
Creek County	\$ 14,018.00
Custer County	\$ 14,018.00
Deer Creek	\$ 14,018.00
Delaware County	\$ 10,000.00
Dewey County	\$ 14,018.00
East Canadian County	\$ 10,514.00
East Woods	\$ 10,514.00
Ellis County	\$ 14,018.00
Garfield County	\$ 14,018.00
Garvin	\$ 14,018.00
Grady County	\$ 14,018.00
Grant County	\$ 14,018.00
Greer County	\$ 14,018.00
Harmon County	\$ 14,018.00
Harper County	\$ 14,018.00
Haskell County	\$ 14,018.00
Hughes County	\$ 14,018.00
Jackson County	\$ 14,018.00
Jefferson County	\$ 14,018.00
Johnston County	\$ 14,018.00
Kay County	\$ 14,018.00

District**PY 013 Allocation**

Kiamichi	\$ 14,018.00
Kingfisher County	\$ 10,514.00
Kiowa County	\$ 10,000.00
Konawa	\$ 14,018.00
Latimer County	\$ 14,018.00
LeFlore County	\$ 14,018.00
Lincoln County	\$ 14,018.00
Little River	\$ 14,018.00
Logan County	\$ 12,266.00
Love County	\$ 14,018.00
Major County	\$ 14,018.00
Marshall County	\$ 14,018.00
Mayes County	\$ 14,018.00
McClain County	\$ 14,018.00
McIntosh County	\$ 14,018.00
Murray County	\$ 14,018.00
Muskogee County	\$ 14,018.00
Noble County	\$ 14,018.00
North Caddo	\$ 14,018.00
North Fork of Red River	\$ 14,018.00
Nowata County	\$ 14,018.00
Okfuskee County	\$ 14,018.00
Oklahoma County	\$ 14,018.00
Okmulgee County	\$ 14,018.00
Osage County	\$ 14,018.00
Ottawa County	\$ 14,018.00
Pawnee County	\$ 14,018.00
Payne County	\$ 14,018.00
Pittsburg County	\$ 14,018.00
Pontotoc County	\$ 14,018.00
Pushmataha	\$ 12,266.00
Rogers County	\$ 10,514.00
Seminole County	\$ 14,018.00
Sequoyah County	\$ 14,018.00
Shawnee	\$ 14,018.00
South Caddo	\$ 14,018.00
Stephens County	\$ 10,000.00
Talihina	\$ 14,018.00
Texas County	\$ 12,135.00
Tillman County	\$ 10,514.00

District**PY 013 Allocation**

Tulsa County	\$ 10,000.00
Upper Washita	\$ 14,018.00
Valliant	\$ 10,000.00
Wagoner County	\$ 10,514.00
Washita County	\$ 14,018.00
West Caddo	\$ 14,018.00
Woods County	\$ 10,514.00
Woodward County	\$ 14,018.00