

District Guide to Oklahoma Conservation Commission's Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP)

Who should apply?

Crop, livestock, and urban agricultural producers, preferably those with some experience in soil health/regenerative agriculture who want to take their adoption of soil health conservation to the next level. Successful applicants must be willing to engage a multiyear time frame and be open to helping other producers learn about soil health management (i.e., host a field day, be an informal mentor to neighbors).

Can district directors apply?

Yes, up to 2 from each district, depending upon district approval.

How long is the program term?

This is a 3-year commitment from time of SHIP conservation plan approval.

How much financial assistance is available?

Program participants may be eligible for up to \$40,000 in reimbursement for implementing practices in accordance with an approved SHIP conservation plan. The SHIP will use a standard unit cost for conservation practices based on current Oklahoma NRCS EQIP payment rates.

How does the program work?

1. District boards will formally consider participation in the program. Those districts that choose to participate will:
 - a. Indicate participation by board representative signature and date on the District Declaration of Participation form. Please email form to Meg Greski and copy Greg Kloxin (emails below).
 - b. Advertise the program and take applications from January 1 to March 1, 2024
 - c. Forward applications to OCC Soil Health Team via email throughout allocation period to Meg Greski and copy Greg Kloxin (emails below).
2. OCC Soil Health Team will interview, rank, and select highest scoring applicants with a goal to represent all five conservation district areas across the state. Districts and producers will be informed of applicant status no later than April 30, 2024.
3. Producers who apply must ensure a signed cooperators agreement is on file with the district.
4. OCC Soil Health Team member and producer will meet for onsite consultation to create a three-year SHIP Conservation Plan. District staff will be invited to participate in this process.
5. Accepted producers must have an approved SHIP conservation plan before any implementation begins.
6. OCC Soil Health Team member will certify practice installation upon notice of completion and submit to the district a signed Certificate of Completion & Acceptance along with relevant receipts.
7. Districts will review and endorse the certificate, compile with receipts, and submit a reimbursement claim to the Commission, attention Greg Kloxin.

Who should I contact with questions?

Meg Greski - 580-827-5070 or email: meg.greski@conservation.ok.gov

Greg Kloxin - 405-522-4737 or email: greg.kloxin@conservation.ok.gov

SOIL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (SHIP)
District Declaration of Participation

The _____ Conservation District (indicate one of the following):

_____ Agrees to participate in the SHIP in accordance with program guidelines.

_____ Doesn't wish to participate in SHIP at this time.

District Representative Signature

Date