

**STATE OF OKLAHOMA
SOIL HEALTH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM (SHIP)
APPLICATION**

Conservation District	
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Name

Address

Phone Number	Email
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Do you have a district cooperator agreement? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No* <small>*If no and the applicant is selected, the applicant must agree to fulfill this requirement.</small>
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County of farm/land being considered for the program:

Do you own or rent this land? <input type="checkbox"/> Own <input type="checkbox"/> Rent* <small>*If you are <u>not</u> the landowner, applicant must provide a properly executed consent form from the owner(s) of the land.</small>
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Please provide the number of acres you intend to enroll for this program. _____

Are you an urban producer? _____

Please provide the number of livestock per enrolled acres. _____
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If approved, would you be open to hosting no more than one field day per year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
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Would you agree to be a reference that one or two producers in your area could call for candid advice on implementing practices that promote soil health? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

If approved, do you agree to soil health testing and evaluation at least annually throughout your SHIP plan period? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Are you willing to sign a three-year agreement to participate in the program? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Please describe your history in implementing soil health techniques on your land. List specific practices and years implemented. Are you currently receiving other incentives to do this?

Applications will be reviewed based on significance of commitment toward soil health focused conservation. If approved, what conservation practices are you looking to adopt and why?

- Completing this form **does not** guarantee financial assistance.
- Each application will be evaluated by the OCC Soil Health Team using a standardized scoring and ranking approach designed to select producers among all five conservation district areas.
- I am a United States citizen or a qualified alien under federal Immigration and Naturalization Act, and I am lawfully present in the United States.
- If approved for this program, I understand that financial assistance can only occur on those practices and the associated implementation schedule agreed to in an approved and fully signed SHIP conservation plan.
- I understand that construction/installation/implementation of practice(s) **prior to SHIP conservation plan approval** are not eligible for financial assistance.
- I am **not** an Oklahoma Conservation Commission commissioner or employee, conservation district employee or the spouse of any of these people mentioned.

To the best of my knowledge, the information on this application is correct.

Applicant Signature _____

Date _____

Producer's 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).

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?

Each producer may receive up to \$40,000 in reimbursement over the three-year program term 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. Producer will complete and submit a SHIP application through their local district from January 1 to March 1, 2024.
2. Each applicant will be phone interviewed by a member of the OCC Soil Health Team to complete a standard scoring sheet. A follow-up interview on the producer's operation may be requested.
3. The OCC Soil Health Team will rank and select highest scoring applicants that maximize district participation across the state. Producers and their districts will be informed of selection outcomes by April 30, 2024.
4. Accepted producers will work with an OCC Soil Health Team member to create a three-year plan that reaches producer's goals and addresses the most soil health concerns. Fields/property designated for implementation cannot be enrolled in other programs (e.g., EQIP) accomplishing the same practice implementation.
5. Within one year of official plan signing, producer will implement year-1 practices according to plan and an OCC team member will certify the installation. Producer will receive year-1 payments through the district reimbursement claims process. Years 2 and 3 will repeat this process.
6. Producer will communicate regularly with their OCC Soil Health team member and the local district for technical assistance, to keep track of plan progress, and modify plan as needed.

What will the program payments cover?

This program is based on NRCS EQIP practices and payment rates with some flexibility as determined by the OCC Soil Health Team member. Program participants will work with their assigned OCC Soil Health Team member to develop a three-year SHIP conservation plan. The plan clearly outlines resource concerns, conservation practices, timelines, and associated cost reimbursements that complete a system of soil health focused conservation. The following are examples of what your planner may agree to cover with SHIP funds:

Examples for cropland system:

- Conversion to no-till
- Cover crop seed mixes
- Fence/water infrastructure for adaptive grazing on cropland

Examples for grazing land system:

- Fence/water systems for adaptive grazing
- Support for prescribed burning
- Seed mixes for pasture planting or range seeding

Examples for urban system:

- High tunnels
- Irrigation systems
- Support for pollinator habitat establishment

Who should I contact with questions?

Meg Greski (580-827-5070; meg.greski@conservation.ok.gov) or Greg Kloxin (405-522-4737; greg.kloxin@conservation.ok.gov)