

TITLE 155. OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION
CHAPTER 42. HEALTHY SOILS [NEW]

RULEMAKING ACTION:

Notice of proposed **PERMANENT** rulemaking

PROPOSED RULES:

Chapter 42. Healthy Soils [NEW]

Subchapter 1. General Provisions [NEW]

155:42-1-1. Purpose [NEW]

155:42-1-2. Definitions [NEW]

Subchapter 3. Soil Health Technical Assistance and Education Program [NEW]

155:42-3-1. Purpose [NEW]

155:42-3-2. Technical Assistance Program [NEW]

155:42-3-3. Educational Program [NEW]

Subchapter 5. Soil Health Assessment Program [NEW]

155:42-5-1. Purpose [NEW]

155:42-5-2. Program Objectives [NEW]

155:42-5-3. Working on Regenerative Management Systems [NEW]

Subchapter 7. Healthy Soil Grant Programs [NEW]

155:42-7-1. Soil Health Implementation Program [NEW]

155:42-7-2. Program Objectives [NEW]

155:42-7-3. Establishment of State Guidelines [NEW]

155:42-7-4. Eligibility Requirements [NEW]

155:42-7-5. Technical Representatives [NEW]

155:42-7-6. Eligible SHIP Conservation Practices and Associated Rates [NEW]

155:42-7-7. Application, Review, and Approved Process [NEW]

155:42-7-8. Conservation Plan [NEW]

155:42-7-9. Completion and Reimbursement Payment [NEW]

SUMMARY:

The Healthy Soil Program Act was enacted to promote and support sustainable farming, ranching, and land management practices that enhance soil organic matter, aggregate stability, microbiology, and water retention. These improvements aim to boost soil health, increase yields, and enhance profitability across Oklahoma. The Act mandates the creation of several initiatives, including a healthy soil assessment program, educational programs, and grant opportunities, all overseen by the Oklahoma Conservation Commission. The new rules clarify the Commission's assessment and educational efforts, as well as the Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP)—the first grant initiative established under the Act. These programs

are designed to educate and serve both rural and urban producers and landowners while delivering widespread benefits to all Oklahomans.

AUTHORITY:

Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the Conservation District Act; 27A O.S. §§3-1-101 et seq.; and more specifically 27A O.S. §3-7-101 et. seq.

COMMENT PERIOD:

Persons may submit written comments through the conclusion of the public hearing on January 16, 2025.

PUBLIC HEARING:

A public hearing will be held to provide an opportunity for persons to present their views. Each person will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes to speak and must sign in at the door. The public hearing has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on January 16, 2025, in the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry Building, Room 201 located on the second floor at 2800 N. Lincoln Boulevard, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105.

REQUESTS FOR COMMENTS FROM BUSINESS ENTITIES:

Business entities affected by these proposed rules are requested to provide the agency with information, in dollar amounts if possible, about the increase in the level of direct costs, indirect costs, or other costs expected to be incurred by the business entity due to compliance with the proposed rule. Business entities may submit this information in writing to the contact person before 11:00 am the close of the comment period on January 16, 2025.

COPIES OF PROPOSED RULES:

Copies of the proposed rule may be obtained by visiting <https://conservation.ok.gov/about/#rules> or by requesting copies from the contact person.

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT:

Pursuant to 75 O.S., §303(D), a rule impact statement has been prepared and is available at the same location listed above for obtaining copies of the proposed rules.

CONTACT PERSON:

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