

RULE IMPACT STATEMENT

TITLE 155. OKLAHOMA CONSERVATION COMMISSION CHAPTER 42. SOIL HEALTH

(A) **PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

The purpose of these new rules is to establish clear guidance, procedures, goals, and processes for the Commission's Soil Health Programs. These rules govern the development and implementation of programs designed to meet the needs of both rural and urban producers and landowners, while delivering broad benefits to all Oklahomans. They outline the framework for the education and outreach program, opportunities for soil health technical assessments, and detail the criteria, eligibility, and application process for the Soil Health Implementation Program (SHIP) - the first grant initiative created to support soil health efforts.

(B) **CLASSES OF PERSONS WHO MOST LIKELY WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE PROPOSED RULE AND ANY INFORMATION ON COST IMPACTS RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY FROM ANY PRIVATE OR PUBLIC ENTITIES:**

These rules have been developed to address the needs of both rural and urban producers and landowners while delivering positive benefits to all Oklahomans. Participation in all programs is entirely voluntary. The services and programs outlined in these rules are designed to align with the Healthy Soil Program Act, enacted through House Bill 4412 in 2022. The Commission does not foresee any adverse cost impacts for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission from private or public entities nor for individuals participating in our programs, projects, and grants.

(C) **PERSONS WHO WILL BENEFIT FROM THE PROPOSED RULE:**

The new rules will benefit rural and urban producers and landowners, as well as provide positive benefits and effects to all Oklahomans.

(D) **DESCRIPTION OF THE PROBABLE IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED RULE UPON AFFECTED CLASSES OF PERSONS:**

The proposed rules are expected to have a positive impact. They provide clarity on the educational resources, assessment tools, and opportunities available to assist landowners, producers, and other participants in enhancing soil health. Additionally, the SHIP program offers grant opportunities to support landowners and producers in implementing best management practices aimed at improving soil conditions.

(E) **PROBABLE COST AND BENEFITS TO AGENCY; SOURCE OF REVENUE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:**

No additional costs to the agency are anticipated by the new rules.

(F) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION WILL HAVE ANY ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ANY POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OR REQUIRE THEIR COOPERATION IN IMPLEMENTING OR ENFORCING THE PROPOSED RULE:**

Conservation districts are a partner of the Commission in implementing conservation programs and practices in Oklahoma per the Conservation District Act. Districts are aware of these programs and agreements are in place where needed to provide these services.

(G) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED RULE WILL HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON SMALL BUSINESS AS PROVIDED BY THE OKLAHOMA SMALL BUSINESS REGULATORY FLEXIBILITY ACT:**

Participation in any of our services and programs in Soil Health are voluntary. Therefore, no adverse effects or impacts on small businesses are anticipated.

(H) **DETERMINATION OF WHETHER THERE ARE LESS COSTLY METHODS OR NON-REGULATORY METHODS FOR ACHIEVING THE PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED RULES:**

All the programs are voluntary non-regulatory programs that move conservation, soil health, and the protection of natural resources forward in the state. The agency is unaware of any other methods to achieve the purpose of these programs.

(I) **DETERMINATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED RULE ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

The Commission anticipates the new proposed rules will positively affect public health, safety, and the environment.

(J) **DETERMINATION OF ANY DETRIMENTAL EFFECT ON THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENT:**

No detrimental effect on public health, safety, or the environment is anticipated by the adoption of these new rules.

(K) **DATE RULE IMPACT STATEMENT WAS PREPARED:**

This rule impact statement was prepared on November 18, 2024