Clear Creek September 2000

**Monetary Benefits to producers**

Rental rates are $32/acre for perennial water sources and $20/acre seasonal water sources. There is between a $4-9/acre maintenance payment. Currently there is an additional 20% rental rate incentive payment. There is an upfront signing incentive payment of $100/acre. All fencing, tree planting, water developments, water gaps, and weed maintenance can be completed with 90% cost share. Therefore the producer is responsible for 10% of the costs for these practices.

**Example:**

\[\text{Annual rental rate} = \text{rental rate} \times 0.2 + \text{maintenance payment} = 46.40 \, \text$/acre\]

\[\text{If 50 acres were enrolled there would be a $5000 signing bonus and a rental payment of $2,320/year, in addition the producer would only be responsible for 10% of the cost of improvements.}\]

**Land is eligible if:**

- It has been planted to an agricultural commodity or grazed in two of the past 5 years
- It is located on or adjacent to perennial or seasonal streams, seasonal streams (excluding gullies), or permanent bodies of water including wetlands
- The land has been under private ownership for at least one year

**Specifics:**

- Riparian Buffers are between 35 and 180 ft wide
- Effort is made to recover native vegetation especially woody plants. Cost share is available for planting of native trees and shrubs.
- Livestock must be excluded, cost-share is available for fencing and water development.
- Contracts last 10 or 15 years

**Ecological Benefits:**

- Increased plant cover
- Improved habitat for big game, game birds, small mammals, songbirds and fish.
- Increased filtering of sediment and nutrients. Decreased Erosion
  - Decreased stream sedimentation (siltation).
  - Decreased fecal contamination.
Are You Eligible for Farm Bill Programs?
Eligibility requirements for Farm Bill conservation programs vary depending on which program you are considering. The working lands programs like Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) require that you are an agricultural producer. Other programs such as Continuous CRP, Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) and the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) do not have this requirement and most people with rural land are eligible to apply. All of the programs require that you are in control of the land, in compliance with the Sodbuster and Swampbuster provisions and the land is not encumbered with other easements or restrictions. Contact your local USDA Service Center if you are interested in applying for a conservation program.