

Contract No. 005-082
“Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Conservation Effort”
 Submitted by Emmons County Soil Conservation District
 Principal Investigators: Rhonda Vetsch & Jeff Humann
 Directives B & C

PARTICIPANTS

Sponsor	Cost Share	
Emmons County Soil Conservation District (cash)	\$420,000	
Unknown	<u>\$ 30,000</u>	
Subtotal Cash Cost Share		\$ 450,000
North Dakota Industrial Commission	<u>\$630,000</u>	
Total Project Cost		<u>\$ 630,000</u> \$1,080,000

Project Schedule – 4 years	Project Deliverables:
Contract Date – 8/6/2015	Status Report: December 31, 2015 ✓
Start Date – 8/6/2015	Status Report: June 30, 2016
Completion Date – December 31, 2018	Status Report: December 31, 2016
	Status Report: June 30, 2017
	Status Report: December 31, 2017
	Status Report: June 30, 2018
	Final Report: December 31, 2018

OBJECTIVE/STATEMENT OF WORK:

Project is to provide landowners and operators with an opportunity to conduct conservation planning to address natural resource concerns and provide 60% financial assistance to implement conservation practices which address grassland and cropland resource needs. It is anticipated that this project will impact at least 40,000 acres of grassland and cropland. The results will be tangible and easily quantified by the acres of applied improved conservation on cropland and acres of established or improved grazing systems. Grassland Practices to be implemented include livestock water pipelines, livestock watering facilities, livestock water pumping plants, livestock water wells, crossfence and rural water hook-up. Cropland practices to be implemented include nutrient management, hayland planting, grassland planting, grassed waterway, and cover crops. The cropland practices will include required pest management, crop rotation and residue management for 3 years with no payment.

Applicant had requested funding in the amount of \$660,000 with \$60,000 being used for staffing. OHF funding is limited to \$30,000 for staffing.

STATUS:

Contract 005-082 - Has been executed.

January 26, 2016 - Status report received. The report states:

The Emmons County Soil Conservation District, since approval of OHF contract, has implemented the following policies, procedures, and practice structures that will be allowed to implement the OHF dollars for The Emmons County Grassland and Cropland Initiative. The Board of Supervisors along with staff have gathered on several occasions to discuss, promote and move the project forward in a positive and

beneficial way for the landowners of Emmons County. The Project has received \$63,000.00 upon execution of the project when the agreement was signed. The first application batching period for acceptance will be March 1, 2016. The SCD staff is required to provide an application form completed by landowner, database entry, map development, resource concerns, and a cost estimate of the project. Costs will be developed on the estimated cost of the Field Office Tech Guide provided by NRCS not to exceed 60% of actual costs.

Promotion of the grant acceptance has been done by word of mouth, publications, and will be a focus topic at this year's first Annual Agricultural Appreciation Banquet. The Board of Supervisors will announce the funding we have received with our local producers that have been awarded as well. The Board of Supervisors require that all applicants receive on site field visits to ensure proper planning is being conducted and to open the door for an educational component out in the field and not behind the desk. We will also take the applications from EQUIP that is yet to be determined for funding with Federal allocation and work with those landowners if they wish to move forward with practice implementation. We have a great deal of support from our local Farm Service Agency with boots on the ground projects and have shared with them our recent grant acceptance and anticipate overflow traffic. The Board of Supervisors has since hired a District Technician with an agricultural degree to work with this workload and to provide proper office support for this project.

Revised 1/28/2016