



Grass Roots: 21st Century Prescribed Grazing

Technical Guidance

Project Eligibility

The purpose of the program is to accelerate the planning and implementation of prescribed grazing systems, targeting impaired watersheds. The project will cost share the implementation of prescribed grazing projects and individual grazing practices as part of a system. Eligible practices include fencing, crossings, watering systems and pasture planting. The program will strive to compliment projects that have been awarded additional cost-share funds through EQIP, DEP and CREP as well as stand alone projects. Matching funds with local, state, federal, or private cost share is encouraged, with a goal of maximizing resources to benefit landowners.

Funding Criteria

First preference will be given to projects within agriculturally-impaired watersheds, those that include streams and those converting from (in order of priority) high-till cropland, low-till cropland, hayland, alfalfa and unimproved pasture. Eligible applications will consist of those projects that will be implementing a grazing plan to USDA-NRCS standards.

- Eligible cost share components include exterior fencing, interior fencing, stabilized stream access points, stabilized stream crossings, alternative livestock watering systems, stabilized livestock walkways, or any other best management practice (BMP) associated with rotational grazing
- All funded practices will be cost shared up to the 50% level.
- Maximum cost share prices are listed in Attachment A below.
- Stream access points and stream crossings will be designed and installed to meet PA DEP permit requirements. Alternative livestock watering systems, livestock walkways, and other BMP's will be designed and installed to meet USDA-NRCS FOTG standards.
- Streams flowing within the project area must be fenced 35-feet from the top of the bank.
- The non-grazed riparian buffer area within 35 feet of the streambank can be managed as a grass filter, allowed to naturally re-vegetate to trees and shrubs, or planted to native trees and shrubs. Control of invasive plants is required.
- The project can be completed by a contractor or by the landowner under NRCS rates.

Project Funding

Once the project steering committee has reviewed and approved the proposal, the appropriate funds will be reserved for the project until it is completed or terminated. The time-frame for project completion will be determined by the steering committee and provided to the landowner.

Project Submittal Form Guidance

- Sponsoring agency - Is the organization that has been working with the producer, including Capital RC&D grazing advisors. We will use that contact information to call with questions about the project and will also ask that agency to inspect and sign-off on the completed project for producer reimbursement. It does not imply financial responsibility and we pay the landowner directly.
- A map of impaired watersheds - Can be found at the linked DEP webpage: [Integrated Report 2016 \(pa.gov\)](#)
- A social security number or EIN - Is request from producers whose project is funded because cost share is treated as 1099 income and Capital RC&D will send the producer a 1099 statement at the end of the year. If the producer would like to wait to provide that information until after the project is approved for funding, that will be acceptable.
- Our funding can be used in conjunction with EQIP or other funding sources, we will need to work with the project sponsor to determine how many acres can be reported to our funder so that there is no double counting with other funding.

Attachment A
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Cost Share Prices for Approved BMP

Project awards will include a maximum cost-share and cost-share percentage (usually 50%). Cost share reimbursement is calculated with the maximum prices as a ceiling. For example, a 50% cost share for 100 linear feet of fencing will be calculated as [(actual price up to the maximum x 100 linear feet) x 50% = total reimbursement]

Permanent Fencing:

- Maximum Unit Cost up to \$2.60 linear foot; \$3.00 linear foot for woven wire.
- Any type of fencing may be used, with reimbursement up to the maximum unit cost
- Linear foot cost is not calculated with the cost of corner and end braces

Temporary Fencing:

- Up to \$1.65 linear foot

Stream Crossings:

- Utilize existing programs when possible
- Maximum unit cost up to \$5 per sq. foot
- Can be either stone or hog slats

Stabilized Walkways:

- Maximum cost \$1.50 per sq. foot

Spring Development:

- Case by case scenario; usually around \$2,500

Water Systems:

- Prices will vary depending on type of system chosen for water access (Ram pump, solar pump, wells, existing wells or hydrants, etc.)
- Options: Permanent trough vs. mobile trough system (e.g. Rubbermaid trough)
- Cost share 50%

Other Infrastructure:

- Maximum costs will be determined on a case-by-case basis using NRCS cost list for guidance.

In-Kind Labor:

- In-kind labor may be charged at a maximum of \$23/hour.

**QUESTIONS - Please contact Capital Resource Conservation and Development (Capital RC&D):
(717) 241-4361 or srichards@capitalrcd.org**

Funding provided by:

