

Summary of First Year Progress for the “On Farm Soil Sampling and Analysis for Improved Water Quality”

Train and equip five (5) producers in soil sampling techniques.

As of 8/1/10, the ANMT had contacted 14 producers primarily at the request of NRCS field office staff or conservation district personnel after we explained the grant at various watershed meetings etc. To date the soil sampling grant has been used to make 14 contacts with producers, of which all 14 were provided some level of technical assistance in regards to nutrient management. Of the 14 producers contacted, 3 have been provided new soil probes and given training /guidance in how to properly collect soil samples. Discussion and funding for three producers has facilitated the development of nutrient management plans on 2,099 acres. Another 11 producers were provided technical and financial assistance to implement nutrient management on 804 acres. It should be noted that abnormally wet field conditions the fall of 2009 and spring of 2010 did prevent a number of soil samples from being taken.

Report on the skill level of producers in utilizing soil sampling. Assess the need for a continuation of the project which would include follow up with producers trained in this pilot.

The level of knowledge and use of soil tests appears to vary widely. Some producers appear very knowledgeable and are using very sophisticated sampling techniques such as grid sampling, zone sampling, etc., and yet others have never routinely used soil sampling and analysis as a tool on their operations. It does seem that most producers are eager to discuss both the agronomic and economic realities of soil sampling, which then opens a dialog for us to bring the environmental benefits of proper nutrient management planning into the conversation.

Provide cash or in-kind non-federal match which is not used to match any other project of 40% of the total project costs.

To date in-kind non federal match is at \$2,190 or 43%.

Summarize the milestones achieved from the first year's project.

(see tables)

Item	Milestone for 2009	Milestone for 2010	Completed As of 8/1/10	% of 2009/2010 Goal Complete
Total Producers assisted in completing Soil Sampling and assisted with Nutrient Management planning.	5	5	14 Producers contacted and provided some form of technical assistance. 3 Producers Provided Soil Probes 3 Producers Developed Whole Farm NMP	140%
Number of Soil Samples Submitted for Analysis from the 15 farms	60	60	17 Samples	15%
Acres of land on which Nutrient Management Plans will be developed	4,000	4,000	2,903 Acres	36%

Category	319 I&E Funds	Obligated As of 8/1/10	Match	Match as of 8/1/10	% Completed
Soil Sample Analysis (180 @ \$16.50/sample) 304.10 / 17 samples = \$17.89 Ave/Sample	\$2,970	\$304.10			10%
Soil Sampling Probes: (24 inch depth – Metal) 15 @ 135 w/shipping \$774.54 / 5 probes = \$154.91 Ave/Probe	\$2,025	\$774.54			38%
Producer Time and Expense for Assisting with soil sample collection and developing a nutrient management plan and/or fertilizer or manure application rate. 15 producers @ 20 hours @ \$15/hr. 14 producers X 9 hrs. Ave X 15/hr = \$1,890	\$0.00		\$4,500	\$1,890	42%
Lower James RC&D Council Project Management/Administration: 40 hours @ \$15/hr. 20 hrs X \$15/hr = \$300	\$0.00		\$600	\$300	50%