

WSCC Livestock Technical Assistance Grants System

For July 2019 Commission Meeting

Description

An allocation system for WSCC Livestock Technical Assistance Grants for Conservation Districts to deliver technical and financial assistance services to livestock owners & producers.

Authority

RCW 89.08.070 authorizes and directs the Washington State Conservation Commission (WSCC) to assist and guide local Conservation Districts (CD) across the state in the implementation of natural resource conservation programs. To accomplish this, the Commission has established guidelines and controls to govern the CDs' use of state funds, property, and services.

Purpose & Background

The legislature has provided funding to the WSCC to pass through to CDs to reduce or eliminate the potential negative impacts of livestock to the environment. This specifically includes bacterial, nutrient, and sediment contamination of surface waters and nutrient contamination of groundwater.

CDs across the state are variable in many ways including:

- Their technical proficiency and capacity to deliver a program of assistance,
- Number and type of livestock,
- Complexity and number of livestock operations,
- Regulatory pressures on livestock owners to manage manure appropriately, and
- Sensitive areas (e.g., surface water, ground water, and shellfish harvest areas).

Eligibility

A CD is eligible to apply for funding through this system if it:

- Meets and maintains the Conservation Accountability Performance Program – Performance Standard 1 - Compliance with Laws (required standard), and
- Identifies livestock and water quality natural resource concerns in its annual and long range plans

Program Funding Guidelines

Livestock Technical Assistance Grant funding will be awarded to eligible CDs based on the following guidelines:

- Complete application submittal
 - Competitive review
 - Responsiveness to referrals from WSDA, Ecology, or County
 - Work within watersheds with impaired waterbodies and/or groundwater recharge areas for which livestock are a significant potential contributor to impairment
 - Supported program activities will be based upon specific requirements of the funding source, the amount of funding available. See the application for specific requirements.
 - CD would explain how it has the capacity to effectively use the funding within the grant period.
 - Program is performance based with metrics – Non-exclusive examples... projects completed, BMPs installed, impact of BMPs, how many plans for how much funding, description of how the CD will leverage funding with other resources, and how funds will be used to meet state and local priorities.
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Application & Process

It is unlikely WSCC will receive adequate funding to meet the needs and challenges of every CD. The purpose of the WSCC grant application is to collect information from CDs so a more compelling future legislative funding request can be made. The purpose of the application is to describe:

- The nature and extent of your CD's challenges in protecting water quality from livestock;
- The current capacity that your CD may have, or needs to address water quality issues a livestock technical assistance program over the next three years.

The WSCC proposed grant system recognizes locally led principles, and is tied to the state budget appropriated or other funds available for this grant system. It is important that WSCC and CDs be able to explain the progress or outcomes achieved with these funds. A final Comprehensive Report will be provided with the final voucher at end of the fiscal year, by participating CDs, demonstrating the effective use of the WSCC Livestock TA Grant System. Results will direct adaptive management to ensure the system's effectiveness.

Definitions

Livestock

The definition of 'livestock' for these grants will be consistent with RCW 16.36.005 - (15) "Livestock" means horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits, llamas, alpacas, ratites, poultry, waterfowl, game birds, domestic fur bearers, and

other species so designated by statute. "Livestock" does not mean free ranging wildlife as defined in Title 77 RCW. (See Appendix C)

Technical Assistance

The definition of 'technical assistance' is: qualified and experienced, trained staff providing landowners/managers options for livestock management to meet desired goals and regulatory requirements. Providing:

- Sound advice based on Land Grant University research, vetted best management practice (BMP) standards from NRCS, or Professional Engineer
 - Assisting with the development of Farm/Conservation or practice plans
 - Assisting with the development and implementation of BMPs (Planning, Engineering, Permits, Cultural Resources)
 - Assisting to secure financial assistance, if applicable
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Funding Sources

Technical assistance, to be eligible, must meet requirements and limitations of funding source and specifically capital funding used for this purpose (see Appendix A)

Examples include:

- Directly lead to an implemented structural project, or
 - Result in development and implementation of conservation plans or compliance plans, and
 - Be tracked and reported in order to determine that projects and BMPs ,are tied to technical assistance regardless of the funding source for implementation and/or cost share (landowner, local, state, federal) as a way to quantify leveraging of funds
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Applications

The WSCC grants program will include a grant application process to show proposed work in the current biennium plus an extra year to demonstrate need for building a livestock technical assistance budget for the next biennium. An application form will be provided and a solicitation period will occur as funds become available. SCC Staff and Member(s) will review the applications and make recommendations of funding to the Executive Director and/or Commission. (See Appendix B)

Priority Application Criteria

Priority will be given to applications that address one or more of the following:

- Readiness to proceed demonstrated by:
 - access to qualified technical staff capacity in-house or available from another CD or stakeholder, or
 - established relationships with other partners, or
 - leveraging other resources
- Livestock producer(s) with referral, and informal or formal enforcement, or permit that is water quality related
- Livestock producer(s) with history of working with CD requesting assistance or in planning process with water quality issues including update of a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)
- Livestock producer(s) currently working on the planning process with a CD around

water quality issues

- Livestock producer(s) requesting planning assistance with a willingness to implement exists and some connection to a desire for implementation with “potential to pollute” (water quality)
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Appendix A

Capital Funds require close linkage between activities to bricks and mortar projects. These include:

Program Administration

- Vouchering for reimbursement
- Reimbursing the Cooperator for expenses pursuant to financial agreement for NRI & Shellfish project financial assistance.
- Tracking CD/Cooperator interactions and agency referrals.
- Reporting to WSCC

General Technical Assistance

- Responding to referrals from WSDA, ECY, & County inspectors.
- Plan development for conservation practice(s) that will need to be installed. Plan examples include, but not limited to: DNMPs, CNMPs, MMPs, Resource Management Plans, Voluntary Stewardship Plans, or other plans within restrictions of the funding source
- Providing technical information

Project Development (Specific Technical Assistance)

- Engineering design for conservation practices identified in the Plans.
- Assisting cooperators to apply for financial assistance from available sources including examples: NRI, Shellfish, NRCS, Ecology, EPA, and County.
- Entering into CPDS and developing cost share agreement for WSCC financial assistance (NRI & Shellfish)
- Cultural resources reviews
- Help landowners navigate state and local permit process

Project Implementation

- Assisting cooperator with contracting practice implementation.
- Monitor construction activities.
- Documenting contracted practices as complete and meeting specifications.
- Approving cooperator receipts for contracted activities.

Appendix B

Livestock Technical Assistance Grant Ranking Rubric | Scoring Guidance

Application

- Scope of work –
 - Three-year scope of work
 - Tasks show understanding of all elements of a successful, effective program
 - Represents a complete and concise description of project tasks, time line and outcomes.
- Costs & Budget –
 - Three-year budget.
 - Clarify how cost estimate was developed and based upon real-world data
- Matching funds – Applicant has demonstrated to be adequate/reliable.
- Project Team – the district Identify staff who are experienced and qualified for their respective role. If no experienced and qualified staff, has CD provided a plan to obtain staff in a timely manner? Applicant understands needed skillset.
- Regulatory Presence
 - Have the activities of local, state, or federal agencies created a significant workload for the district? If so,
 - Is the requested budget appropriate for the workload?
- Water Quality/Public Health Improvements
 - Applicant has identified how each task will be evaluated in order to determine success
 - Project proposes to reduce or prevent pollution in a waterbody identified as a priority by a local, state, or federal agency (general)
 - Project area is directly connected to an identified waterbody and provides sufficient technical justification that the actions will reduce pollutants of concern. (specific)
 - Project costs are good value for WQ benefits to be achieved.

Appendix C

Supporting Documentation

RCW 43.05.010

(3) "Technical assistance" includes:

- (a) Information on the laws, rules, and compliance methods and technologies applicable to the regulatory agency's programs;
- (b) Information on methods to avoid compliance problems;
- (c) Assistance in applying for permits; and
- (d) Information on the mission, goals, and objectives of the program.

(4) "Technical assistance documents" means documents prepared to provide information specified in subsection (3) of this section entitled a technical assistance document by the agency head or its designee. Technical assistance documents do not include notices of correction, violation, or enforcement action. Technical assistance documents do not impose mandatory obligations or serve as the basis for a citation.

Livestock Definition

RCW 16.36.005, RCW 16 Animals and Livestock

(15) "Livestock" means horses, mules, donkeys, cattle, bison, sheep, goats, swine, rabbits, llamas, alpacas, ratites, poultry, waterfowl, game birds, and other species so designated by statute. "Livestock" does not mean free ranging wildlife as defined in Title 77 RCW.

RCW 16.57.010 RCW, 16.57 Identification of Livestock

(9) "Livestock" includes, but is not limited to, horses, mules, cattle, sheep, swine, and goats.

RCW 77.36.010 Wildlife Damage Definitions, RCW 77 Fish and wildlife

(6) "Livestock" means cattle, sheep, and horses.

Dairy Farms Technical Assistance

RCW 90.64.070 Duties of conservation district

(1) The conservation district has the following duties:

- (a) Provide technical assistance to the department in identifying and correcting existing water quality problems resulting from dairy farms through implementation of the inspection program in RCW 90.64.023;
- (b) Immediately refer complaints received from the public regarding discharge of pollutants to the department;
- (c) Encourage communication and cooperation between the conservation district personnel and local department personnel;
- (d) Provide technical assistance to dairy producers in developing and implementing a dairy nutrient management plan; and
- (e) Review, approve, and certify dairy nutrient management plans that meet the minimum standards developed under this chapter.

(2) The district's capability to carry out its responsibilities under this chapter is contingent upon the availability of funding and resources to implement a dairy nutrient management program.



**Washington State
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Livestock TA Grant Application

First Name*

First Name

Last Name

Email*

Select Your Conservation District*

The proposed work description is for a 2-year time frame while we are asking for funding need for 3 fiscal years – to help build a budget request for the 3rd year and beyond

Funding Received in FY19*

\$

Funding Request for FY20*

\$

Funding Request for FY21*

\$

Anticipated need for FY22*

\$

Outreach and Education Funding Needs for next 2 fiscal years.

\$

Outreach & Education activities can only be funded with operating funds which are not available at this time. However, if funds become available requests could be considered. This information to also be used to inform future budget requests.

1. Please describe the livestock technical assistance need in your district. Please be as descriptive as possible. Because the need for livestock TA is likely to vary widely from CD to CD, you might consider including information such as # and type of livestock operations, current circumstances such as increased regulatory focus, CRM or PIC programs generating demand for TA, if a backlog of requests for TA exists, and any other relevant information you would like to be considered. *

2. Describe in detail the proposed activities including metrics or deliverables to be reported. Work should be tied to implementation of BMPs and on the ground work or leading up to and supporting future implementation of BMPs to the greatest extent possible. *

Livestock TA grants are currently made possible with capital funds which is the reason for the narrower scope of eligible activities.

3. How much funding will be devoted to the conservation/farm plan development process? (Please state an estimated dollar amount.) How many plans and what types? *

4. Please describe the technical capacity to be applied to this proposed work whether on staff at your CD or to be accessed through another CD or partner: *

5. Does CD accept referrals from any regulatory agency? How many referrals did the CD receive in the previous FY? Please describe any anticipated referral assistance requests to be addressed with this proposal: *

6. Please describe activities you will be conducting such as: to address water quality TMDL's on impaired watercourses, groundwater recharge or management areas with nitrate issues, or watercourses draining to shellfish harvest areas or critical salmon habitat areas. Please also describe if your CD is participating in a Pollution Identification and Correction (PIC) program, Coordinated Resource Management (CRM) group, or similar multi-agency program: *

7. Please describe how the requested funding will be leveraged with other funding sources or resources: *

8. Please describe how this proposed work contributes to the district priorities in the long range and annual plans of work: *

Conservation District acknowledges that an annual report of deliverables and accomplishments is required for this grant. *

Yes

A template for reporting will be provided.

Conservation District acknowledges and commits to entering all potential or developing projects in CPDS.

Yes

* Entering NRCS-funded projects into CPDS is not in violation of Farm Bill rules around confidentiality. This information will be used to help demonstrate ability to leverage Farm Bill programs.

Submit Form



Washington State CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Livestock TA Year End Report

First Name*

First Name

Last Name

Email*

Select Your Conservation District*

Fiscal Year*

Total Grant Award*

\$

Please help us to explain the effectiveness of this grant and the conservation on the ground made possible by describing the activities completed during the grant period in as much detail as possible. *

Describe how the completed activities led or will lead to future BMP implementation projects.*

Did this funding provide support for staff time to write farm conservation plans? If so, estimate the number and type of plans written during the grant period.*

Were any of the plans identified above covered by a referral? If so, please indicate the number of plans, the estimated cost, and from which agency the referral(s) originated.*

If no plans were covered by a referral, please type N/A

Please describe how this grant was utilized to support your district's participation in a targeted/focus area approach such as a CRM effort, PIC program, watershed initiative, etc...If your district has shellfish areas, how did you target landowners in watersheds with impacted shellfish beds?

Option to Upload Images, District Articles, or Success Stories

No File Chosen

File uploads may not work on some mobile devices.

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Submit Form