

Grant Program Guidelines – EEGP Inactive Animal Waste Lagoon Closure Program

The NC Foundation for Soil and Water Conservation (Foundation) was incorporated on 4.27.99 and obtained its 510(c)3 status on 2.22.00. The Foundation works to provide private sector support to conservation programs of North Carolina soil and water conservation districts (District). The Foundation serves as a resource to help address high priority conservation challenges when traditional state and federal programs do not meet the existing need.

The mission of the Foundation is to promote, protect and improve North Carolina soil and water resources for the enhancement of economic growth and stewardship of the natural environment. The Foundation objectives focus on three priority areas; 1) Building Capacity in Districts, 2) Educating the Citizens on Conservation Issues, and 3) Improving the Natural Environment. The Foundation establishes annual goals to achieve its objectives based on the highest priorities as identified by districts and their statewide association as well as past accomplishments and current conservation issues in North Carolina.

General Policies

- Grants are offered primarily to North Carolina soil and water conservation districts or their statewide association.
- Grants may be made to other 501(c)(3) nonprofits or to governmental agencies if necessary to achieve the Foundation's mission. However, all projects must add to local district programs.
- The Foundation does not offer grants to individuals or businesses unless specifically stated in the public announcement and when a public purpose is served by the project.
- The Foundation does not offer grants to fraternal, legislative, lobbying, political, or religious organizations or endeavors.
- The Foundation does not offer grants for endowments or long term recurring activities.
- The Foundation does not pay indirect or overhead expenses for any project.
- All grants offered must be for the accomplishment of charitable or education works in North Carolina and be in alignment with Foundation objectives and goals.
- The Foundation announces grant opportunities to districts and the conservation partnership via the district listserv maintained by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services' Division of Soil and Water Conservation. In addition, some funding opportunities may be announced to related organizations to reach a project specific target audience for the benefit the overall project.

Grant Proposal

The current funding cycle deadline to submit a proposal is January 20, 2017. Funding is provided by the Environmental Enhancement Grant Program, funded by the 2000 Smithfield Foods Agreement with the NC Attorney General. The Foundation Application form is to be used for the Inactive Animal Waste Lagoon Closure Program proposal requests. The Foundation will fund up to 75% of actual costs, based on receipts. The Foundation will only cover the costs to breach the dam/dike and will not cover costs to convert the area to its prior topographical conditions unless engineering requirements deem it necessary. Late or incomplete proposals will not be considered unless more information is supplied and unallocated funds remain. All proposals are to be submitted to the address listed above by **regular mail** or in person. **One hardcopy original and one CD/flash drive including all related materials are to be submitted by the deadline.** The following items need to be included in the proposal;

- **Cover Letter** – The cover letter is to be on district letterhead and signed by the chairperson. The letter is to include the specific grant amount being requested, the number and type of

lagoons being considered for closure, the participating landowner name as well as any other details pertinent to the project but not included elsewhere in the proposal.

- **Application Form** – Fill out completely the Foundation Application form including the proposal summary. The application is to be signed by the district chairperson and a second board member.
- **Lagoon Closure Plan** – Include the following; location information including maps and aerial photographs, general lagoon information, calculations of volume of liquid and sludge to be removed, land application plans, specifications and methodology of closure. The Plan should include all the information required in NRCS Standard 360 as well as any other information required in the NC cost share program's Conservation Plan of Operation.
- **Nutrient Management Plan** – The Nutrient Management Plan is to comply with all requirements of NRCS Standard 590 and 633 as well as any other existing technical guidelines in the NC cost share programs.
- **Waste and Soil Analysis Reports** – Use reports as obtained from the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services Agronomics Division.
- **Site Map(s) and Photographs** – Provide a road map for directions and topographic map locating the lagoon. Provide aerial photo maps of the site and the fields to receive the waste materials. Provide on-the-ground photos of the existing lagoon and any visible piping.
- **Project Budget with supporting Bid Estimates** – Submit at least two bid estimates from qualified contractors including their proposed method of waste removal. It is at the discretion of the district if the landowner qualifies as a contractor. A line item budget, separate from the bid estimates, is to be provided broken into components for each stage of the closure project. Denote all the fund sources and whether the funds are in-kind or cash contributions.
- **Project Personnel** – List all resource people to be included in the project implementation, including state and federal conservation partnership staff.

Grant Awarding and Project Implementation Process

- Individually approved district projects will receive a letter by email announcing awarded grant as well as a Statement of Agreement and Grantee's Acceptance form. Two copies of the form are to be signed by the district chairperson and one other supervisor, and then returned to Foundation. The Foundation will sign both copies and mail one back to the district. Once the district receives a fully signed form, work can proceed.
- Districts will be provided by email Foundation application forms to be used for the District to contract with the producer.
- If not submitted with the application, the nutrient management plan as well as waste and soil analysis reports are due prior to any closure activities.
- Districts are to take multiple pictures of during and after closure activities. A maximum of 10 pictures are to be submitted with the final report.
- Interim reports are due quarterly on a Foundation approved form and can be submitted electronically.
- Payments are made once the closure is certified as complete and the district has supplied the following documentation, **please note processing payments will take 60 days and need to be submitted to the Foundation office by the 1st of any month to be processed in a timely manner;**
 - Completed Foundation Request for Payment form and Final Report form
 - NC Department of Environmental Quality Division of Water Resources' Lagoon Closure Report
 - Calculations for gallons of effluent removed as well as pounds of Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P₂O₅), and Potash (K₂O) land applied
 - All receipts and a detailed final budget indicating funding sources and if it is a cash or in-kind contribution
 - Electronic Pictures with captions of during and after closure, photo document that all piping is removed (submit no more than 10 photos)