



**Agricultural Water  
Resources Assistance Program**

**Regional Application Process**

**October 2015**

# Objectives

- Review Regional applications for new pond construction, pond repair/retrofits, collection and reuse systems
- How to submit applications
- How to request technical assistance
- Questions

# Purpose of AgWRAP

AgWRAP was established through S.L. 2011-145 to assist farmers and landowners in doing any one or more of the following:

- Identify opportunities to increase water use efficiency, availability and storage;
- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to conserve and protect water resources;
- Increase water use efficiency;
- Increase water storage and availability for agricultural purposes.

# Allocation of FY2016 funds

- \$977,500 - recurring
- Pilot program approach continues while rule making is underway
- Due to the high cost of some of the program's eligible best management practices, and the limited funding for the program, the Commission is awarding two allocations for AgWRAP.

The competitive regional application process: 55% of available BMP funding ~\$678,870

[Agricultural Water Supply/Reuse Pond](#)

[Agricultural Pond Repair/Retrofit](#)

[Agricultural Water Collection and Reuse System](#)

# Contract Timeline

- Two batching periods for regional applications:
  - November 20: January Commission Meeting
  - February 12: March Commission Meeting
- All FY2016 BMPs must be installed by June 30, 2018

# Forms

## 1. Applicants must provide the district office a copy of one of the following documents to demonstrate eligibility:

- a) A farm sales tax exemption certificate issued by the Department of Revenue.
- b) A copy of the property tax listing showing that the property is eligible for participation in the present use value program pursuant to G.S. 105-277.3.
- c) A copy of the farm owner's or operator's Schedule F from the owner's or operator's most recent federal income tax return.
- d) A forest management plan.
- e) A Farm Identification Number issued by the United States Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency.

*In extraordinary circumstances, the Commission may permit an applicant to establish that he or she is engaged in farming with an alternate form of documentation if the farm has a conservation plan that meets the statutory purposes of the program.*

## 2. All AgWRAP contracts require the [Adjusted Gross Income Self-Certification form](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/Forms.html)

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/Forms.html>

# **NEW PONDS, REPAIR/RETROFITS, COLLECTION AND REUSE SYSTEMS**

Regional allocation information

# Cost caps

- Actual costs of \$20,000 (75%) or \$24,000 (90%)
  - \*90% cost share available for limited resource farmers, beginning farmers and those in EVADs
- Cost share for private PE design is available – ranges based on type of pond and hazard classification
- Division engineering support is also an option for landowners; but designs won't be started until applications are funded

# Regional ranking criteria

- What is the increase in percent of water demand provided by proposed BMP?
- What is the surface water drinking water assessment area susceptibility for the proposed location?  
<http://149.168.87.14/pws/>
- What is the ground water drinking water assessment area susceptibility for the proposed location?  
<http://149.168.87.14/pws/>
- What water conservation measures are on the management unit currently?

# Regional ranking criteria *cont.*

- Has a 401/404 exemption, permit or determination of no permit required obtained?
- Is an engineering design complete?
- Is farm enrolled in a VAD or an EVAD?
- Is farm under a conservation easement?

# How to apply?

- Complete an application:

[http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/regional\\_applications.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP/regional_applications.html)

- Basic application information
- Site characteristics (Technical recommendation requires JAA signature)
- Conservation planning considerations (requires field office signature)
- Cooperator acknowledgment and submittal (requires cooperator, landowner and district board chair signature)
- Map – include the fields that will be irrigated or where animals will be watered
- Outputs of water needs assessment tool
- District letter of support recommending this project for regional competition and funding consideration – list all applications in priority order (include a reason for each application – **please include WHY each project should be funded!**)
- Optional attachments
  - 401/404 exemption, permit or determination of no permit required.
  - Sealed Professional Engineer design for this pond.

# Lessons learned from last year

- Site characteristics section must be signed by an employee with Job Approval Authority.
  - Check and see if a neighbor can help  
[http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional\\_development/JAA.html](http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/professional_development/JAA.html)
  - Submit a technical assistance request form  
<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/index.html>
- The district letter of support is how you make your case that each application should be funded.
- If the proposed project will supply a low percentage of water needed but is still a viable project, be sure to include this information in the notes section of the application or your letter of support.

# How to apply?

- Upload application materials through [Sharepoint](#) (how to directions are available) by 11:59pm on November 20, 2015 or February 12, 2016
- Applications will be reviewed by internal review team of division staff, presented to the AgWRAP Review Committee & recommendations will be sent to the Commission for action

# Requesting Technical Assistance

- Division staff is available to provide needed technical assistance to implement AgWRAP and address conservation practices associated with the program.
- Types of assistance available include but are not limited to engineering services for site evaluation and design, soil interpretive services for site evaluation, and assistance with sediment removal planning
- If you would like assistance:
  - Complete the [Technical Assistance Request Form](#)
  - Email to [SWC Tech Assistance@ncagr.gov](mailto:SWC_Tech_Assistance@ncagr.gov)
  - Once the form is reviewed, the request will be assigned

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/index.html>

- Online narratives available & many pond planning and design materials are available at: <http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/tech/onlinedesigntools.html>

# For more information or to share suggestions

- Policies and BMPs

Julie Henshaw [julie.henshaw@ncagr.gov](mailto:julie.henshaw@ncagr.gov)

(919) 715-9630

- Technical assistance and Job Approval Authority

Natalie Woolard [natalie.woolard@ncagr.gov](mailto:natalie.woolard@ncagr.gov)

(252) 948-3902

<http://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/costshareprograms/AgWRAP>