

Agricultural Water Conservation



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February 3, 2015
Metering Grants Webinar

Texas Water
Development Board

Outline

- TWDB & Ag Water Conservation
- Ag Grants Program
- Examples of previous projects
- Current request for applications
- Questions & open discussion

Disclaimer

The following presentation is based upon professional research and analysis within the scope of the Texas Water Development Board's statutory responsibilities and priorities but, unless specifically noted, does not necessarily reflect official Board positions or decisions.

Texas Water Development Board

“to provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas”



Agricultural Water Conservation

- Irrigation Estimates
- Education & Outreach
- Demonstration Projects
- Grants & Loans



www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation

FLOOD

- Flood Protection Grants
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
- Workshop & Training
- Community Resources

GROUNDWATER

- Aquifers
- Management Areas
- Conservation Districts
- Data
- Models
- Regional Water Planning Areas

SURFACE WATER

- River Basins & Reservoirs
- Bays & Estuaries
- Environmental Flows
- Lake Surveys
- Texas Water Conditions & Data

CONSERVATION

- BMPs
- Agriculture**
- Literature
- Resources
- Education
- Outreach
- Municipal
- Workshops & Webinars

INNOVATIVE WATER



- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- BRACS
- Desalination
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water Reuse

Agricultural Grants Projects

The following table includes details on all Agricultural Water Conservation Grants funded by TWDB since 2004. Where available, a PDF of the final report is provided.

Show entries

Search:

Contract Number	Fiscal Year	Contractor	Funded Amount	Project Type
  0903580955	2009	Lower Colorado River Authority	\$99,219	Technology Transfer
Project Description: Garwood Irrigation Division volumetric measurement equipment.				
  0903580882	2008	Harlingen Irrigation District	\$249,015	Technology Transfer
  2004358008	2004	Texas Agricultural Experiment	\$44,400	Technology Transfer

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reports

back to
2004



Agricultural Water Conservation Grants

Funding projects that research, educate, demonstrate, and implement proven best management practices to conserve water and increase irrigation water use efficiency



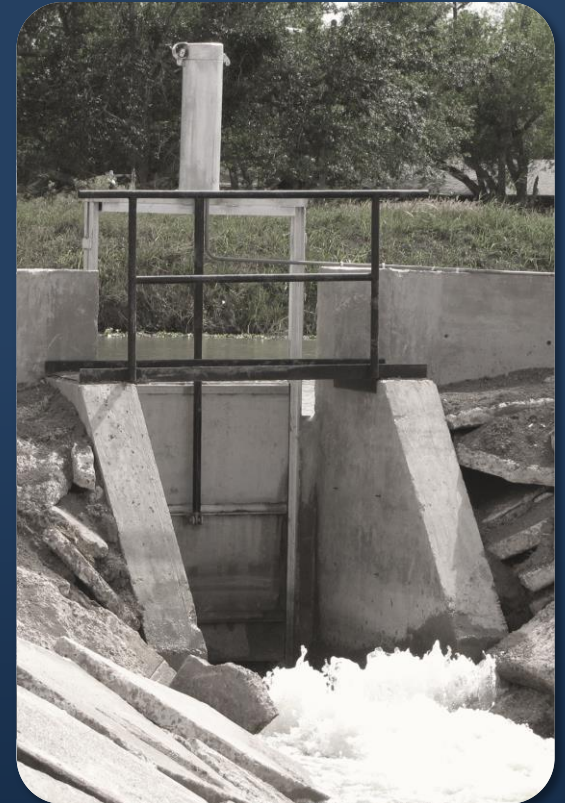
www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs

Eligible Entities

- State Agencies and University Systems
- Political Subdivisions
 - **Groundwater Conservation Districts**
 - Irrigation Districts
 - Water Improvement Districts
 - River Authorities
 - *et cetera*

Examples of Ag Grant Projects

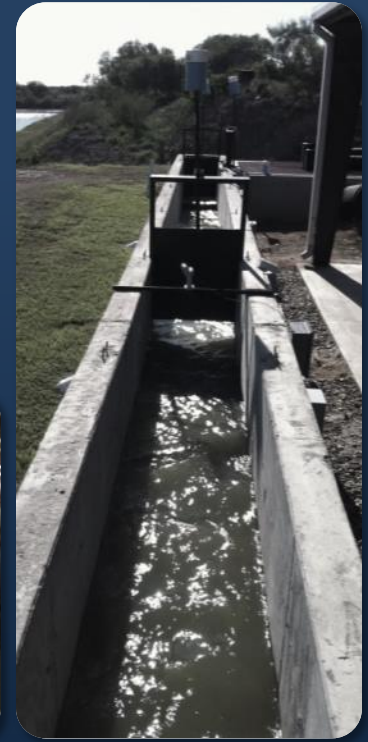
- Irrigation Improvements
- Evapotranspiration Networks
- Education and Research
- Demonstration Projects
- Metering Equipment



Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency

Harlingen Irrigation District, Texas A&M AgriLife, Texas A&M-Kingsville, private industry, consultants, & ag producers

- On-farm demonstrations & in-district improvements
- 10-year project in the Lower Rio Grande Valley
- Flowmeter calibration & training facility



www.texasawe.org

Texas Alliance for Water Conservation

Texas Tech University, Texas A&M AgriLife, High Plains Water District, irrigation equipment dealers, crop consultants, & agricultural producers in the Southern High Plains

→ Mission: *To conserve water with practices and technologies that reduce depletion of groundwater while enhancing economic opportunities*



www.tawc.us

North Plains Groundwater Conservation District 200-12 Project

- Project goal: *“To grow 200 bushels of corn on only 12 inches of irrigation.”*
- On-farm demonstrations involving industry representatives and cooperating producers



northplainsgcd.org

Current Solicitation

- \$1,490,000 in grant funding available
- Applications are due by 12 noon on
March 11, 2015
- 50% cost-share of meters
- Districts with rules requiring metering

Application Instructions



Don't just stand around and talk about it. Fill it out and turn it in!

Contact agconservation@twdb.texas.gov for a copy

or

http://www.twdb.texas.gov/about/contract_admin/RFQ/

Tips

1. Agricultural water conservation strategy in the state or regional water plan
2. Follow the instructions and answer all 22 questions in the order provided.
3. Task and Expense Budget totals should match.
(Equipment is the only reimbursable expense for metering grants.)
4. Include a brief scope of work by task.
5. Submit six printed copies & an electronic version
6. Don't miss the 12 noon March 11, 2015 deadline!
7. Call or email if you have any questions.

Contract Terms

- Metering contracts typically last about 7-8 years
 - 2+ years for installation
 - At least 5 years of data collection and reporting
- Water savings reports required of all Ag projects
- Payments processed on a reimbursement basis



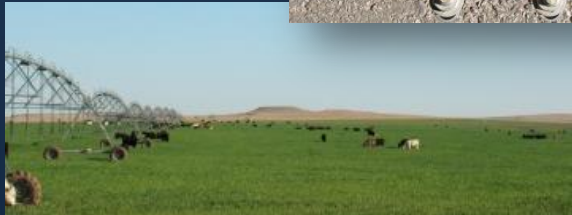
Cost-Share of Irrigation Meters



Flowmeter on a producer's center pivot funded through the voluntary participation of a local groundwater conservation district.

Irrigation Metering Program

- Participating groundwater conservation districts
- Over 1,000 meters cost-shared since 1999



- Meters help to quantify pumping, providing valuable data for local groundwater management decisions
- “Talking with producers, meters may result in an average of 5% estimated irrigation water savings.”
 - resulting in cost-savings to the producer

Questions?

agconservation@twdb.texas.gov

512-936-6090



www.twdb.texas.gov

