

# Agricultural Water Conservation Grants



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**July 31, 2014**

# Presentation Outline

- **TWDB Ag Conservation overview**
- **Ag Grants Program**
  - Purpose of the program
  - Eligible entities, current solicitation, application
  - Examples of previous projects
- **Other TWDB financial assistance programs**
- **Time for questions & open discussion**

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.

# Agricultural Water Conservation

- Grants
- Loans
- Demonstration Projects
- Education & Outreach



[www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation)

# Purpose of the TWDB Ag Grants Program

*Implement and demonstrate best management practices that conserve water or increase water use efficiency*

## Examples

- Metering Equipment
- Irrigation Scheduling
- Irrigation System Improvements
- Canal-Lining and Conversion to Pipeline
- Volumetric Measuring and Conservation Pricing



**[www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/conservation/BMPs)**

# Eligible Entities for Ag Grant projects

- ✓ State Agencies and University Systems
- ✓ Political Subdivisions

A few examples:

- Groundwater Conservation District
- Irrigation District
- Water Improvement District
- River Authority
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- Regional Water Authority
- Council of Government
  - such as a Planning Commission

# Solicitation and Selection

- ✓ Applications for 2015 Ag Grants are due by **September 10, 2014 at 12 noon**

\*Late applications are not accepted!\*

- ✓ Evaluation, review, and ranking  
(about 30 days)
- ✓ Board approval in **November**, most likely
- ✓ Negotiations and contract execution  
(60-90 days after board approval)



# Request for Applications

## ~funding categories~

### 1. Metering Equipment

- Up to 50% of meter purchase costs
- Metering rules required for eligibility

### 2. Monitoring Equipment and Measurement Devices

- Up to 50% of eligible equipment costs

### 3. Irrigation System Improvements

- Encouraged to facilitate regional cooperation and public-private partnerships with area ag producers, districts, and ag industry

→ *Note: In an effort to leverage the limited TWDB Ag Grant dollars, reviewers consider the local match percentages as one of the ranking criteria when scoring applications.*

# Ag Grant Application Instructions

## Tips:

- 1. All projects should address an agricultural water conservation strategy in the most recent state or regional water plan.*
- 2. Follow the application instructions in sequential order and provide information for all 22 application requirements.*
- 3. Task and Expense Budget totals should match. Equipment is the only reimbursable expense for Ag Grant Categories 1 & 2.*
- 4. Include a scope of work by task in the project description.*
- 5. Submit six printed copies of your application and an electronic version by the September 10, 12:00 Noon deadline!*
- 6. Please call me if you have any questions.*

# Ag Grant Application Instructions

## Application Requirements

According to the Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Part 10, Chapter 367, Section 367.5 Application Requirements

*Please format your application to follow the requirements in the sequential order as shown below:*

### Section I. Administrative Requirements

1. Official name and address of the applicant.
2. Constitutional and statutory authority creating the applicant and under which the applicant currently operates, and the Vendor ID number.
3. Names and addresses of the individual or individuals with the legal authority to perform the acts of the entity, and title of position.

For a copy of the application instructions,  
please contact [agconservation@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:agconservation@twdb.texas.gov)

# Contract Terms, Payments, & Deliverables

- Contracts typically last for a period of 5 to 7 years
- Payments processed on a reimbursement basis
  - Quarterly and/or annual progress reporting and invoicing
- “Water Savings” reports required of all contracts
- Data reports required for all metering projects
- Final reports required of some but not all projects



## Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program

 [Take our Ag Grants Survey](#)

The Agricultural Water Conservation Grants Program offers grants to state agencies and political subdivisions for technical assistance, demonstration, technology transfer, education, and metering projects that conserve water. Grant topics vary from year to year to address current issues and topics in agricultural water conservation. The goal of these projects is to implement designated agricultural irrigation conservation strategies in the state water plan and to demonstrate best management practices that may save water or improve water use efficiency.

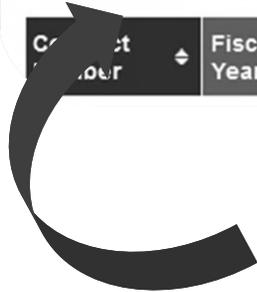
### Agricultural Grants Projects

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.

Contract Year	Fiscal Year	Contractor	Funded Amount	Project Type	Project Description
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Conservation >

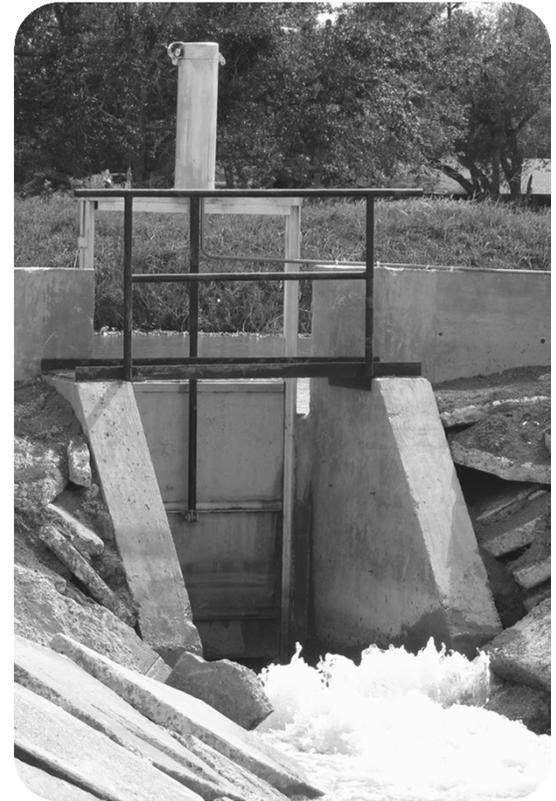
- ★ [Best Management Practices](#)
- ★ [Agriculture](#)
  - Loans
  - Grants**
  - Demonstration Initiatives
  - Agricultural Education
  - Irrigation Water Use Estimates
  - Irrigation Metering
  - Irrigation System Audits
  - Irrigation Scheduling Tools
  - FAQs
  - Agricultural Resources



**View PDFs of the Final Reports  
dating back to 2004**

# Examples of Ag Grant Projects

- Metering Equipment and Volumetric Measurement
- Irrigation System Improvements
- Irrigation Audits
- ET Networks Study
- Education and Research
- Demonstration Projects



# Texas Project for Ag Water Efficiency

*Harlingen Irrigation District along with Texas A&M AgriLife, A&M-Kingsville, private industry, consultants, & producers*

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



[www.texasawe.org](http://www.texasawe.org)

Texas Water  
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# Texas Alliance for Water Conservation

*Texas Tech University along with Texas A&M AgriLife, High Plains UWCD, private industry, consultants, & producers*

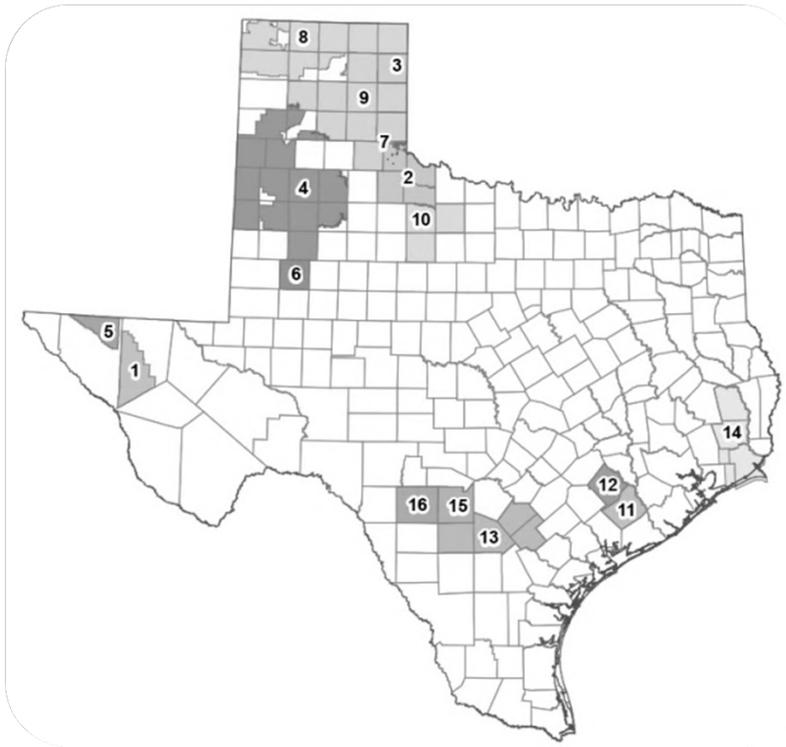
- On-farm research and demonstrations
- On-going project in the Texas High Plains
- Mission: *To conserve water with practices and technologies that reduce depletion of groundwater while enhancing economic opportunities*



[www.tawc.us](http://www.tawc.us)

Texas Water  
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# *Voluntary* Irrigation Metering Program



Local districts may voluntarily participate through our grants program to provide cost-share funding to cooperating producers for purchases of metering equipment.

# Cost-Share of Irrigation Metering Equipment



Flowmeter on a producer's center pivot in Dawson County funded through the voluntary participation of the Mesa Underground Water Conservation District.

# Panhandle Groundwater Conservation District

## Irrigation Metering Program

- First district to participate in the irrigation metering program
- Almost 500 meters, many cost-shared with TWDB ag grant funds
- Meters helping to quantify pumping
- *“Talking with producers, meters may result in an average of 5% estimated irrigation water savings.”*



# Lower Colorado River Authority

## Improvements to the Garwood Irrigation District



→ Leveraged TWDB Ag Grant and LCRA funds



→ Measurement Structures



→ Volumetric Pricing

→ Improved in-district efficiency of irrigation water deliveries



→ Canal Rehabilitation

# **El Paso County Water Improvement District**

## **Canal-lining to reduce seepage losses**

- Leveraging district funds to match Ag Grant funds
- Improving efficiency of water deliveries
- Canal-lining with fiber-reinforced concrete



# North Plains Groundwater Conservation District

## 200-12 Corn Irrigation Project

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



[northplainsgcd.org](http://northplainsgcd.org)

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# TWDB Agricultural Water Conservation

Take our Ag Grants Survey

→ can be found on our [Ag Grants webpage](#)

Send us questions or comments anytime

→ [agconservation@twdb.texas.gov](mailto:agconservation@twdb.texas.gov)

*The TWDB mission is to provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of Water for Texas!*

## Agricultural Conservation



The economic viability of many regions of the state depends upon a strong agricultural economy. Agricultural irrigation is the largest water use sector in Texas, and conservation of this resource is of vital importance. Working in conjunction with the USDA-NRCS, State Soil and Water Conservation Board, local soil and water conservation districts, and local groundwater conservation districts, our staff assists agricultural producers in maximizing irrigation efficiency. We assist by providing [grants to political subdivisions](#) to implement conservation programs and by utilizing either local districts or local lending institutions to provide [loans for individual farmers](#) to install more efficient irrigation equipment.

Conservation >

- ★ [Best Management Practices](#)
- ★ [Agriculture](#)
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  - [Irrigation Scheduling Tools](#)
  - [FAQs](#)
  - [Agricultural Resources](#)

# Agricultural Water Conservation Loans

- Available to eligible political subdivisions
- To make upgrades to on-farm irrigation systems and irrigation district infrastructure
- Participating districts may provide low-interest loans to producers to purchase more efficient irrigation systems



# State Water Implementation Fund for Texas

- Created exclusively to fund State Water Plan projects
- At least 20% to fund conservation and reuse projects
- At least 10% to fund rural and agricultural projects
- ***Get involved!***
  - *Regional planning, project prioritization, and the rulemaking*

**[www.twdb.texas.gov/swift/](http://www.twdb.texas.gov/swift/)**



# TWDB Agricultural and Rural Ombudsman

You may contact Doug Shaw for questions regarding the regional water planning process, funding opportunities, or guest speaker requests on TWDB programs affecting rural and agricultural communities.

Doug.Shaw@twdb.texas.gov  
512-463-1711



# *Questions?*

agconservation@twdb.texas.gov

512-936-6090



[www.twdb.texas.gov](http://www.twdb.texas.gov)

