MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN HEALTHY WATERSHEDS INITIATIVE - ARKANSAS
FY 2015

- 13 States
- 40 Focus Areas
- (13 continuing watershed from 2012 and 27 new areas)
## MRBI FUNDING SINCE 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Contracts</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Obligated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>12,238</td>
<td>$3,027,278</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>217</td>
<td>62,911</td>
<td>$5,946,964</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>404</td>
<td>92,229</td>
<td>$16,836,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>453</td>
<td>107,998</td>
<td>$27,067,199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>455</td>
<td>98,645</td>
<td>$23,344,187</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015 to date</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>21,449</td>
<td>$7,504,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,679</td>
<td>395,470</td>
<td>$83,726,868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS DEDICATED TO MRBI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 New MRBI Projects</th>
<th>2015 Funding</th>
<th>Total Project Funds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Upper Cache River</td>
<td>$399,900</td>
<td>$3,401,831 / $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strawberry River</td>
<td>$500,000</td>
<td>$2,000,004 / $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caney Creek</td>
<td>$600,600</td>
<td>$2,400,032 / $1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,500,500</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,801,876 / $1,500,000</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAM FUNDS DEDICATED TO MRBI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2012 MRBI Projects Extension</th>
<th>2015 Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Middle Cache</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAEC</td>
<td>$406,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lower AR Upper</td>
<td>$269,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayou Meto Middle</td>
<td>$243,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Prairie</td>
<td>$669,200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bayou Meto AR County</td>
<td>$703,300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,292,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AVOIDING, CONTROLLING, TRAPPING (ACT)

- Avoiding
- Trapping
- Controlling
CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

**AVOIDING**
- 328 - Conservation Crop Rotation
- 340 - Cover Crop
- 528 - Prescribed Grazing
- 590 - Nutrient Management
- 633 - Waste Utilization

**CONTROLLING**
- 329 - Residue & Tillage Management - No Till/Strip Till
- 345 - Residue & Tillage Management - Mulch Till
- 346 - Residue & Tillage Management - Ridge Till
- 412 - Grassed Waterway
- 449 - Irrigation Water Management
- 512 - Forage and Biomass Planting
- 554 - Drainage Water Management
- 643 - Restoration & Management of Declining Habitats
- 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- 441 - Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation
- 442 - Irrigation System, Sprinkler
- 443 - Irrigation System, Surface and Subsurface
- 447 - Tailwater Recovery
## CORE CONSERVATION PRACTICES

### TRAPPING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Practice Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>356</td>
<td>Dike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>390</td>
<td>Riparian Herbaceous Cover</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>391</td>
<td>Riparian Forest Buffer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>393</td>
<td>Filter Strip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>436</td>
<td>Irrigation Storage Reservoir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>580</td>
<td>Streambank and Shoreline Protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>601</td>
<td>Vegetative Barriers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>635</td>
<td>Vegetative Treatment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>656</td>
<td>Constructed Wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>657</td>
<td>Wetland Restoration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>658</td>
<td>Wetland Creation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>659</td>
<td>Wetland Enhancement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SUPPORTING CONSERVATION PRACTICES

AVOIDING
313 - Waste Storage Facility
317 - Composting Facility
327 - Conservation Cover
381 - Silvopasture Establishment
382 - Fence
472 - Access Control
511 - Forage Harvest Management
558 - Roof Runoff Structure
561 - Heavy Use Area Protection
612 - Tree & Shrub Planting
632 - Solid/Liquid Waste Separation Facility
634 - Waste Transfer
642 – Well
574 – Spring Development

CONTROLLING
324 - Deep Tillage
342 - Critical Area Planting
362 - Diversion
386 - Field Border
410 - Grade Stabilization Structure
430 - Irrigation Water Conveyance
449 - Irrigation Water Management
464 – Irrigation Land Leveling
484 - Mulching
533 - Pumping Plant
587 - Structure for Water Control
607 - Surface Drainage
608 – Surface Drain, Main, or Lateral
620 - Underground Outlet
638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin

TRAPPING
342 - Critical Area Planting
350 - Sediment Basin
356 - Dike
490 – Forest Site Preparation
644- Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngt.
533 - Pumping Plant
587 - Structure for Water Control
629 - Waste Treatment
638 - Water & Sediment Control Basin
646 - Shallow Water Development and Management
EXPECTED WATER QUALITY RESULTS

• Reduced nitrogen and phosphorus loading into waterways

• Reduced sediment from sheet & rill erosion

• Reduced sediment from irrigation-induced erosion
## MRBI/RCPP VS GENERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MRBI/RCPP</th>
<th>General Programs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projects proposed</td>
<td>Projects proposed by NRCS with conservation partner input</td>
<td>Funding provided through NRCS without matching contributions from partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRCS and Partners</td>
<td>NRCS and Partners develop ranking questions</td>
<td>State Technical Committee chooses ranking questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>choose</td>
<td>NRCS and Partners choose conservation practices for a systems approach</td>
<td>Most available practices can be selected by farmers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding is provided</td>
<td>Funding is provided within a specific targeted project area</td>
<td>Funding is statewide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water quality</td>
<td>Water quality monitoring and evaluation is included in conservation practices</td>
<td>Water quality monitoring and evaluation is not available</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# PRIMARY COOPERATIVE CONSERVATION PARTNERS 2010/2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Sponsors</th>
<th>Monitoring Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Local Conservation Districts</td>
<td>University of Arkansas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts</td>
<td>University of Arkansas Extension Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arkansas Natural Conservation Commission</td>
<td>Arkansas State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
<td>Agricultural Research Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural Industry</td>
<td>University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TAILWATER RECOVERY
Cover Crop

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer
Voluntary monitoring to determine effects of conservation practice installation

Partnering with University of Arkansas, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, Arkansas State University, and U.S. Agricultural Research Service

- Discovery Farm Protocols
- EPA Specifications

1 or 2 farms per project
WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Measuring and sampling runoff

runoff weir
datalogger
water sampler
depth sensor
ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Adding additional conservation practices as needed

Adjusting ranking criteria

Annual review of projects with sponsors
2014 Farm Bill

- Strong commitment to conservation
- Streamlining/consolidation
- Maintains programs
- Flexibility for targeting assistance to address priority natural resource concerns
• Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
• 2014/2015 RCPP
• 115 projects were selected from 600 preproposals
• $370 million
• Arkansas had 23 preproposals
• 4 were awarded funding-$15 million
  ❖ $2 million state projects
  ❖ $3 million CCA
  ❖ $10 million National-$3.2 million to Arkansas
Arkansas conservation partners were approved for four RCPP projects:

- 2 State-$2 million
- 1 National-$10 million
- Critical Conservation Area (CCA)-$3 million
2016 RCPP
265 preproposals were submitted nation wide for $225 million
165 were invited to submit a full proposals by Nov 10th
8 preproposals submitted from Arkansas
5 were invited to submit a full proposals
REGIONAL CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Arkansas (CCA)
Indian, Wabbeseka, and Salt Bayou
West Fork White River
Greers Ferry Lake Watershed
East Fork Cadron Creek
Reducing Erosion in Bayou Deview
RED RIVER RCPP PRACTICES
Illinois River Watershed Initiative
2011-2018
5th year of project
Arkansas
594 contracts on 46,622 acres
Obligation: $17,323,124

6 sub-watersheds contribute
45 contracts on 3,908 acres for over $850,000.
Top practices: forage and biomass planting, prescribed grazing, fencing, waste storage facility and amendments for treatment of ag waste.
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