

**SOUTH CAROLINA STATE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE  
TELECONFERENCE NOTES  
1835 Assembly Street  
NRCS Conference Room  
Columbia, South Carolina  
May 6, 2010**

Attending: Ann English, Kellee Melton, Erica Westbrook, Amy Maxwell, and Pat Turner, recorder for NRCS. Vernita Dorne, State Director of RD participated. Committee State Technical Committee Members Participating in Teleconference: Walter McPhail, landowner in Anderson County, and Scott Phillips, SC Forestry Commission.

State Conservationist Ann English opened the teleconference at 10:00 a.m., made introductions and welcomed all participants.

A SC State Technical Committee Teleconference was scheduled for the purpose of discussing CSP 2010 Funding Pools and Resource Conserving Crop Rotations.

Kellee Melton, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs discussed the following:

CSP 2010 Funding Pools

Melton covered the funding pools used for the 1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle. The state was broken up into three major land resource areas. Each area was pooled under the different funding categories. Those were:

Agricultural Lands:

Lowcountry  
Pee Dee  
Piedmont

Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF):

Lowcountry  
Pee Dee  
Piedmont

Historically Underserved:

New/Beginning Farmer for each area  
Socially Disadvantaged for each area

Melton explained that these worked well for the 1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle. They were fairly equal when looking at the number of contracts that were funded. The Piedmont area had the most funded when considering the number of contracts. The Pee Dee area had the most funded when looking at the cumulative dollars of the contracts.

Overall, SC obligated a little over \$1.8 million in a total of 241 contracts in this first funding period. We will be having a second cutoff date that has not yet been announced, and will be funding more applications throughout the summer. A news release on this information will be out soon.

This new Conservation “Stewardship” Program focuses on “environmental points,” rather than just dollars per acre. It rewards those participants that are really practicing good conservation (by giving participants points for activities that are in place on their land as well as new ones to be implemented) rather than just those that own a lot of land.

English asked the committee members if they had any recommendations or changes they would like to see us make in the funding pools for the second round of funding. Those present voted to keep the funding pools as they were with no changes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle.

Erica Westbrook, State Resource Conservationist discussed CSP Resource Conserving Crop Rotations. The identified rotations used for 1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle:

- Rotation #1: Corn for grain-Winter Wheat harvested for grain – Soybeans (double cropped)  
Resource conserving crops: Corn, Wheat harvested for grain
- Rotation #2: Corn for grain – Cotton with Rye cover crop-Peanuts  
Resource conserving crops: Corn, Rye cover crop
- Rotation #3: Peanuts – Wheat harvested for grain – Soybeans double cropped – Corn harvested for grain  
Resource conserving crops: Corn, Wheat harvested for grain
- Rotation #4: Bahia grass 2 years, Peanuts, Cotton
- Rotation #5: Fescue 2 years, Tobacco 2 years

The new guidelines include new definitions. The rotations from last year are within the new guidelines. Mr. McPhail and Mr. Phillips agreed the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle would stay with the same crop rotations as last year, since they are within the new guidelines.

Recommendations will be sent to the NRCS National Headquarters for consideration.

Ann English appreciated the input from Mr. McPhail and Mr. Phillips. We will try to give a 14-day notice, if possible, for teleconferences in the future.

Teleconference adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next State Technical Committee meeting is to be announced at a later date. A schedule will be set for meetings, at least two meetings a year and the Committee will be informed in advance. NRCS will give a 30-day public notice and it will be posted on the SC NRCS website.

**Decision of the SC State Technical Committee Meeting  
May 6, 2010**

<b>Item/Explanation</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<p><u>CSP 2010 Funding Pools</u> Melton covered the funding pools used for the 1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle. The state was broken up into three major land resource areas. Each area was pooled under the different funding categories. Those were:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Agricultural Lands:     Lowcountry     Pee Dee     Piedmont</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Non-Industrial Private Forestland (NIPF):     Lowcountry     Pee Dee     Piedmont</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Historically Underserved:     New/Beginning Farmer for each area     Socially Disadvantaged for each area</p>	<p>Those present voted to keep the funding pools as they were with no changes for the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle.</p>
<p>Westbrook discussed CSP Crop Rotations. The identified rotations used for 1<sup>st</sup> funding cycle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotation #1: Corn for grain- Winter Wheat harvested for grain – Soybeans (double cropped) Resource conserving crops: Corn, Wheat harvested for grain</li> <li>• Rotation #2: Corn for grain – Cotton with Rye cover crop- Peanuts Resource conserving crops: Corn, Rye cover crop</li> <li>• Rotation #3: Peanuts – Wheat harvested for grain – Soybeans double cropped – Corn harvested for grain Resource conserving crops: Corn, Wheat harvested for grain</li> <li>• Rotation #4: Bahia grass 2 years, Peanuts, Cotton</li> <li>• Rotation #5: Fescue 2 years, Tobacco 2 years</li> </ul> <p>The new guidelines include new definitions. The rotations from last year are within the new guidelines.</p>	<p>Mr. McPhail and Mr. Phillips agreed the 2<sup>nd</sup> funding cycle would stay with the same crop rotations as last year, since they are within the new guidelines.</p>