

Funds Available for Water Quality Improvement Projects for Livestock Operators

October 1, 2008 marked the start of the third year for the Marais des Cygnes Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) Livestock Grant Project. The WRAPS Livestock Project services producers throughout the Marais des Cygnes basin, including Bourbon, Allen, and Crawford County. Cost share funds are available at a payment rate of 55%; with an additional 5% incentive payment for projects completed within six months. The payment is based on actual cost, a current contractor bid is used during the application process so you are not limited by prices that were set months ago like several other cost share programs have. The only set rate used is for fencing, \$2.00 per foot is the cap set by the livestock grant committee. Funds are not limited to cattle operations; in the past two years the grant has assisted cattlemen, horsemen, dairy farmers and even goat operation. Since July 2006 the WRAPS Livestock Project has paid \$196,549 direct to producers throughout the MDC Basin for projects they have completed through the grant. The Livestock Project received an allocation of funds through KDHE from EPA Section 319 Grant funds in the amount of \$53,000 to continue the livestock project into 2009. Producers are encouraged to contact the Bourbon, Allen, or Crawford County Conservation District or the local extension office. K-State Watershed Specialist Herschel George is also available to assist producers and make field visits to evaluate projects before applications are submitted and throughout the course of the project; he can be reached at 913-294-6021.

Some of the projects completed through the WRAPS Livestock Grant have included relocation of feeding sites, alternative water supplies, sediment basins, vegetative buffers/grass buffers, riparian fencing, spring development, waste collection/treatment/application. These and other best management practices which create a water quality benefit may be considered for funding through the MDC WRAPS Grant Livestock Project. Applications are accepted and reviewed for approval on a monthly basis. To learn more visit www.fccdks.org/WRAPS.htm