

## **St. Tech. Committee Meeting – 9/1/16**

**Attendees:** Andrew Baker, Kristin Bailey, Bob Bettger, Fred Christensen, Mike Crosley, Craig Derickson, Neil Dominy, John Duplissis, John Hansen, Aaron Hird, Al Juhnke, Susan France, John Mayberger, Tami Nordman, Jamie Petersen, Burdette Piening, Greg Reisdorff, Scott Richert, Jay Seaton, Brad Soncksen, Rich Torpin, Elbert Traylor, Marcia Trompke, Walter Valasek, Eric Zach and Gene Zuerlein.

On the Phone: Andrew Pierceson – Audubon NE, Mark Brohman, Neil Moseman – Senator Fischer’s Office, and Damon Frizzell – Region VII

**Welcome and thank you for being here! – Craig Derickson**

### **Nebraska’s Soil Health Initiative – Aaron Hird (slides)**

Committee Note: Support of the Demo Farm Initiative and the use of these farms to showcase specific challenges (see last slide)

Soil Health Demo Farms Map (see the third slide)

Demo Farm Mission:

- Focus on outreach and education and partnership development.
- Facilitate the Demo of the Four Key Soil Health Principles:
  1. Keep the Soil covered
  2. Disturb the Soil less
  3. Provide a living root in the Soil for 10 or more months per year
  4. Diversify the plants and roots used in the cropping system
- Validate the use of Soil Health Management Systems locally
- Provide a local connection to the farmer/partners for communication
- Technical Development of Soil Health Indicator

### **QUESTIONS:**

- Timeframe
  - Five year contract right now and hopefully it will continue beyond as this is the first phase.
- Very Helpful program and focus. Cover Cropping patterns to increase.
- Burdette Piening – Spray vs. Cover Crop needs to be heavily advertised.
- Different mixes with how are you choosing your mix?
  - Producer’s objectives and infiltration rate goes into the factor.

## **NE NRCS CONSERVATION PROGRAMS – BRAD SONCKSEN (SLIDES)**

Recommendations that have been submitted

EQIP Applications in 2016; we are in the final phases and go right to September 30<sup>th</sup>.

EQIP FY 2017 Time Lines:

Local Work Group Meetings – Feb/March

Determine Special Initiatives and Fund Pools (144 fund pools) – July

Revise FY17 Ranking Tools – August

Complete Practice Payment Schedule – September

Update EQIP Fund Allocation Formula – October

FY17 Application Cutoff Date – October 21, 2016

Application Ranking Deadline – TBD

### **Application Cutoff Dates:** (see slides)

October 21, 2016 (third Friday in October) – 14 LWG's

November 18, 2016 (third Friday in November) – 14 LWG's

Continuous Signup

?? – CAFO/AFO date for signup?

Brad – we haven't received a lot of ...

?? – AFO vs. CAFO on how many are small, medium and large

Brad – We will get the info and send it to you

### **CSP Ranking Pool Proposal 2017 – Brad Soncksen**

- Add State ranking question to prioritize water quantity applications on Stream Flow Depletion Factor based on the location of practice.
- Recommended action to implement in fY17 – Revise WIN ranking questions related to the filling reuse pits. Reduce number of points.
- Recommended Actions to implement in fY17 – Revise WIN ranking to reduce emphasis on Brush Management increased emphasis on enhancement of wildlife habitat. AND Delete cropland grazing question (State ranking question #2). AND Increase points for Degraded Plant Condition questions (State ranking questions .... SEE SLIDES

### **CSP Local Question Examples**

### **CSP National Questions**

***Next Meeting is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at the UNL – Extension Office***