



Grant Progress Report

Soil Health Staffing 2024

Grant Title: Rice and Steele County Soil Health Position

Grant ID: C24-0117

Grantee: Rice SWCD

Fiscal Agent: Rice SWCD

Grant Day-to-Day Contact: Steve Pahs

Grant Award (\$): \$425,154.00

Required Match (%): 0

Required Match (\$): \$0.00

Grant Execution Date: 05/06/2024

Grant End Date: 12/31/2027

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$425,154.00	\$131,604.75	\$293,549.25
Match Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$425,154.00	\$131,604.75	\$293,549.25

*Grant balance remaining is the difference between the Awarded Amount and the Spent Amount. Other values compare budgeted and spent amounts.

Project Abstract	Rice SWCD and Steele SWCD will partner to hire a full-time soil health specialist to work in both counties with farmers to promote soil health practices, work closely with them to implement cover crops, no-till, strip-till, and perennial crops, and guide them along the way so that farmers make the successful transfer from conventional farming to farming using one or more of the five soil health principles. The position will focus on a variety of strategies including one on one visits to farmers to provide technical expertise in reduced tillage and cover crop implementation in Rice and Steele Counties as the primary method, but they will also help organize and speak at field days and workshops.
Proposed Measurable Outcomes	Cover Crops added:3000 acres, resulting in approximately 6690 Tons of soil saved/yr., 2532 lbs. sediment/yr reduced, and 3026 lbs. phosphorus/yr. reduced. No-till and Strip-till adopted: 2000 acres. Increase perennial crops by 200 acres.

Budget Details

Activity Name	Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining	Match Fund?
Supplies and Equipment	Supplies/Equipment	Current State Grant	Rice and Steele County Soil Health Position	\$9,000.00	\$1,241.24	\$7,758.76	N
Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	Rice and Steele County Soil Health Position	\$416,154.00	\$130,363.51	\$285,790.49	N

Grant Activities

Activity Name: Supplies and Equipment							
Activity Category: Supplies/Equipment						Staff time?: No	
Description: Purchase of a computer and phone for the new position, plus necessary software including ArcMap. A work station is also needed in the Rice SWCD office and will be purchased with these funds.							
Budget Details							
<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>	
Current State Grant	Rice and Steele County Soil Health Position	\$9,000.00	\$1,241.24	\$7,758.76	08/31/2025	N	
Actual Results							
<u>Results</u>					<u>Date Added</u>		
7/10/2024: laptop computer, AC adapter, install and configure					7/10/2024 7:54:21 AM		
07/25/2025: new desktop monitor							
08/31/2025: new wireless mouse and keyboard							

Activity Name: Technical/Engineering

Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Staff time?: Yes

Description: Employ one FTE Soil Health Specialist on a contract basis who has a minimum of four years working experience with soil health practices, and is capable of public speaking. This position will provide one on one technical assistance to farmers to implement soil health practices such as cover crops, reduced tillage, and perennial crop systems. This position will also promote soil health via news and social media outlets, field days, and workshops. They will spend 60% of their time in Rice County, and 40% of time in Steele County. They will also be a resource for Rice and Steele SWCD staff. Duties will include assisting farmers with securing funding for soil health practices, providing technical assistance for seeding plans, tillage planning, and guidance on equipment modifications that result in successful planting of crops in high residue environments. It is expected that this position will frequently be making farm visits with producers to guide them as they implement new soil health practices. This position must either already have JAA for cover crops and conservation tillage, or work towards obtaining JAA within the first year of employment. Further, it is expected that this individual will assist current staff in obtaining JAA for soil health practices as well. Funding is as follows: Year one: \$46.9348659/hr. x 2088 hrs = \$98,000. Year 2: \$48.81226054/hr. x 2088 hrs = \$101,920. Year 3: \$50.76484674/hr. x 2088 hrs. = \$105,997. Year 4: 52.79549808/hr. x 2088 hrs. = \$110,237. Depending on the person hired, we may reduce the hourly wage and provide full benefits.

Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	Rice and Steele County Soil Health Position	\$416,154.00	\$130,363.51	\$285,790.49	08/31/2025	N

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
August 2024 staff time (AL 129.5 hrs x \$69.85 = \$9,045.57)	9/5/2024 1:33:17 PM
Sept 2024 staff time (AK 130 hrs x \$71.20 = \$9,256.00)	
Oct staff time (AK 155.50 x \$71.20 = \$11,071.60)	
Nov 2024 staff time (AK 120.50 hrs x \$68.48 = \$8,251.84)	
Dec 2024 staff time (AK 87.50 x \$68.48 = \$5,992.00)	
Jan 2025 staff time (AK 175 hrs x \$74.00 = \$12,950.00)	
Fed staff time for (AK 100 hours x \$74.00 = \$7,400.00 for steele/rice soil health)	
Fed staff time for (AK 7 hrs x \$74.00 = \$518.00 for Rice Creek area)	

Results

Date Added

Mar 2025 staff time (AK 98 hrs x \$74.00 = \$7,252.00) for soil health
Mar 2025 staff time (AK 8 hrs x \$74.00 = \$592.00) for soil health for Rice Creek
April 2025 staff time (AK 170.25 hrs x \$74.00 = \$12,598.50)
May 2025 staff time (AK 151.00 x \$74.00 = \$11,174.00)
June 2025 staff time (AK 174 hrs x \$74 = \$12,876.00)
July 2025 staff time (AK 153 hrs @ \$74.00 = \$11,322.00)
Aug 2025 staff time (AK 136 hrs x \$74.00 = \$10,064.00)