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FORAGE SEED ASSISTANCE

Program Definition: The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District (WIWCD) will pay all or a portion of the seed costs for forages sown on erosion-prone, previously flooded or marginal land. The types and varieties of seed will be determined by the landowner.

Program Objectives:

- To control soil erosion on light textured and agriculturally marginal soils
- To protect and profit from saline soils
- To boost organic matter levels through incorporating vegetation into the soil
- To enhance overall forage production.
- To ultimately enhance agricultural productivity and encourage efficient land management.

Eligibility:

- One application per farm (jointly owned quarters count as one application for either tenant);
- Crown Land must be made out in Lessee's name; and
- Late applications not accepted. Due date is May 31st at 4:00 pm.
- Only applicants with approved applications will receive program funding.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Applicant Responsibilities:

- Submit properly filled out application before purchasing forage seed to the WIWCD office by May 31st of each year the program is offered;
- Submit original receipts for the seed purchased to the WIWCD office before September 30th of the year in which the application was approved in order to receive reimbursement payment;
- Sow seed in the year of application or report circumstances to the Board of the Conservation District;
- During year of establishment, the applicant shall not rip up without the consent of the Board;
- Shall keep forage in production for four years after establishment;
- Shall not break, over-graze, burn, cultivate or in any way cause or permit to be caused damage to the forage stand for a minimum of four years;
- Replace at 100% cost if damage is result of any of the above;
- Sign consent of entry including any agreed upon or special conditions; and
- Provide access for inspection, district signage or evaluation by the Board at any reasonable time

WIWCD Responsibility:

- Provide reimbursement at \$1.25 per pound to a maximum of 400 pounds (40 acres) for approved applicants only as per eligibility criteria established above;

General Terms and Conditions

- Subject to the above terms, the Agreement shall become effective and shall be binding upon both parties until terminated;
- If either party fails to meet the above mentioned responsibilities, the Agreement may be terminated by the other party via written notice;
- The projects resulting from this program will be subject to funds appropriated;
- Technical service will be subject to the availability of district staff. The District reserves the right to establish priorities for providing such services and assistance; and
- Failure of applicant to meet Applicant Responsibilities may negate him from other Conservation District programs.

Project Funding/Cost-sharing/Incentives

The WIWCD will share the cost of forage seed with the approved applicant as per the program criteria described above. Cost-sharing between the WIWCD and the approved applicant shall be defined as a \$1.25 per pound reimbursement to a maximum of 400 pounds (40 acres) to the approved applicant once stand establishment is verified and original receipts are provided to the WIWCD.

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