

AARC&D Newsletter



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Fall 2011

Rural Fire Protection Program 2011 Grant Cycle

Arkansas Association of Resource, Conservation & Development Councils

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Special points of interest:

- * AARC&D helps Rural Fire Departments with Recruitment and Retention issues
- * NW AR RC&D plans to help the most needy homeowners
- * AARC&D Partners with NRCS in reducing the amount of nutrient runoff and soil erosion associated with agricultural production

The Arkansas Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils (AARCD) will soon be accepting 2011 grant applications for the Rural Fire Protection Program. (RFPP). Fire departments are encouraged to closely review the information due to a number of program changes. With a total of \$175,000 available statewide, funding is limited, so the maximum grant will be \$2,500.00. As

in the past, there will not be a requirement for matching funds. Due to the increased number of responses to medical emergencies, this grant will include requests for medical and rescue equipment.

Each application will be considered on its own merit and will compete with other applications statewide. Fire departments that have received funds from an earlier grant cycle must have

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returned a "Certification of Completion" for those funds before being considered for this grant cycle. The "Certification of Completion" must show that all funds have been expended correctly and invoices must be attached. Letters were mailed August 1st to fire departments that have not returned the required information.

Funding announcements will be made by December 1, 2011. Fire departments are encouraged to go to our website www.aarc.org for an application and instructions. This information will be available no later than September 16th.



Arkansas Poultry Lighting Rebate Program

In 2010 the University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture working in partnership with AARC&D and the Arkansas Energy Office completed a field demonstration to introduce "Advanced Lighting Technology for Poultry Houses" to broiler producers in the State of Arkansas. As a result of that project a rebate program is available through AEO for broiler producers to replace current lighting with LED lighting in broiler production facilities in Arkansas. For more information go to <http://ar.state-rebate.com/poultry/> or call Jo McEntire at 870-715-2933.



AARC&D Receives SAFER Grant to benefit Rural Fire Departments

The Arkansas Association of RC&D Councils receives \$694,000 over 4 years to benefit Rural Fire Departments. The Recruitment and Retention of qualified, enthusiastic, well-trained and adequately informed firefighters is a chronic concern for Arkansas' Volunteer Fire Departments. We feel that it is only proper to protect our volunteers while they serve their communities. We will be providing active volunteer firefighters with Accidental Death and Dismember Insurance and Short-Term Wage Loss Protection at no cost. These policies are expected to be complimentary to the current Worker's Comp coverage offered by the state. Current workman's compensation coverage is offered to fire departments at reduced rates, but the coverage is limited.

The benefits, again at no cost to the fire department, will be offered to active, permanent members in good standing who qualify for this benefit by meeting established training and response requirements. Workshops will be held statewide with volunteer fire departments to promote recruitment/retention activities. During these workshops, a survey of participating fire departments will be conducted to determine staffing needs and to gather information on initiatives that have been successes and failures, We will also use these workshops to solicit input into regulations on minimum requirements for participation in the insurance plans. Minimum call response as well as meeting and training requirements will be established.

The Arkansas Association of RC&D will;

1. Researching and managing the competitive bid process to purchase AD&D and Wage Replacement benefits
2. Selecting benefit limits that are attractive to our volunteers
3. Managing the benefit enrollment process
4. Developing the marketing campaign focusing on this new benefit
5. Request and review annual evaluations from participating fire departments

**Resource Conservation
& Development**
"Making Things Happen"

NW AR RC&D Takes The Challenge

NW AR Resource Conservation & Development (NW AR RC&D) was invited to compete in the Global Giving Challenge www.globalgiving.org because of their success in winning a \$25,000.00 Pepsi Refresh Grant for the Harrison Skate park Project. The challenge was to raise \$4,000.00 from fifty different sources between August 2, 2011 and August 31, 2011 for the worthy project of their choice. Meeting the goal would insure NW AR RC&D a permanent partnership with Global Giving. This is an important tool not only for outreach to individual donors but many corporations that only give through Global Giving.

According to the U.S . Census Bureau 18.5% of the people in Arkansas live below the poverty level. To put that number in perspective that would be

approximately 539,445 people. Arkansas is currently the second poorest state in the Nation. NW AR RC&D chose to submit a project that would help some of the poorest NW AR citizens.

In NW AR we have many elderly disabled and single parent homeowners in need of home repair assistance. With barely enough means to meet day to day necessities they have no hope of being able to improve their living situation. The needed repairs are a serious health and safety threat to the families that have no other choice but to live in substandard conditions. NW AR RC&D intends to assist as many people as funds will allow in their nine county area.

Having met the first challenge to re-

main a global giving partner it is now time to work towards the second challenge of raising the first \$50,000.00. This money can be used as leverage for matching grants to help even more people. There is already a waiting list of people needing assistance. If you would like to partner with NW AR RC&D helping people through this program find the link to the project on our web site at www.nwarrcd.org or call Jo McEntire at 870-715-2933. No gift is too small. You can make a difference in someone's life.



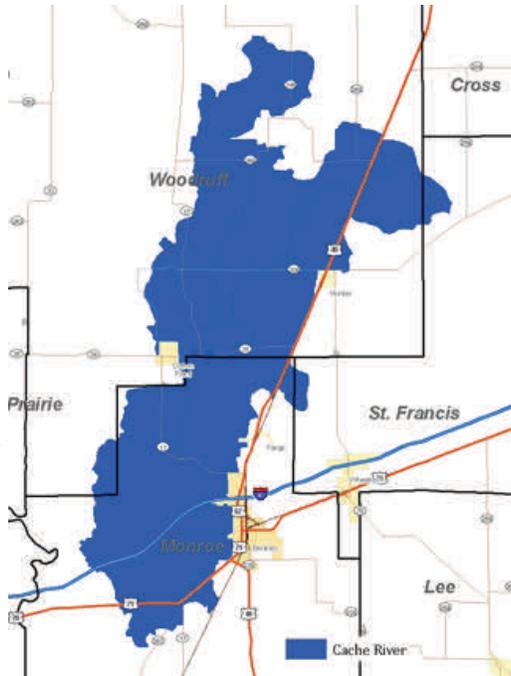
AARC&D Partners With NRCS on Cash River-MRBI

The Arkansas Association of Resource, Conservation & Development Councils, Inc. (AARC&D) has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to assist agricultural producers in cultivating conservation measures and implementing practices to address nutrient management in the Cash River watershed through the Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI). Other collaborating partners include the Arkansas Natural Resource Commission, Woodruff County Conservation District, The Nature Conservancy; and the University of Arkansas, Division of Agriculture.

This program is voluntary and provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producer addressing water quality concerns in the Cash River watershed. Funding is available for landowners in portions of Monroe, St. Francis and Woodruff Counties.

Funding will be distributed through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). NRCS will provide eligible landowners cost share on a variety of conservation practices for the purpose of reducing the amount of nutrient runoff and soil erosion associated with agricultural production. Two contracts totaling \$140,000 have been obligated for 2011.

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All EQIP program criteria must be met to participate in the Cash River MRBI project. Key conservation practices implemented will be:

- ◆ 324 Deep Tillage
- ◆ 328 Conservation Crop Rotation
- ◆ 329 Residue Management
- ◆ 340 Cover Crop
- ◆ 353 Filter Strip
- ◆ 430 Irrigation Pipeline
- ◆ 436 Irrigation Reservoir
- ◆ 449 Irrigation Water Management
- ◆ 464 Land Leveling
- ◆ 533 Pumping Plant
- ◆ 554 Drainage Water Management
- ◆ 587 Structure for Water Control
- ◆ 590 Nutrient Management
- ◆ 607 Surface Drainage
- ◆ 645 Upland Habitat

For more information call Lori Barker at 870-523-8986 ext 4.

Central Arkansas RC&D Revisits Camp Ouachita

The Central Arkansas Resource, Conservation & Development Council worked almost six years in the early 2000's on the 3.8 million dollar restoration of Camp Ouachita.

Located in Perry County, Camp Ouachita was the first Girl Scout Camp constructed in Arkansas and the only surviving Girl Scout Camp in the United States constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). It is on the National Register of Historic Places and was the first project in Arkansas identified by the Department of Interior as a Save Americas Treasurers Project.



The committee consist of members from Central AR RC&D, Perry County Government, Chamber of Commerce, Conservation District and other interested citizens. The Camp Ouachita Planning Committee will be meeting with the USDA Forest service on September 1, 2011.

The USDA Forest Service is currently looking for an entity to operate the historic camp and once again Central AR RC&D has become involved with Camp Ouachita. Central AR RC&D has formed a planning committee to find a solution for the operation of the camp.



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**Resource Conservation
& Development**

"Making Things Happen"

We're on the Web!

www.aarcd.org

RC&D is a local grass roots organization whose leadership comes from its sponsors, Conservation Districts and Local units of Government. The decision making body, called a Council, determines the social, economic, and environmental problems and issues relevant to the area. The Council then develops and implements a plan with local citizens in leadership. The RC&D concept is that local communities, all levels of government, and grassroots organizations, working together, can develop and implement solutions to widespread and local problems and develop opportunities that will help sustain rural communities, local economies, and natural resources. There are seven RC&D areas in Arkansas involved in AARC&D.

Make a Statement



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