

**Bacteria Runoff BMPs for Intensive Beef Cattle Operations
Agreement No. 68-7442-7-482**

Quarter no. 2 From 1/1/08 Through 3/31/08

I. Abstract

Work this quarter focused on initiating fence construction to control grazing on the three watershed sites and delivering educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it. Work next quarter will focus on (1) construction and installation of weirs at each watershed site, (2) installation of ISCO samplers at each watershed site, and (3) completion of fence construction so that grazing treatments can begin in summer 2008.

II. Overall Progress and Results by Task

TASK 1: Project Coordination and Administration

Subtask 1.1: Preparation of progress reports.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. The Year 1, Quarter 1 Progress Report was submitted on January 15, 2008.

12% Complete

Subtask 1.2: Coordination of meetings as appropriate with project participants to discuss project activities, project schedule, lines of responsibility, communication needs, and other requirements.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. On March 28th, the TWRI Project Manager and Texas AgriLife Extension Service Co-PI and Extension Assistant met at the Texas A&M University Farm to evaluate survival of the Tifton 85 planted in the Fall and to discuss fence construction.

12% Complete

Subtask 1.3: Submission of required financial forms every quarter (SF-272 and SF-269).

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. As of the last billing period which ended on December 31, 2007, \$3,103.40 or 4% of federal project funds had been expended. In April, an invoice will be submitted for the billing period of 1/1/08 – 3/31/08.

4% Complete

Subtask 1.4: Development of the final project report within 90 days of project completion.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter.

0% Complete

TASK 2: Assess Bacteria Runoff from Intensively Managed Beef Cattle Operations

Subtask 2.1: Install three (3) watershed sites at the Texas A&M University Farm in Brazos County to evaluate un-grazed, moderately stocked, and heavily stocked irrigated pasture conditions.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. Fence construction was initiated this quarter at the Texas A&M University Farm to control grazing on the watershed sites. Fence construction and equipment installation will continue throughout the next quarter so that the first grazing treatment can occur this summer.

25% Complete

Subtask 2.2: Maintain the three watershed sites and assess bacteria concentrations, runoff volume, and precipitation from each of the three (3) sites for a period of two (2) years.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter. This subtask will be initiated following the completion of Subtask 2.1.

0% Complete

Subtask 2.3: Evaluate the water quality data collected throughout the project in order to develop timely and up-to-date information for presentation to producers.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. No activity to report this quarter. This subtask will be initiated following the completion of Subtask 2.1.

0% Complete

TASK 3: Technical Transfer

Subtask 3.1: Develop and deliver educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it to agricultural producers.

The following actions have been completed during this reporting period:

- a. In September 2007, TWRI developed the website titled “Improving Water Quality of Grazing Lands.” This website displays the efforts associated with this project and two related projects evaluating BMPs and developing education programs to address bacteria. It can be found at the following web address: <http://grazinglands-wq.tamu.edu/index.php>. The website was viewed by:
 - 41 unique visitors in January 2008
 - 62 unique visitors in February 2008
 - 51 unique visitors in March 2008
- b. The website will be continually updated as new data and information are obtained.
- c. Information on the project was included in presentations to the following groups:
 - Texas Ag Industries Association Annual Membership Conference – January 16th
 - Farm Bureau Ag Leadership Conference, Jan 29, College Station
 - Annual Meeting of the Southern Branch of the American Society of Agronomy held in Dallas on February 3-5
 - Texas Farm Bureau AgLead Class VIII – February 6th
 - Harris County Master Urban Rancher Series, Feb 15, Houston
 - Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Natural Resource Committee Meeting – March 15th
- d. Fact sheets and a presentation are currently being developed to deliver information on bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it to agricultural producers.

12% Complete

III. Related Issues/Current Problems and Favorable or Unusual Developments

- N/A.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Prepare and submit Year 1, Quarter 2 Progress Report.
- Submit an invoice for the billing period of 1/1/08-3/31/08.
- Continue installation of three watershed sites at the Texas A&M University Farm.
- Continue to develop and deliver educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs.