

**Texas A&M AgriLife
Texas Water Resources Institute**

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

Quarter no. 4 From 7/1/08 Through 9/30/08

I. Abstract

This quarter, substantial progress was made on the three watershed sites. Weir installation and fence construction were both completed. It is anticipated that monitoring equipment installation will be completed by the end of October and monitoring can commence in November. The first grazing treatment is also being planned for early next quarter. Following the first grazing treatment, the Tifton 85 will be overseeded with a winter annual to allow additional grazing in late winter. Finally, work continued on developing educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it.

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 3 Progress Report was submitted on July 15, 2008.

35% 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. No activity to report this quarter.

35% 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 June 30, 2008, \$9,310 or 12% of federal project funds had been expended.

12% 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. Weir installation was completed on August 29, 2008.
- b. Fence construction was completed on September 9, 2008.

70% 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 of 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:
 - 50 unique visitors in July 2008
 - 41 unique visitors in August 2008
 - 31 unique visitors in September 2008
 - A grand total of 547 unique visitors since September 2007
 - The website will be continually updated as new data and information are obtained.
- b. Texas AgriLife Extension Service (Extension) continued work on a PowerPoint presentation and white paper for dissemination to the public.
- c. Extension presented educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it to agricultural producer participating in:
- County extension meetings in Austin County, Brazoria County, Falls County, Travis County, Bastrop County, McLennan County, Hunt County, and Jackson County
 - Day-long grazing schools conducted jointly by Extension, NRCS, and GLCI in Kerr County, Bee County, and other areas throughout the state (Attachment 1).

35% 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 4 Progress Report.
- Submit an invoice for the billing period of 7/1/08-9/30/08.
- Install ISCO samplers and rain gauge at three watershed sites at the Texas A&M University Beef Cattle Systems Center and initiate sampling.
- Conduct first grazing treatment.
- Overseed Tifton 85 with winter annual.
- Continue development of educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs.

ATTACHMENT 1

My Piece of Texas Grazing Workshops



**Lunch will be served
Morning session will be classroom
presentations. Afternoon session
will be field examples.**



**Presented by
Texas Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (GLCI)
USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) & Texas AgriLife Extension Service**

**For more info on the workshops and times, call the offices listed below.
Some locations do have limited seating, call now to reserve your spot!**

Town	Date	Location	Point of Contact
Clarendon (Donley Co.)	9-3-08 Registration Deadline: Aug. 29.	Clarendon College	Donley Co. SWCD (806) 874-3561 ext. 3 AgriLife Extension Service (806) 874-2141
Cresson (Parker/Hood Co.)	9-10-08 Registration Deadline: Sept. 5	Bear Creek Ranch 2701 Bear Creek Road, Aledo	Parker Co. SWCD (817) 594-4672, ext. 3 AgriLife Extension Service (817) 598-6168
Hunt (Kerr Co.)	9-17-08 Deadline: Sept. 12	Kerr Wildlife Management Area 2625 FM 1340, Hunt	AgriLife Extension Service (830) 257-6568
Crockett (Houston Co.)	9-24-08 Deadline: Sept. 19	Houston County Livestock Commis- sion, Hwy 21, W. of Crockett	AgriLife Extension Service (936) 544-3255, ext. 265
Beeville (Bee Co.)	10-1-08 Deadline: Sept. 26	Bee County Expo Center 214 South FM 351, Beeville	AgriLife Extension Service (361) 362-3280

A \$25 registration fee will include lunch and a newly published handbook titled, "Managing My Piece of Texas." The how-to guide was developed to assist landowners in managing grazing lands across Texas. Landowners will learn to estimate forage production, grazeable acres, and setting proper stocking rates, among other grazing management principles.



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