

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

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

Quarter no. 5 From 10/1/08 Through 12/31/08

I. Abstract

This quarter, equipment installation finally neared completion. Only few minor details are left to address to complete installation. The first grazing treatment will be conducted next quarter. Hopefully, good rains will follow so that samples can be collected. 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 4 Progress Report was submitted on October 15, 2008.

50% 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.

50% 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 September 30, 2008, \$14,152 or 19% of federal project funds had been expended.

19% 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. Equipment installation is near completion and will be completed early next quarter.

90% 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:
 - 31 unique visitors in October 2008
 - 45 unique visitors in November 2008
 - 43 unique visitors in December 2008
 - A grand total of 661 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 a poster on bacteria runoff and ag BMPs for reducing it at the ASA meetings in Houston on October 8th.
- d. Extension also presented educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs for reducing it to agricultural producers participating in:
 - County extension meetings in Bryan, Franklin, Gonzales, and West
 - Day-long grazing school conducted by Extension, NRCS, and GLCI in Beeville.

50% Complete

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

- N/A.

IV. Projected Work for Next Quarter

- Prepare and submit Year 2, Quarter 1 Progress Report.
- Submit an invoice for the billing period of 10/1/08-12/31/08.
- Complete equipment installation and initiate sampling.
- Conduct first grazing treatment.
- Continue development of educational materials regarding bacteria runoff and BMPs.