# INCLUDING PRECISION FARMING IN THE NC AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM

**David B Williams** 

Chief of Nonpoint Source Section

Division of Soil and Water Conservation





## Adding New Practices to the Agriculture Cost Share Program

- Soil and Water Conservation Commission is constantly adapting the ACSP to include new technologies and techniques for protecting water quality
- Presently 49 practices approved for cost share
- Request to Technical Review Committee
  - Subcommittee is formed to research practice and develop implementation policy and average costs
- Approval by Commission

#### Cost Share Incentive Payments

• A predetermined fixed annual payments paid to an applicant for implementing a BMP in lieu of

full 75% cost share

#### Examples:

- •Long term No-till
- •Nutrient Management
- Sod Based Rotation



#### Average Cost Payments

• Payments of 75% of the average costs directly associated with the installation of a BMP.



Examples include:

Water Control Structures
Livestock Exclusion
Riparian Buffers

#### Precision Farming Workgroup

- Began meeting in June 2005
- Workgroup Participants
  - Two NCSU Professors
    - Department of Soil Science
    - Bio. and Ag. Engineering
  - NCDA Agronomist
  - NC Cooperative Extension
     Service



- USDA-NRCS District Conservationists (2)
- Soil and Water Conservation District Representative
- Farmers

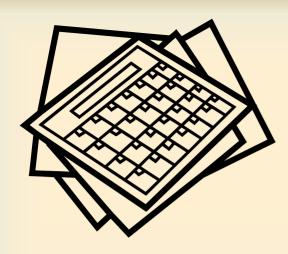
- Similar to Virginia's Multi-Layered Nutrient Management Approach
- Tier I Nutrient Management Plans
- Tier II Nutrient Management Plans
  - + Grid Soil Sampling
  - + Variable Rate Application
- Tier III Nutrient Management Plans
  - + Grid Soil Sampling
  - + Variable Rate Application
  - + Yield Monitoring

- Tier I Nutrient Management Plans
  - Currently being implemented
  - Written plan based on realistic yield expectations, soil types and crops planted
  - Generic in terms of taking the predominant soil type of each field.

- Tier II Nutrient Management Plans
  - + Grid Soil Sampling
  - + Variable Rate Nutrient Application
  - GPS-based grid soil sampling will provide an accurate representation of the field
  - -Variable rate application of nitrogen and phosphorus will further reduce excess nutrients from entering surface waters.



- Tier III Nutrient Management Plans
  - + Grid Soil Sampling
  - + Variable Rate Application and
  - + Yield Monitoring
  - GPS-based yield monitoring records will enable the farmer to adjust precision nutrient application plans based on the actual production of the fields instead of general recommendations based on soil type.



#### Next Steps

- March Workgroup will meet again to finalize incentive cost payments
- May Present to the Technical Review Committee
- May Request approval by the Soil and Water Commission
- July Available to offer to farmers
   Conduct Education and Outreach

#### Current TRC Workgroups

- Controlled Drainage for Tile Drains
- Water Conservation for Animal Operations
- Offsite Poultry Litter Utilization
- Abandoned Well Decommissioning
- Aquaculture BMPs
- Nursery BMPs/Integrated Pest Mgmt.
- Tailwater Recycling
- Conservation Tillage

### Soil and Water Yours for Life!

David B. Williams

**Division of Soil and Water Conservation 919-715-6103** 

David.B.Williams@ncmail.net