

AGENCY PRESENCE IN THE NORTH BOSQUE RIVER WATERSHED

Agency/Entity: US Department of Agriculture – Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Web Address: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov>

Brief Introduction: The NRCS is a federal agency that works hand-in-hand with the people of Texas to improve and protect their soil, water and other natural resources. For decades, private landowners have voluntarily worked with NRCS specialists to prevent erosion, improve water quality and promote sustainable agriculture. NRCS was initially focused on preventing soil erosion on America's farmland. Over the years Americans have become concerned with a broader array of natural resource issues. In response, NRCS has broadened its technical services in order to provide science-based solutions to address America's ever-changing environmental concerns. While farmers and ranchers remain the primary customers of NRCS, the agency also provides technical assistance to city planners, watershed groups, state and local governments and civic organizations.

Agency/Entity Interest in the North Bosque Watershed: As a steward of the nation's natural resources, NRCS has been working on agricultural issues related to environmental quality in the watershed for many years. NRCS provides conservation planning and technical assistance to individuals, groups and units of government. These customers develop and implement conservation plans to protect, conserve and enhance their natural resources. The NRCS also works with state and local agencies to carry out programs for the conservation and wise management of soil, water and related resources.

Current Involvement in North Bosque River Watershed Projects:

The NRCS determines if land is eligible for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding. EQIP is cost share assistance to agricultural producers to implement on-farm conservation practices. In FY 2003, dairy operations in the Bosque River watershed applying practices related to waste handling and nutrient reduction were given highest priority for funding. In addition to administering the EQIP funds, NRCS is involved in the following projects in the watershed:

- [Dairy Waste Management – Phosphorous Reduction Demonstration Project](#)
- [North Bosque Watershed Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan Program](#)
- [Texas Phosphorous Index](#)
- [Demonstrating New Programs for Resolving Agricultural Runoff Problems](#)
- [Demonstrating APCO](#)
- [Field Truthing of USDA SSURGO Soils Data in Erath County](#)