

Foreword

Chapter 278, Section 278.080, RSMo Supp. 2008, provides the authority for the commission to promulgate regulations as may be necessary to effectively administer the soil and water conservation incentives program. Section 278.070, House Bill (H.B.) 250, First Regular Session, 95th General Assembly, 2009, provides the authority for the commission to promulgate the emergency and proposed rulemaking related to H.B. 250 and the amendment to the definition of the “soil and water conservation cost-share program.” Section 278.110, RSMo 2000, provides the authority requiring the boards of soil and water supervisors to assist the commission in the administration of the soil and water conservation cost-share program.

The Missouri Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program was authorized by Senate Bill 612, 80th General Assembly. Rules that pertain to the cost-share program are contained in the Missouri Code of State Regulations, Title 10 – Department of Natural Resources, Division 70 – Soil and Water Districts Commission – Chapters 1 through 5. The Soil and Water Conservation Cost-Share Program is a state-funded incentive program designed for the purpose of saving the soil and protecting the water resources of the state to preserve the productive power of Missouri agricultural land. The cost-share program is intended to provide financial incentives to cooperators to install practices that they would not otherwise install. Public tax dollars are made available to Soil and Water Conservation District Boards of Supervisors to fund practices intended to save soil and protect the water resources of the state.

This handbook expands upon the cost-share rule and sets forth detailed procedures promulgated by the Soil and Water Districts Commission that are necessary for the day to day administration of the program. The contents of this handbook are divided into 3 major categories:

- 1) Sections I through III outline the responsibilities of the commission, the district, and the cooperator.
- 2) Sections IV and V list the detailed commission procedures that apply to the cost-share practices and preparation of the cost-share forms.
- 3) The Appendix lists important sections from the state statutes and the Code of State Regulations that govern the cost-share program, provides forms, and other information needed to administer the program.

As the need arises, the commission may find it necessary to amend or supplement the information contained within this handbook. The Soil and Water Conservation Program distributes this information to the districts electronically via numbered memorandums.

The majority of the forms and records required to manage the cost-share program are automated through the Missouri Soil and Water Information Management System (MoSWIMS). The instructions for use of the automated system are contained in the MoSWIMS District Office Training Manual.

The locally-elected Soil and Water Conservation District’s Board of Supervisors is given the authority to manage their district cost-share program within the rules and policies that govern the cost-share program.

The Soil and Water Districts Commission and Soil and Water Conservation Program wish to thank the districts for their continued input regarding the cost-share program and their interest in saving soil and protecting the water resources of the state for future generations.