



Socorro Soil & Water Conservation District  
103 Francisco de Avondo, Socorro, NM 87801  
(575) 838-0078

## **AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE PROGRAM GUIDELINES**

1. All practices shall be based on a fiscal year basis from July 1 through June 30.
2. All mill levy contributors are eligible for the program.
3. Cost share for agricultural projects shall be a 50-50 share. The maximum paid will be limited to the currently approved \$3,000, as funding permits. Payment will also be limited to average costs. Estimated payment will be determined before the project is started and will be discussed with the cooperater. The District Board prior to payment will review all receipts from the project. Payment shall be half of the cost, or half of the estimated cost based upon averages, whichever is less.
4. Socorro SWCD cost share is allowed only for practices on private or state land.
5. Consideration will be given to practices on public lands if the practice primarily benefits private lands.
6. Cooperators must submit an application for cost share prior to the start of project, which will be reviewed by the Board at the next regular meeting. The cooperater will be notified of approval or rejection. Once approved, the cooperater can then start the project.
7. Applications will be considered on a first come, first serve basis as funding permits.
8. Approval is subject to project feasibility determination by Socorro SWCD. Practices will follow NRCS guidelines.
9. Brush management practices next to archeological sites registered with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office will require consultation prior to start of practice with that office.
10. If the project is not feasible, the approval will be cancelled and no cost share shall be paid.
11. Projects must be completed within 60 days from time of approval. Extensions for valid reasons will be allowed upon request.
12. Upon completion, all practices must meet the standards and specifications as provided in design.
13. A full detailed accounting of all expenses with paid receipts (copies) must be submitted with project completion notification.



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14. Application will be denied if applicant has an EQIP contract on the same practice on the same tract of land.
15. No more than \$3000 total per fiscal year per individual or entity will be granted.
16. All cost share recipients will receive a 1099 form for tax purposes in January following the year that the practice was installed if the cost share amount paid was greater than \$500.
17. All completed practices must be maintained for a period of 10 years or a full refund of cost share will be required.
18. Land leveling requirements must meet at least 100 cubic yards per acre to qualify for assistance.
19. Community ditches, community pipelines, and residential wells are not eligible for cost share assistance.
20. As of October 1, 2002, Irrigation Well Rehab is an eligible practice for cost share. Documentation showing that the well is permitted will be required prior to cost share assistance. The well rehab secondary cost share form must be filled out and submitted with the cost share application.

**Sequence of Events:**

1. Fill out cost share application
2. Board approves application at a regular Board meeting
3. Survey of land for design
4. Design(s) and cost share amount presented to landowner
5. Landowner hires contractor or does work themselves
6. Landowner calls Socorro SWCD staff when work is complete
7. Socorro SWCD staff checks that project meets specifications
8. Landowner submits copies of invoice(s) for project
9. Cost share check to landowner is approved and signed at next regular Board meeting



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## **APPLICATION FOR AGRICULTURAL COST SHARE ASSISTANCE**

Request for cost share assistance from the Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District.

I understand that the cost share assistance requested on this application is subject to approval by the Socorro Soil and Water Conservation District and a determination of needs by the Socorro SWCD and/or Natural Resources Conservation Service. I understand that I am eligible for a maximum of \$3,000 in cost share assistance on agricultural soil and/or water conservation projects per fiscal year. Copies of all receipts for the conservation project must be turned into the District for review and approval. The District has maximum prices set for all practices based upon statewide average costs. The total cost estimated for the project will be computed by the District and will be explained to me along with the design specifications prior to final approval. The fiscal year of the District is July 1 to June 30. I understand that I **cannot** start the practice until I receive a letter of final approval from the District. If approved, the practice must be done according to the NRCS design specifications and the practice must be completed within 60 days after the actual design is furnished. If I cannot complete the project within that time, I must contact the District to ask for an extension of time. I understand that I must maintain the completed practice(s) for a period of 10 years or full refund of the cost share will be required.





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**District Cooperative Agreement**

The natural resources within the Socorro SWCD are vital to the welfare of all. I commit to support the use of the natural resources within its capabilities and treatment according to its needs.

Therefore, I agree to cooperate with the Socorro SWCD by:

- Developing and implementing a conservation plan of operations in order to better manage the land.
- Comply with any applicable State laws governing the beneficial use of water when carrying out this conservation plan.
- Maintain all necessary structures and other needed conservation measures that the District has helped put in effect on my unit.
- To furnish authority for the application of any part of the conservation plan, where such authority is necessary.
- Receiving information and technical services useful in applying conservation.
- Taking personal responsibility in doing what I can to assure that the activities of man are governed by an awareness of all natural resources.

To this end I request informational and technical assistance available from the District, and will allow access to my land by Soil & Water Conservation District supervisors, employees, and/or the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service representatives for the purpose of providing technical assistance in the form of resource conservation, planning, design, project installation, and plan follow-up services.

It is mutually agreed that in the event of the sale of the operating unit, neither the cooperator nor the new owner will be obligated to carry out the provisions of this agreement. However, the cooperator agrees to inform the new owner of the existing conservation plan for the unit and to advise of the assistance that may be received from the District.

This agreement will become effective on the date of the last signature and may be terminated by mutual agreement of the parties hereto.

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Signature of Cooperator Date

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Supervisor, Socorro SWCD Date