



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release:
Nov. 16, 2010

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Capital Resource Conservation and Development Council presents awards to DEQ

BATON ROUGE – The Capital Resource Conservation and Development Council presented two plaques to the DEQ Nonpoint Source Program today in appreciation for DEQ’s assistance in securing funds for two nonpoint source pollution protection projects.

Nonpoint source pollution is the largest contributor to water pollution in Louisiana as well as the United States. Nonpoint source pollution comes from runoff that occurs during wet weather conditions. Runoff includes pesticides, herbicides, agriculture runoff, household chemical or oil runoff and more. To help curb this type of pollution, DEQ has a division that is dedicated to reducing and controlling this type of pollution.

Through Clean Water Act grants, DEQ’s Nonpoint Source program funded the acquisition of equipment needed to complete two projects designed to improve water quality. Before awarding the grant, DEQ had to approve the plans submitted by Capital RC&D.

Capital RC&D submitted two project proposals to DEQ that were approved. The first grant of \$85,000 funded the purchase of three no-till grain drills for highly erodible soils in the parishes of East Baton Rouge, St. Tammany, St. Helena, Washington and Tangipahoa. The grain drills allow for direct seeding of pasture sod without disking; a process which causes an annual soil loss of 10 tons per acre. It is estimated that the grain drills will reduce the soil loss by 90 percent. The drills were placed at Farmer’s Co-ops, and in 12 months, 76 landowners rented them. Results from the project showed that 17,570 tons of soil were retained in pastures and kept out of Louisiana’s waterways.

The second grant of \$9,500 was for the purchase of four pasture renovators. The use of renovators addresses nonpoint source runoff and improves water quality. The renovators fracture the root zone of land compacted from many years of cattle traffic. These renovators are being used in St Tammany, Washington, St Helena and Tangipahoa parishes.

“The federal grants from EPA provide funds for environmentally friendly projects such as these,” said Emelise Cormier, Environmental Scientist Manager. “Projects that address nonpoint source pollution assist us in controlling or reducing runoff of soil and pollutants that affect the quality of our water resources. Both of these are examples of how to be protective of the environment.”