

NRCS Grassland/Pastures Sub-Working Group

Recommendations

- I. More technical assistance at the local level, with additional training of field staff, additional resource personnel, as needed, and comprehensive discussions with landowners with regard to the practices and expectations.
 1. Work with landowners to teach them specific practices which will enhance their operation
 2. Need for education and outreach to 'teach' landowners/producers new techniques and methodology.

Materials have been developed, primarily for the Illinois Watershed effort but disseminated state-wide, to explain the practices and practice scenarios available for farms with grasslands. Training sessions for field staff on how to use these practices have been held on a limited basis and more are being planned.

- II. Increase incentives to encourage participation and provide optimal support to producers.

The practices related to fence, prescribed grazing, forage and biomass planting, brush management, and forage harvest management have been expanded with several options available to farmers and land owners that are increasing participation in the EQIP program.

- III. Explore practices to develop riparian grazing, mining of phosphorus out of high level soils, and fertilization of grazing lands.

All of these recommendations have been developed.