

**Fact Sheet:**

**Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative, Kentucky**

**October 2010**

**Background:** To improve the health of the Mississippi River Basin, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announced the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI) on September 24, 2009. This multi-state effort was developed with the goal of reducing, mitigating and controlling nutrient levels in surface waters and reducing the severity of the gulf hypoxia crisis. The MRBI identified 41 watersheds or “focus areas” in 12 states in which NRCS conservation efforts would be focused for a five-year period starting in 2010. NRCS used a competitive process to distribute funds to these focus areas through two programs – the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) and the Wetlands Reserve enhancement Program (WREP).

**Summary:** In conjunction with multiple partners, including state agencies, conservation districts, environmental groups, and farming interests, NRCS Kentucky proposed three focus watersheds with boundaries entirely in Kentucky: Licking River (eastern KY), Lower Green River (northwestern KY) and the Bayou de Chien-Mayfield Creek (southwestern KY).

Funding proposals, which identified target watersheds within the focus watersheds, were submitted by the Kentucky Division of Conservation (DOC) who also dedicated state funds to each of the focus watersheds through the DOC State Cost Share Program. Each of these watersheds had unique and varied water quality issues, land use variations, and different degrees of previous landowner participation rates. Each of

these watersheds also had documented water quality issues including high nutrient loads and sedimentation. For example in the Lower Green River Basin, there are nine stream segments designated as “impaired” by the Kentucky Division of Water (DOW). Excessive nutrient levels, sedimentation and/or eutrophication contribute to the impairment in all of these sub-watersheds.

**Status:** In July 2010, the KY NRCS State Office released MRBI programmatic guidance including a MRBI manual, payment schedules, and job sheets. Field offices within each of the MRBI focus area immediately began conservation assistance and signups. For 2010 in Kentucky, \$500,000 had been initially requested for each of the three focus watersheds and all NRCS funds have been allocated to date.

**Benefits:** The following is a breakdown of MRBI expenditures and acres benefited for 2010:

<i>Watershed Name</i>	<i>Contracts</i>	<i>Acres Benefited</i>	<i>Expenditures</i>
Lower Green River	15	2,224	\$471,946
Licking River	17	1,410	\$605,992
Bayou de Chien/ Mayfield Creek	9	1,514	\$514,564
		Total:	<b>\$1,592,502</b>

Breakdowns of Kentucky’s MRBI practices are on page 2 of this fact sheet.

**Contact:** For more information on Kentucky's MRBI program implementation, contact Tony Nott, KY MRBI Coordinator, (859)-224-7377 or [tony.nott@ky.usda.gov](mailto:tony.nott@ky.usda.gov).

<b>Kentucky MRBI Practice Summary, October 2010</b>				
<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Practice Obligation</b>
Green River	Access Control (Ac)	ac	2	\$486.00
Green River	Cover Crop (Ac)	ac	357	\$104,844.00
Green River	Diversion (Ft)	ft	9,200	\$17,480.00
Green River	Fence (Ft)	ft	7,320	\$15,226.00
Green River	Field Border (Ac.)	ac	8	\$2,053.00
Green River	Filter Strip (Ac.)	ac	0.5	\$197.00
Green River	Grade Stabilization Structure (Ea.)	no	63	\$69,159.00
Green River	Grassed Waterway (Ac.)	ac	34	\$188,639.00
Green River	Nutrient Management (Each)	ac	435	\$6,888.00
Green River	Pasture & Hayland Planting (Ac.)	ac	150	\$38,650.00
Green River	Pipeline (Feet)	ft	3,050	\$5,063.00
Green River	Stream Crossing (Each)	no	5	\$8,660.00
Green River	Watering Facility (Each)	no	58	\$14,601.00
Licking River	Access Control (Ac)	ac	54	\$6,021.00
Licking River	Animal Trails and Walkways (Sq ft)	ft	1,000	\$1,040.00
Licking River	Cover Crop (Ac)	ac	884	445,331
Licking River	Critical Area Planting (Ac.)	ac	2	\$1,842.00
Licking River	Fence (Ft)	ft	29,862	\$62,116.00
Licking River	Field Border (Ac.)	ac	17.5	\$4,340.00
Licking River	Grassed Waterway (Ac.)	ac	4.5	\$5,652.00
Licking River	Heavy Use Area Protection (Sq ft)	ac	1	\$4,816.00
Licking River	Pasture & Hayland Planting (Ac.)	ac	110	\$28,001.00
Licking River	Pipeline (Feet)	ft	13,249	\$21,996.00
Licking River	Watering Facility (Each)	no	17	\$24,837.00
Mayfield Creek	Cover Crop (Ac)	ac	1,502	\$500,634.00
Mayfield Creek	Field Border (Ac.)	ac	9	\$3,454.00
Mayfield Creek	Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed (Ac)	ac	218	\$10,476.00
			<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,592,502</b>