

Producer Grant Program Gears Up for 2002

Applications for the Kerr Center's producer grants program are now being accepted. The deadline is November 14; grants will be awarded on January 9, 2002

A couple of changes have been made in the program this time. Deadlines and award dates have been moved up in order to give producers time to implement grants earlier. Also, grants lasting only one year have been discontinued.

A producer grant funds development of a new idea or innovative practice in sustainable agriculture. Two-year grants are funded up to \$3,500; three year grants up to \$7,500. Recipients must match 25 % of the grant with labor, land, equipment and/or funds.

Research projects and demonstration projects are eligible for grants. Research

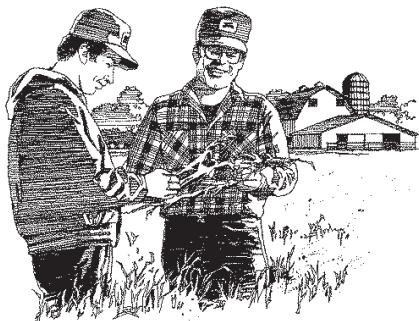
projects are on-farm tests of an idea or technology. Demonstration projects are on-farm demonstrations of a farming/ranching practice.

The grant program is open to any active resident Oklahoma producer. The producer must develop, conduct, and coordinate the project. Cooperation with the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), non-profit foundations or other agriculture professionals is encouraged.

This is a competitive program. An impartial technical committee evaluates and ranks grant applications.

For more information or to receive an application contact the Kerr Center. Information is also available online at www.kerrcenter.com.

Grant proposals must fit into one or more of eight priority areas. They are:



- 1 creating and conserving healthy soil
- 2 conserving water and protecting its quality
- 3 managing organic wastes and farm chemicals so they don't pollute
- 4 managing pests with minimal environmental impact
- 5 selecting crops and livestock adapted to the natural environment
- 6 encouraging biodiversity
- 7 conserving energy resources
- 8 increasing profitability and reducing risk

Producer Grant Workshops Slated

Workshops explaining the basics of the producer grant program are planned for this fall. They are free and open to anyone interested in the program.

Monday, Sept. 17, 6-8 p.m.
Pontotoc Tech Center, Ada
601 W. 33rd St.
Seminar Center, Section C

Tuesday, Sept. 18, 6-8 p.m.
Tulsa Community College
Northeast Campus, 3727
E. Apache
Engineering/Technology
Bldg. Room 12

Monday, Sept. 24, 6-8 p.m.
High Plains AVTS,
Woodward
3921 34 St. Room 117

Tuesday, Sept. 25, 6-8 p.m.
Langston University at
Oklahoma City
4205 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Small Conference Room

Thursday, Oct. 18, 6-8 p.m.
Kerr Center, Poteau
5 miles south of Poteau on
hwy 271, conference room

Workshops on planning and risk management for alternative/specialty crops will be held on the same dates and at the same location, from 3-5 p.m. (see page 10). Farmers are invited to come to one or both.