

The Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) is a voluntary conservation program available to private landowners and operators. Through AWEP, farmers and ranchers may receive financial and technical help with irrigation-related conservation practices on agricultural land.

AWEP funding includes incentive payments paid for the conversion of irrigated cropland to dry land, either on a permanent or temporary basis, in order to promote the reduction of certified irrigated acres within the District.

AWEP funding is also available for practices that improve the efficiency of existing irrigation systems. Eligible practices include conversion of gravity irrigation to sprinkler irrigation, subsurface drip irrigation systems and conversion from high to low pressure pivot nozzle packages.

Individuals interested in entering into an AWEP agreement may file an application at any time, but the ranking of applications on hand to receive funding will begin Nov. 15, with a second round application ranking cutoff date of Jan. 17, 2014.

Producers are encouraged to stop by the local NRCS field office to discuss this AWEP cost-share funding as soon as possible as the sign-up deadline is quickly approaching. Contact the Imperial NRCS office at (308) 882-4263 Ext. 3 if interested applying for assistance.

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