

By: Caleb Smith

The intent of the Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) is to provide a simple, user friendly program that promotes conservation of soil and water, while also increasing the value of the land by making it more sustainable and profitable. The first requirement to participate in the AgEP program is to **become a cooperator** with the Conservation District. Farmers and other agricultural producers can sign up or learn more about this program by visiting the **West Fork Conservation District** office in **Mount Clare, WV**.

**PENDING AVAILABILITY OF STATE FUNDING**, the sign up period for the FY17 Agricultural Enhancement Program will be during normal businesses hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. starting Monday, May 23, 2016 and ending Friday, June 17, 2016. The Agricultural Enhancement Program (AgEP) practices that will be cost-shared on this year are: Lime, Nutrient Management (Commercial Fertilizer), Pasture Division Fence, Watering Systems, Water Protection Exclusion Fence, and Woodland Exclusion Fence.

#### **Cost-share Rates and Requirements:**

**Lime** is a flat rate of \$20.<sup>00</sup> per Ton of Certified Ag. Lime, with a maximum of 50 acres, not to exceed \$3,000.<sup>00</sup>. Ag Lime must have a certified stamp on the label or receipt. Fields that qualify are pastures and hayfields. A lime fact sheet explaining different types of lime and their qualities will accompany the application. Please bring current soil tests and farm map with farm and tract numbers (available at your local FSA Office) at time of application.

**Nutrient Management** (Commercial Fertilizer) has a flat rate of \$30.<sup>00</sup> per acre with a maximum of 20 acres, not to exceed \$600.<sup>00</sup> on Phosphorus fertilizer. Fertilizer cost-share can only be applied to pasture fields. Soil tests must show a need of at least 80lbs of P<sup>2</sup>O<sup>5</sup> and a pH of 5.6. Fertilizers 0-46-0 or DAP 18-46-0 are acceptable fertilizers to be used at a maximum of 200lbs per acre. Please bring current soil tests and farm map with farm and tract numbers (available at your local FSA Office) at time of application.

**Pasture Division Fence** and **Water Protection/Woodland Exclusion Fence** have a flat rate of \$1.60 per foot of fence, not to exceed \$4,000.<sup>00</sup>. NRCS fencing standards and specs will be given to cooperators at time of approval. Constructed fences must meet the standards in order to be paid.

**Watering Systems** include spring developments, pipelines and troughs, wells, and well developments. Spring Developments (includes pipeline and trough) cover 50% of cost up to \$1,200.<sup>00</sup>, Pipeline and Trough covers 50 % of costs up to \$1,000.<sup>00</sup>, the cost-share on Wells cover \$12.<sup>00</sup> per foot not to exceed 150 feet, and Well Developments (includes pump, pipeline, and trough) cover 50% of costs up to \$1,500.<sup>00</sup>.

If you wish to apply for one of the above cost-share programs, please bring a **farm map** with applicable Farm and Tract numbers (available at your local Farm Service Agency office) with you during the sign up period. If you are applying for lime or fertilizer, you will also need to bring a **current soil test** (within the last 12 months). Feel free to call us with any questions about the Agricultural Enhancement Program at our office 304-627-2160 or call our Conservation Specialist, Caleb Smith, at 681-313-0826.