

East Cocalico Township

100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517
Phone: (717) 336-1720 Fax: (717) 336-1724
E-mail: Township@eastcocalicotownship.com
Website: www.eastcocalicotownship.com

Date: November 8, 2021
To: East Cocalico Township Farmers and Owners of Farmland
RE: Payments to Farmers for Conservation Practices
FS4: Farmers Saving Soil – Stopping Sediment

Greetings,

Last March, we sent letters to the farming community in the Urban Areas of East Cocalico Township about a new Township program to encourage the use of conservation tillage practices. As part of our State and Federal MS4 requirements to reduce sediment entering our streams, we are starting an incentive program for farmers who commit to using these soil conservation practices. Participating farms must also have the required conservation plans.

Our program will encourage farmers in the Township to use practices that reduce sediment loss, protect soil, and maintain clean water in our streams. This will be done by retaining sufficient crop residue to protect the soil from being lost when it rains. Our incentive to farmers will be in the form either direct cash payments per acre, or the same amount paid by the Township to Tax Collector towards your property and/or school tax. The amount of the payment per acre will depend on the percent crop residue. Full details about the program are given in the attached documents.

Since this program is new, we are sure there will be questions. We encourage you to contact us if you might be interested in participating in this program or just have questions about it. The program will be conducted "first come, first served" until the Township has enough acres in the program to meet our sediment reduction requirements. **If you are interested in participating in this program, please fill out and return the attached "Letter of Intent" and return it to the Township.** The date we receive it will be used to determine the "first come, first served" order.

We are partnering with TeamAg, a private local agricultural consulting firm on the verification of crop residue required by the project. Questions can be directed to John Williamson of TeamAg at (717) 925-6704, or East Cocalico Township at (717) 336-1720.

Sincerely,



Kenneth D. McCrea, Ph.D.
MS4 Technician
East Cocalico Township
MS4@EastCocalicoTownship.com

Attachments:
Sample Agreements for Participating Farmers

Public Notice:
Opportunity for Payments
for Conservation Practices on Farms
in Urbanized Areas of East Cocalico Township

Farmers within the Urbanized Areas of East Cocalico Township (see attached Urbanized Area Map) are invited to participate in a Township program to assist with meeting its MS4 Permit Obligations to reduce pollution in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. The Township is required to reduce the annual sediment load in its streams by over 150,000 pounds.

PA DEP allows municipalities to take credit for pollutant reductions using agricultural conservation practices implemented annually within the Urbanized Areas of the Township. These practices can include: Conservation Tillage with 30-59% Residue; and High Residue with at least 60% Residue.

To participate in the program, qualifying farms are required to have updated and current plans (Ag E&S Plans/Conservation Plans and Nutrient Management Plans/Manure Management Plans if the farm has livestock). The Township can assist with updating plans where needed.

The Township is willing to pay participating farmers within the Urbanized Areas in the form of cash payments or alternatively, credit toward property taxes.

If interested, indicate the number of acres on which you will apply either of the tillage practices.

_____ Acres of Conservation Tillage with 30-59% Residue at a rate of **\$150/acre/year**

_____ Acres of High Residue with at least 60% Residue at a rate of **\$225/acre/year**

A minimum of five (5) acres is required to participate in this program, and the farms must be within the Urbanized Areas (based on the 2010 U.S. Census).

The Township will accept qualified applicants first come, first served (based on the date we receive your Letter of Intent") until sufficient acreage has been obtained by the Township to meet its goals. Successful applicants will sign a contract for 1-year, with an option to renew on an annual basis. A "Letter of Intent" (see attachment) should be submitted to:

East Cocalico Township, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517.

The contracts will start with the 2022 growing season.

EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP

BY: KENNETH D. MCCREA
MS4 Technician

East Cocalico Township
FS4: Farmers Saving Soil – Stopping Sediment

Letter of Intent to Participate in East Cocalico Township FS4 Program

I farm land within the Urban Areas of East Cocalico Township. I would like to participate in the Township's FS4 program to encourage the use of conservation tillage practices.

☐ Yes ☐ No The land I farm is within the 2010 Urban Area of the Township (see map).

☐ Yes ☐ No The land I farm has an approved and current Conservation Plan (or Ag E&S Plan).

☐ Yes ☐ No I use manure on the land I farm.

☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, the land has an approved Manure Management Plan or approved Nutrient Management Plan.

Form of payment: ☐ Direct cash payment.

☐ Payment to Tax Collector towards property and/or school tax.

The program will be conducted on a "first come, first served" until the Township has enough acres in the program to meet our sediment reduction requirements. The date we receive this signed Letter of Intent will be used to determine the "first come, first served" order.

The Township is partnering with TeamAg on this project. TeamAg will verify crop residue values and the status of the Ag E&S Plan or Conservation Plan, and/or Manure Management Plan for the farm.

Signature

Date

Printed Name _____

Address _____

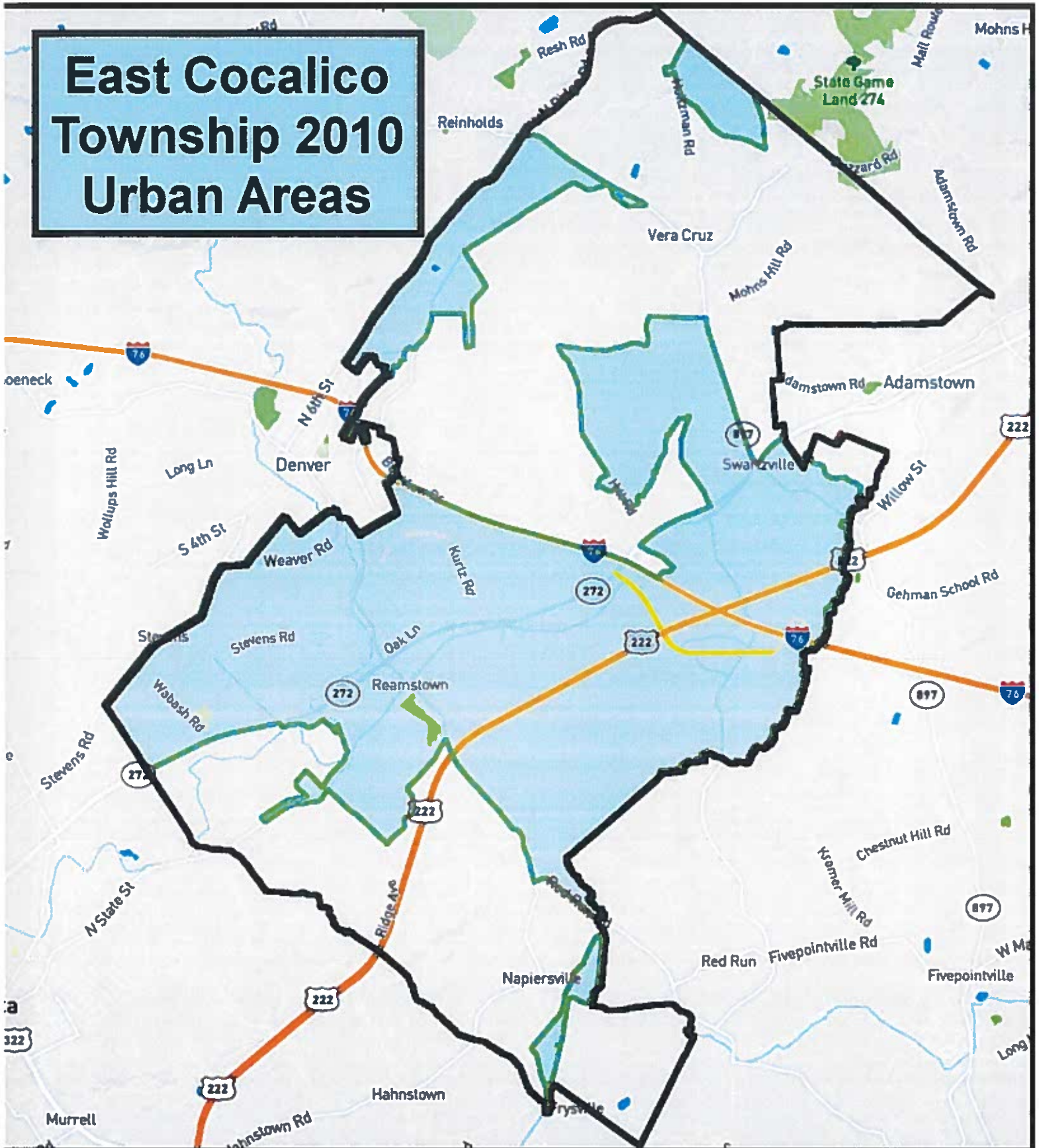
Number of acres to be used for the program _____ (five (5) acres minimum)

Proposed Crop Residue ☐ (30-59%) ☐ (60-100%)

Return form to:

FS4, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517 [deliver in person or send via regular mail]

East Cocalico Township 2010 Urban Areas



GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT

BY AND BETWEEN EAST COCALICO TOWNSHIP, 100 Hill Road, Denver, PA 17517
(hereinafter referred to as "TOWNSHIP") and _____ with an address
of _____, PA _____ (hereinafter referred to
as "FARMER").

WHEREAS, TOWNSHIP has offered grants in connection with its MS4
Program primarily directed to farmers within its Urbanized Area according to the
2010 U.S. Census to assist the farmers with their completion of certain best
management practices located on their lands including maintaining Conservation
Tillage and High Residue practices; and

WHEREAS, FARMER was a successful requester of a grant for the 2022
Growing Season; and

WHEREAS, FARMER has agreed to commit _____ number of acres
for Conservation Tillage with a 30-59% Residue and/or to commit _____
number of acres of High Residue with at least 60% Residue; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties to this Grant Award agree as follows:

1. The conservation practices shall be established by **FARMER** on or before
_____, 2022.
2. The **FARMER** grants permission for a representative from East Cocalico
Township and/or its designee, to enter the property to conduct the required
conservation tillage inspection process. A summary of the inspection process and
frequency is attached as Appendix 1.
3. Upon completion of the tillage practices subject to the inspection and complete satisfaction
of the **TOWNSHIP**, so as to allow the **TOWNSHIP** to receive the sediment reduction
credit, **TOWNSHIP** agrees to pay **FARMER** a total of

4. Payments by the Township shall be made in two (2) equal parts – one after planting, but prior to June 30th and one (1) after harvest, but prior December 31st.
5. The conservation practices shall be established by **FARMER** on or before _____, 2022.
6. The parties to this Grant Award intend to be legally bound hereby.
7. This Grant Award may be renewed annually upon re-application of **FARMER**

Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

ADDENDUM FOR OWNER

In the event **FARMER** is not the record owner of the property in which the best management practices including maintaining Conservation Tillage and High Residue practices will be implemented, then the owner of said property _____ located at _____ (herein after referred to as “**OWNER**”) does hereby consent to, join and agree to be legally bound by the attached Grant Award Agreement by and between **FARMER** and **TOWNSHIP**. **OWNER** hereby waives any claim to any grant payments made by **TOWNSHIP** to **FARMER** pursuant to the attached Grant Award Agreement.

OWNER:

BY: _____

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA)
) SS:
COUNTY OF LANCASTER)

On this _____ day of _____, 20__, before me, a Notary Public, the undersigned, personally appeared, _____ known to me or satisfactorily proven to be the person whose name is subscribed within the Grant Award Agreement, and acknowledges that he executed the same for the purposes therein contained.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and notarial seal.

Notary Public
My Commission Expires:

APPENDIX 1

FS4 Program Tillage Performance Measures

East Cocalico Township's **Farmers Saving Soil – Stopping Sediment (FS4) Program** measures compliance with the program based on the following metrics:

Conservation Tillage with 30-59% Residue: A conservation tillage routine that involves the planting, growing, and harvesting of crops with minimal disturbance to the soil, maintaining a 30 to 59 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting each crop and after harvesting each crop.

High Residue with at least 60% Residue: A conservation tillage routine that involves the planting, growing, and harvesting of crops with minimal disturbance to the soil, maintaining at least 60 percent crop residue coverage immediately after planting each crop and harvesting each crop.

FS4 Program Conservation Tillage Inspection Process

Representatives from East Cocalico Township or its designee, annually will conduct two (2) conservation tillage inspections to verify field residue. The first inspection will occur following planting and the second inspection will occur following harvesting.

Listed below is a summary of the inspection process that will be used as part of the Township's FS4 Program:

- The Field Inspector will use either a 100-foot tape measure/rope or a 50-foot tape measure/rope and will stretch the line diagonally across the rows at a 45-degree angle.
- The Field Inspector will count the number of marks (every foot mark) that have residue under them when sighting from directly above one (1) end of the mark. The total number of marks with residue under them is the percent cover under them is the percent cover for the field.
- If the tape measure/rope is 50 feet, the Field Inspector will multiply by two (2).
- Residue smaller than 1/8 inch in diameter is not counted.
- The Field Inspector will repeat the procedure at least three (3) times in different areas of the field and average the findings.
- A written summary of each inspection report will be provided to the Township, the Farmer, and the Landowner (if different than the Farmer).