



## On-Farm Water Management Program: Research, Development and Demonstration (RDD) Project Guidelines

*The **On-Farm Water Management Program** provides funding to promote water resilience on farms. A Research, Development and Demonstration (RDD) project is a proving ground for water management practices on public regional farms.*

*The Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund and the Kentucky Water Resources Board are dedicated to helping Kentucky agriculture become more sustainable and profitable for generations to come by supporting this program.*

### A. Application Submission

1. Prior to submitting an application, applicants are advised to review the “Guiding Principles for Board Investment,” and Project “Guidelines – Request for Funds” which is available on-line at: <http://agpolicy.ky.gov/funds.Pages/program-portal.aspx> .
2. Prior to submitting an application, applicants **must schedule a site visit** by a member of the KWRB technical advisory group, to determine if your project qualifies for funding and to help refine your application. To schedule an appointment for your farm/organization contact Dale M. Booth at 502-782-6895.
3. A completed KADF application shall be submitted to the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board for final decision.
4. Application will include business plan that includes an education component and implements best management practices must be submitted with the application. The educational component must include but is not limited to:
  - a. Scheduling tours and hosting events
  - b. Provide examples and information on how the practices demonstrated may be implemented; and
  - c. Be open to the public.
5. Application must provide current or updated agricultural plans (ex, AWQP, CNMP, Forestry) as needed/requested based on Best Management practices to be implemented on site.
6. Application must provide milestones with project expected timeline.
7. Application must identify and work with an appropriate agency, such as Kentucky Cooperative Extension, in developing best management practices.

### B. Eligible Projects

1. Entities eligible to apply for funds are those organizations whose primary mission incorporates agriculture and/or land-use practices, with emphasis on education and outreach to the wider community. Examples may include but are not limited to privately-run experimental farms, state-run nurseries, academic institutions, and private land owners with a history of regular outreach activities.
2. Eligible items for a demonstration farm project include:
  - a. Expenses related to the construction of a facility or expansion/renovation of an existing facility;
  - b. Expenses for project related equipment;
  - c. Expenses for documented, contracted labor associated with the project; and

- d. Expenses related to installation of water resource BMPs as approved by the most recent NRCS guidelines, University of Kentucky's written BMP guidance documents, or any innovative designs for water resources management as approved by the board.
3. Request for funding will be evaluated for completeness and the ability to quantify and substantiate the benefit to Kentucky farmers.
4. RDD projects will be required to institute practices applicable to multiple types of agricultural use and must at minimum include **one water harvesting BMP**. Projects with multiple proposed BMPs will receive higher priority.
5. Organizations must be engaged in the production of food, feed, fiber, or agriculture-related product.
6. For RDD projects where buildings or implements will be constructed on property not owned by the Applicant, the Applicant must submit a written document detailing the rights, responsibilities and future plans of the parties as it relates to the project.

### **C. Exclusions**

1. Self-propelled vehicles/equipment are not eligible for cost-share, such as tractors, trucks, all-terrain vehicles, skid steers, etc.
2. Applicants with one or more active Notices of Violation from the Energy and Environment Cabinet, Division of Waste, Water or Air Quality are not eligible for funding.

### **D. Funding Limitations**

1. Only expenditures incurred after the date the application is received by the GOAP are eligible for consideration.
2. KADF (state and county) cannot be more than 50% of the total project cost.
3. The KADF Project shall be defined as all practices conducted within a single RDD.
4. Match shall be new project expenses or documented third party donated materials and equipment utilized in installation of approved BMPs as part of the KADF project. Land is not an eligible match.
5. Applicants will be limited to no more than \$250,000 in state and county KADB funds.
6. All construction projects should submit two (2) separate bids with the application.
7. KADB funds for administrative costs shall be capped at no more than 10%

### **E. Post Approval Requirements**

1. Recipients will be required to provide detailed listing and verification of all expenditures related to the project. Verification shall be made by submitting itemized receipts/invoices and either cancelled checks or copies of credit card statements as proof of payment. Cash receipts are not an acceptable proof of payment.
2. Recipients will comply with all reporting requirements.

### **Please return application and all documentation to:**

Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy  
404 Ann Street  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 782-1762  
<http://agpolicy.ky.gov>