

FINAL REPORT
C-2000 Ecosystem Grant #G01C0257
Ecosystem Partnership: Mackinaw River
Project No. 003-01

Project Title: "Conservation-You Know the Drill"

The funds used in this Ecosystem grant were used to purchase a Truax FLX 11-816 series drill, which is available for use in the watershed for landowners wishing to plant native grasses, cool season grasses, and food plots for conservation practices within the Mackinaw River Watershed. The initial grant had funding available for a trailer to be used to transport the drill, but the difficulties in finding a suitable trailer, plus the mechanical difficulties in loading and unloading of the drill on and off of the trailer made the Council decide to not purchase a trailer. An amendment to the grant was issued on August 8, 2002.

Notices regarding the drill's availability were given to the NRCS/SWCD staff in McLean, Tazewell, and Woodford counties, in addition to the Pheasant's Forever chapter in Woodford County. The drill was available for use in June of 2002, and has been used six times since. A decline in conservation projects and poor weather has hampered overall use of the drill. Approximately 160 acres have been planted to date. Rental rates are \$3.00 per acre. Some improvements have been made to the drill, such as footboards to allow for easier loading, and maintenance procedures have been followed. Management of the drill is the responsibility of Les Luginbuhl, who is Vice President of the Mackinaw River Watershed Council. Les has established a record of drill usage, and has provided landowners with information regarding drill usage, procedures to follow, and is handling payments. The drill is being stored in a landowners private barn, and is available for use by calling Les.

The Mackinaw River Watershed Council would like to work with the Pheasants Forever chapter and the Woodford County SWCD to provide a workshop on conservation practices, especially those involved with planting native grasses, which will hopefully generate an increase in interest with landowners, and thereby promote use of the drill. This would be done in the fall of 2003.

The Mackinaw River Watershed Council, on behalf of the landowners residing in the Mackinaw River Watershed, would like to thank the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the C-2000 program, for providing financial support for this project.

Sincerely submitted,

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