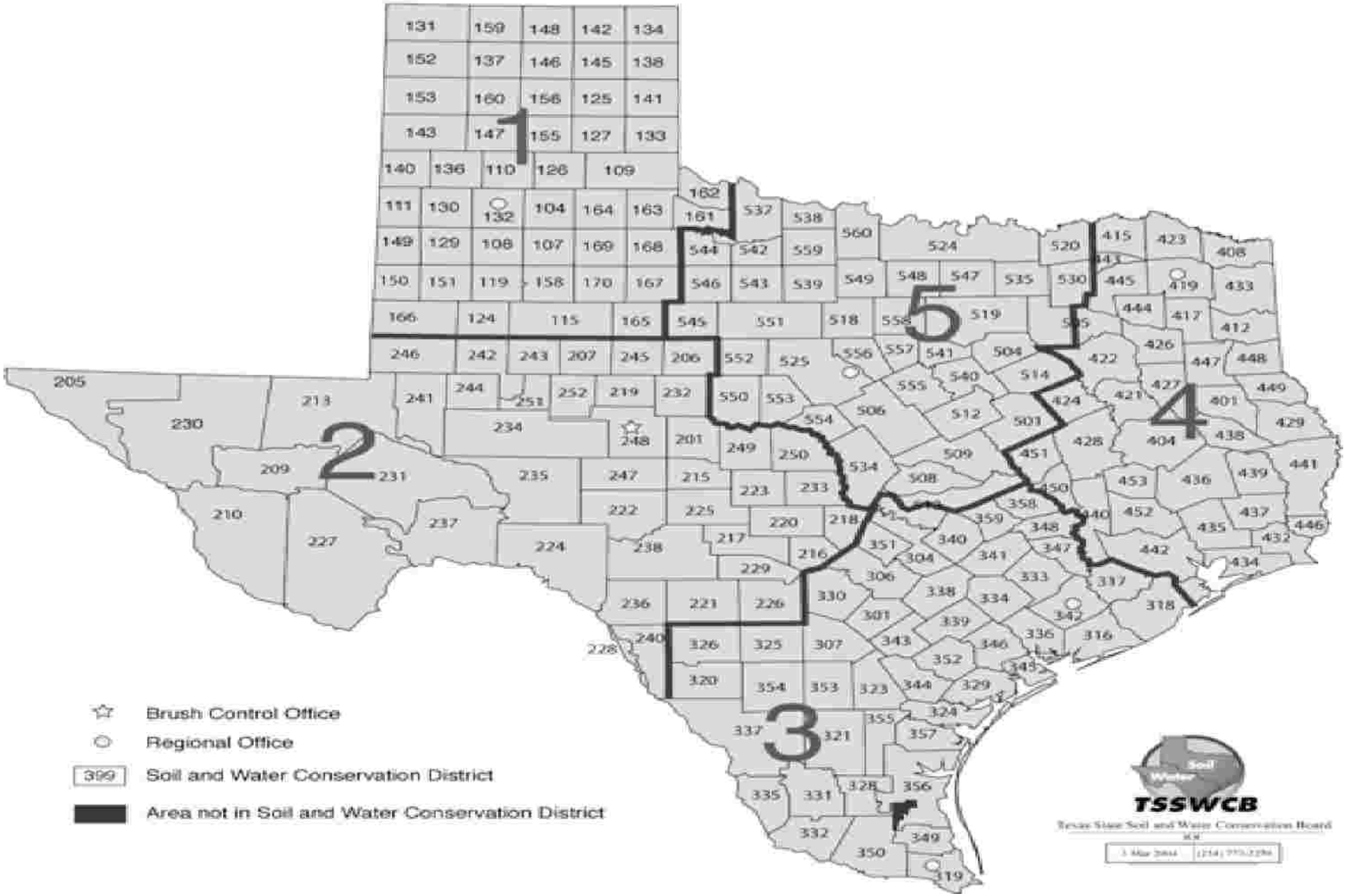
Soil and Water Conservation Districts

March, 2004



Conservation Along the Coast

- Conservation programs and best management practices that affect the everyday lives of citizens along the Coastal Bend.

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board's Role

" The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board is the lead agency in this state for activity relating to abating agricultural and Silvicultural Nonpoint Source Pollution."

-- 73rd Texas Legislature

Senate Bill 503

Designated the ***State Soil and Water Conservation Board*** as the lead agency in Texas to abate **agricultural** and **silvicultural nonpoint source pollution**.

Authorizes the establishment of **water quality management plan** development and implementation program for agricultural and silvicultural land.

Provides for ***cost-share assistance*** to help pay for some of the cost of installing **best management practices** on private property. **State Legislature – TSSWCB – SWCD**.

Amended the Water Code and granted **certified water quality management plans** the same legal status as **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY** point source pollution permits.

A **WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLAN** is a site specific plan developed and approved by ***Soil and Water Conservation Districts*** for Agricultural and Silivicultural lands which includes appropriate land treatment practices, production practices, management measures, technologies or combinations thereof. The plan is to achieve a level of pollution prevention or abatement determined by the State Board in consultation with the local Soil and Water Conservation District to be consistent with state water quality standards. This is done in accordance with the Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Office Technical guide.

Best Management Practices that are planned and implemented on Rangeland and Pastureland:

- Brush Management
- Pasture planting
- Water Wells
- Livestock water pipelines
- Water facilities
- Cross fencing

Brush Management

Pasture Planting

Pasture Grasses

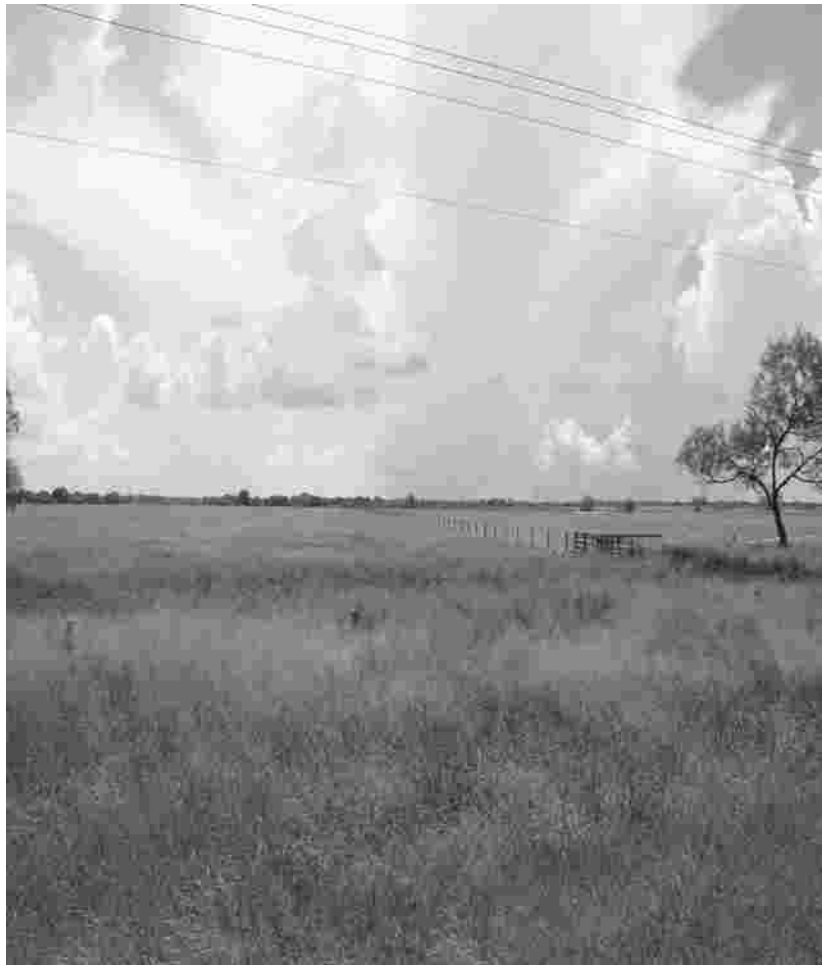
Guineagrass

Coastal Bermudagrass

Livestock Water Pipelines and water facilities

Cross fencing

Putting it all together



Application of:

Pasture planting

Nutrient Management

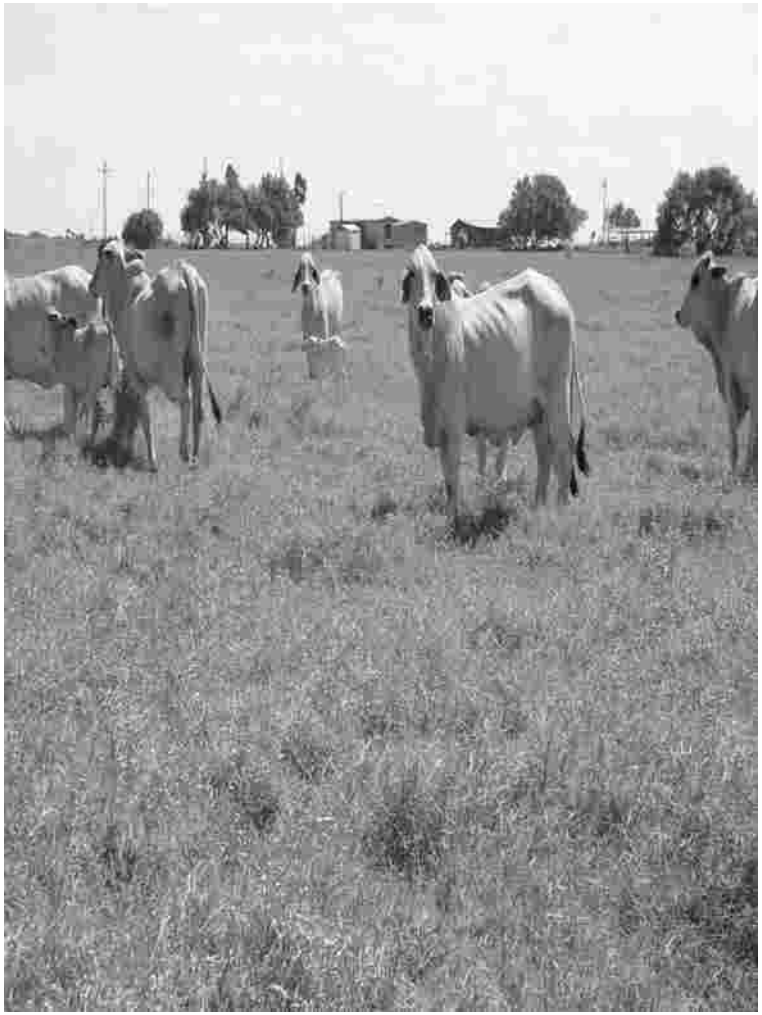
Pest Management

Cross Fencing

Livestock water pipeline

Water facility

Results



Prescribed grazing improves, protects, and sustains our soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources.

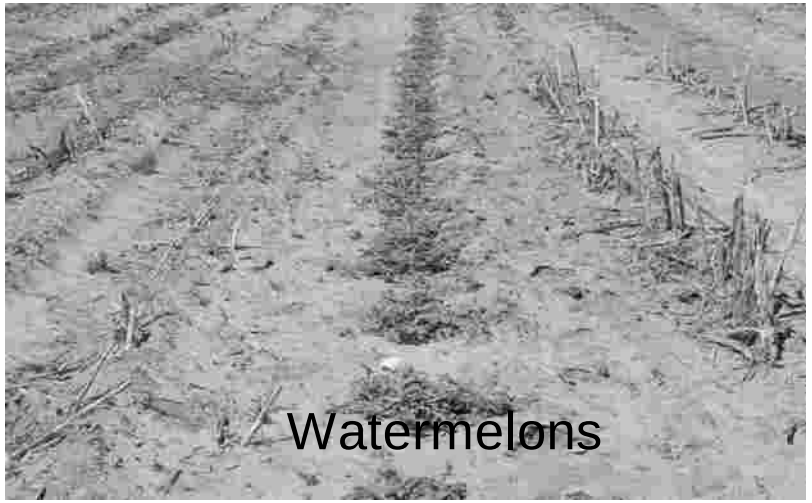
Best Management Practices that are planned and implemented on Cropland within the coastal counties include the Following:

- Crop Rotation
- Pasture planting (Conversion of cropland to pastureland)
- Conservation Tillage
- Nutrient Management
- Pest Management

Crop Rotation

Wheat

Cotton

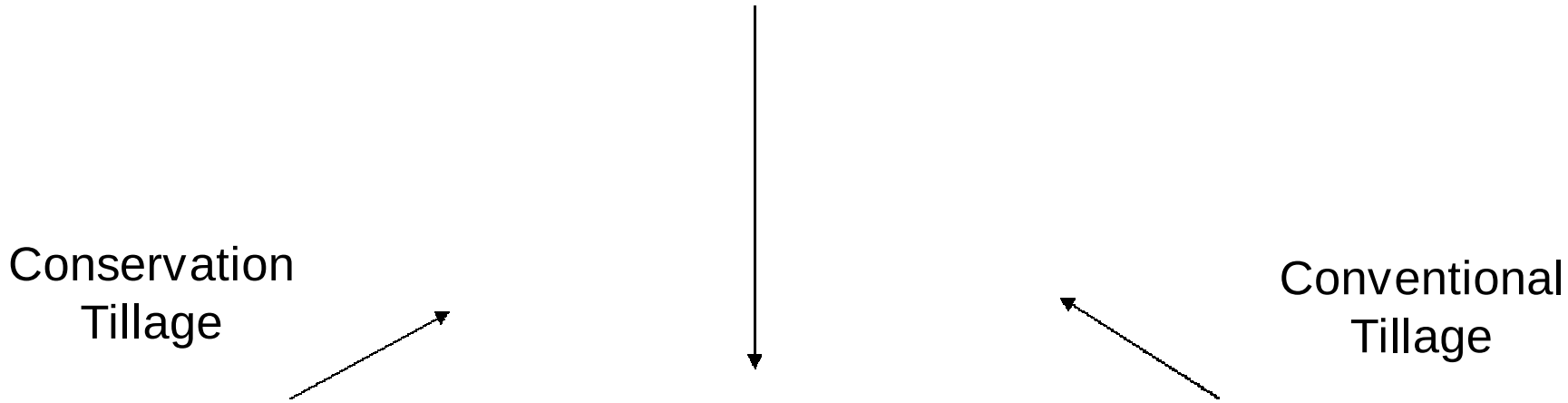


Grain
Sorghum

Wind Erosion

Sedimentation

Wind Erosion



Residue Management

Standing grain stubble

Standing Cotton Stubble

Conservation Tillage

Cotton into Grain

Grain into wheat

Nutrient Management

Sidedress fertilizer with spike wheel applicator

Pest Management

Integrated approach to pest management

The Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) is intended to assist those coastal states and coastal political subdivisions within those states that have either supported or been impacted in some measure, directly or indirectly, from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas exploration and development activities. Many of these impacts are felt onshore through increased need for production and support facilities, potential air and water quality issues, and increasing demand for infrastructure and social systems to an influx of OCS workforce. In most cases, coastal states such as Texas also support and are impacted by oil and gas drilling in their state waters and coastal lands. CIAP is funded with federal royalties generated from offshore oil and gas leases.

Purpose

Projects and activities for the conservation, protection, or restoration of coastal areas, including wetlands.

Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.

Planning assistance and the administrative costs to comply with CIAP.

Implementation of a federally approved marine, coastal, or comprehensive conservation management plan.

In 200l, CIAP funding was initiated in Kenedy County to address the following projects:

- Soil Survey
- Water quality management plans
- Wetland restoration
- Drainage

The Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD 356 was involved with the soil survey and the water quality management plans, funding came from NOAA to the Texas GLO and then to Kenedy County.

Soil Survey

CIAP Funds were used to complete the soil survey in Kenedy County.

Wetlands Restoration

Present

At present, Kleberg County has requested funding through the 2005 CIAP funding cycle to develop and implement water quality management plans.

If approved, funding will come from the federal Minerals Management Services to the Texas General Land Office and then to Kleberg County.

Allocations

- 250 Million dollars divided annually from 2007-2010 to Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Alaska, Mississippi, and California.

- The GLO in Texas will keep 65% of the funds for different projects and 35% will be divided between the coastal counties.

- To our knowledge the Kleberg-Kenedy SWCD 356 was the first and possibly the only district to use CIAP funds for conservation on private lands. CIAP funds was used to develop water quality management plans and to cost-share conservation best management practices.