

A close-up photograph of a shovel with a green handle and a rusty metal head, partially buried in dark, rich soil. The shovel is positioned diagonally, with the head pointing towards the bottom left. The soil is dark brown and appears moist, with some small clumps and particles visible. The lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the shovel's head and the soil's surface, and deep shadows in the background.

Digging into the Details of DIG

Tammy Curry & Amy Weathers
Oklahoma Area District Coordinators

Hey Great News!
There is additional
funding in the budget
for our districts. Come
up with a plan to get it
out there!



A stack of US dollar bills is shown, with the top bill being a \$100 bill featuring Benjamin Franklin. The bills are slightly out of focus, creating a sense of depth. Overlaid on the center of the image is the word 'IDEA' in a large, bold, green font. To the right of the word 'IDEA' are three horizontal green lines of equal length, stacked vertically.

IDEA

Project Outline

- Title
- Application
- Instructions
- Judging
- FAQ's



Project Title



**District Innovation Grant
Program**

DIG

Application

District Innovation Growth (DIG) Program

FY27 Application

Responses are limited to the space provided; attachments of additional items must be limited to letter(s) of support, quotes for expected expenses and/or images of expected deliverables/items. All areas of the application must be completed; incomplete applications will be ineligible for consideration. Application and all accompanying documents must be submitted as one single PDF document sent from the district e-mail to your Area District Coordinator by 4:30 pm on October 1, 2026.

Project Title:

Project Timeline - Start Date:

End Date:

Conservation District:

Contact Name:

Title:

District Email:

District Phone:

Is this another phase of a previously funded DIG project?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Partnering Agency(ies) or Entity(ies):

Letter(s) of Support Included:

Yes ☐

No ☐

I certify that this application has been reviewed and approved by the district board of directors during a board meeting held on:

Chair's Signature **no electronic signatures**

Date Signed

Submission of a DIG Program application does not guarantee funding. District understands that if funded, expenditures of funds must be consistent with project description and purpose. If project is not undertaken, not completed, or if funding exceeds the actual cost of the project, District must notify OCC in writing as soon as possible; funds will be de-obligated and added back to the program. District acknowledges responsibility for repayment of any awarded funds used for purposes outside the project scope and purpose.

- 
- **Description of Project**
 - **Benefits to Conservation**
 - **Budget**
 - **Objectives & Purpose**
 - **Justification & Sustainability**

Amount of Funding Requested (not to exceed \$10,000):

Total Cost of Project:

If total cost of project is more than the amount of funding requested, list the source(s) of additional funds, including the district's matching funds, if any, and/or secured donations.

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Itemized Budget: Provide a list of all items to be purchased, a timeframe for those purchases, and the costs associated with each item to be purchased. Quote(s) may be attached for additional information. If expenditures not associated with tangible items are expected, provide a description for those expenditures, timeframe for the expenditure, and estimated cost.

[illegible]

Instructions



THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BOX

Judging

DIG PY27 PROPOSAL SCORING RUBRIC

District Name:

Project Title:

Evaluation Round:

Evaluation Performed By:

<u>Eligibility Questions</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>
1. Application completed and received by due date (No = ineligible):	☐	
2. Letters of support from all partners included (NO = ineligible):	☐	
3. Applicant is <u>not</u> a DIG PY25/26 participant (NO = question #4 is required):	☐	
4. Is the PY25/26 project up-to-date on reports; on-track for completion (NO = ineligible):	☐	

Optional notes about completion status: _____

Ineligible applications will not be scored

- **Innovation**
- **Justification**
- **Benefits to Conservation & Stewardship Efforts**
- **Staff & Director Capacity**
- **Director & Partnership Involvement**
- **Implementation Process & Objectives**
- **Budget**
- **Sustainability**
- **Submission of Commission Deliverables**
- **Professionalism of Proposal**

SCORE	CRITERION	10-9-8 EXEMPLARY	7-6-5 ADEQUATE	4-3-2 NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	1-0 INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE	COMMENT/NOTES
	Innovation	<i>Project represents the implementation of new insight or idea, with potential benefits of change made clear. Project is outside current district operations .</i>	<i>Project represents local implementation of emerging innovation or trend, with potential benefits specified. Project represents new innovative aspect to add to current district operations.</i>	<i>Project represents practice(s) commonplace within current field, or an adoption of a change with well-established benefits but not innovative.</i>	<i>No innovation described or specific potential improvement defined. Project is a current basic/general district operation.</i>	
	Justification	<i>Strong rationale and significance of proposed work. Addresses specific need(s) common but beyond current basic operational requirements.</i>	<i>Rationale or significance of project tends toward the too-specific or too- general, but overall argument holds.</i>	<i>Weak presentation of institutional or community need, or tenuous argument for grant's ability to address need.</i>	<i>Unconvincing or no evidence of need presented that goes beyond basic requirements or grant proposal does not address.</i>	
	Benefits to Conservation & Stewardship Efforts	<i>Project outcomes or activities align with both district vision and goals of greater community.</i>	<i>Project elements align with goals of either the district or its greater community, but not both.</i>	<i>Project tangentially but not directly related to district strategic vision or community goals.</i>	<i>No explicit relationship between project and the agenda of its district or community.</i>	

Conservation District	Area	APPLICATION			STAGE 1			STAGE 2				
		Received Date	Request Amount	Title/Subject	Area ADC	Area ADC Points	Area ADC Date	APO Points	APO Date	Non ADC to Score	Non ADC Points	Non ADC Date
HAWNEE	2				Tammy					Lacie		
SOUTH CADDO	4				Amy					Tammy		
STEPHENS COUNTY	4				Amy					Rhonda		
TAHLEAH COUNTY	5				Lisa					Tammy		
TEXAS COUNTY	1				Lacie					Amy		
WILLMAN COUNTY	4	10/18/24	\$ 5,000.00	Operation Dams	Amy	62	10/24/24	66	10/29/24	Tammy	41	10/24/24
WILKINSON COUNTY	3				Rhonda					Lacie		
UPPER WASHITA	4				Amy					Tammy		
WAGONER COUNTY	3	10/18/24	\$ 5,000.00	Conservation for Kids	Rhonda	73	10/22/24	95	10/29/24	Tammy	71	10/23/24
WASHINGTON COUNTY	4				Amy					Lisa		
WEST CADDO	4				Amy					Rhonda		
WOODS COUNTY	1	10/20/24	\$ 10,000.00	Great Dragon Balls of Fire! *prescribed burning and wildfire management*	Lacie	77	10/23/24	85	10/29/24	Rhonda	80	10/29/24
WOODWARD COUNTY	1				Lacie					Rhonda		
Received		15	\$ 132,420.00	TOTAL REQUESTED	16	Area 1 - Lacie				18		
District Yet to Apply		69		Assigned Count	16	Area 2 - Tammy				16		
Due to ADCs by COB 10/21/24				Assigned Count	16	Area 3 - Rhonda				16		
				Assigned Count	18	Area 4 - Amy				17		
				Assigned Count	18	Area 5 - Lisa				17		

STAGE 3				SCORE		RESULTS	
DivDirect Points	DivDirect Date	Executive Points	Executive Date	Running Total	Area Rank	Overall Rank	Funded Amount
				0			
				0			
				0			
				0			
				0			
38	10/29/24			207	3	12	
				0			
				0			
65	10/29/24			304	1	7	
				0			
				0			
73	10/29/24			315	2	5	\$ 10,000.00
				0			
						TOTAL ALLOCATED	\$ 49,920.00

Application Approval



DISTRICT INNOVATION GROWTH PROGRAM

The Oklahoma Conservation Commission
is pleased to award \$10,000
to the

*Harper County
Conservation District*

For their innovative project to expand their
conservation efforts in the State of Oklahoma.

November 19, 2025

Trey Lam
Executive Director

Lisa Knauf Owen
Assistant Executive
Director

Oklahoma Conservation Commission

FY25 DIG PROGRESS REPORT

District Name:

Project Name:

Contact's Name:

Date of Report:

Report Timeframe (check one):

☐ Report 1: due 1/15/25

☐ Report 2: due 4/15/25

☐ Report 3: due 7/15/25

☐ Report 4 – Final: due 11/1/25

Total Estimated Cost of Project:

Total Funds Awarded by the OCC:

Amount and Source Additional Funds, if any: (amount)

Reimbursement Amount Already Received from the OCC:

Current Cost of Project (expenses incurred up to this time):

**A current copy of the project expenditure report must be attached to this report.*

Current Balance of Awarded Funds Still on Hand at the District: \$ 0.00

** Reimbursement Amount Already Received from the OCC – Current Cost of Project*

Additional Funding Amount Being Requested from the OCC: \$ 0.00

**Total Funds Awarded by the OCC – Reimbursement Amount Already Received from the OCC*

Describe program-related workload or activities that took place during this reporting period.

- **Progress made towards the project's completion (estimated percentage): _____%**
- **What work activities have been undertaken for implementation of the project?**
- **What individuals and/or entities have been involved in the project?**
How have they been involved?
- **How many hours have been invested and by whom for the project?**

DIG Expense Statement

District		Statement Period	
		Report Date	
		Report 2	due 4/15/25
Project			
		Current Available Balance	\$ 6,000.00
Date	Payee	Description	Amount

>

Report 1

Report 2

Report 3

Report 4- Final

+

Funded Projects



Woods County
Conservation District

Great Dragon Balls of Fire!

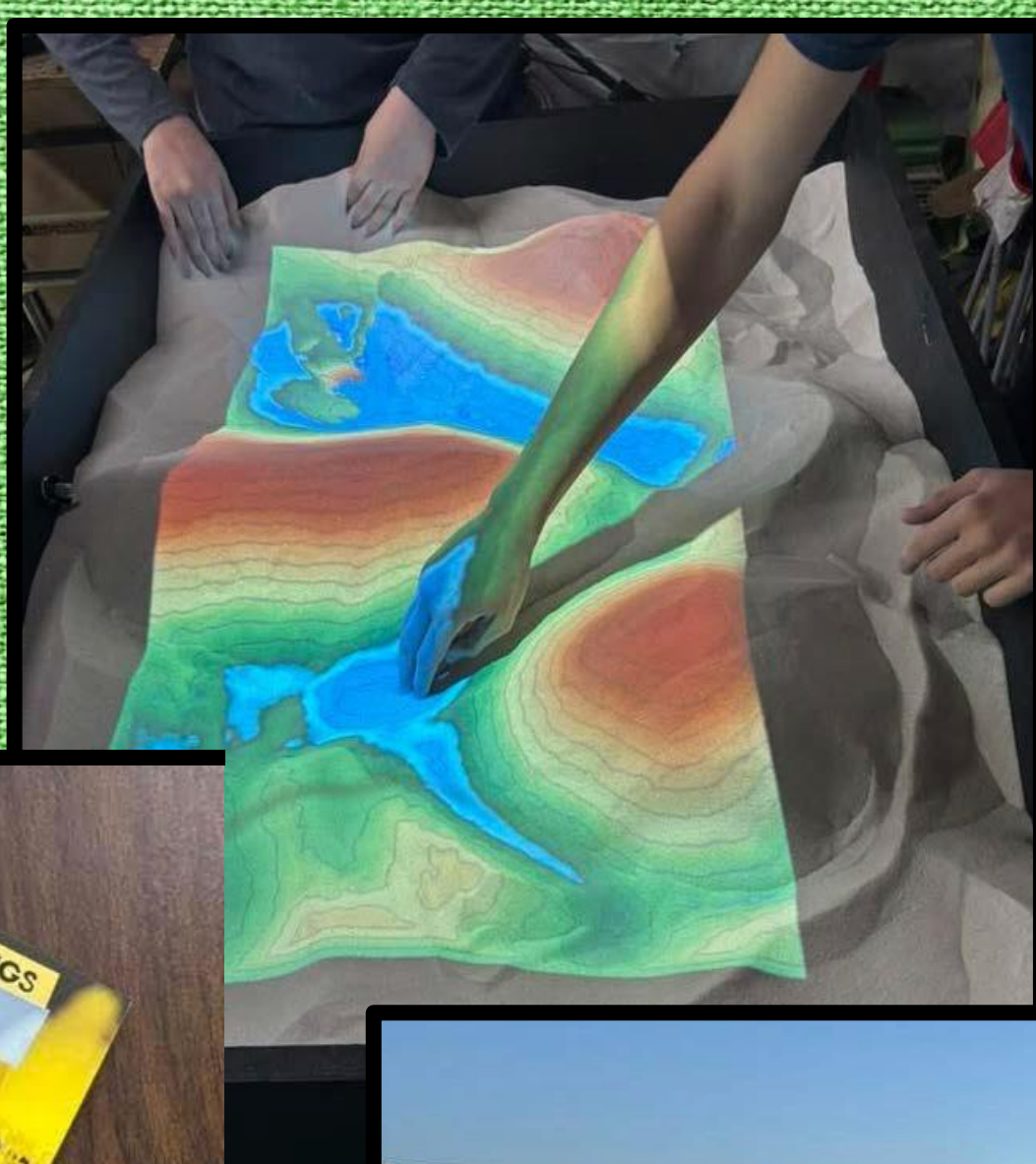
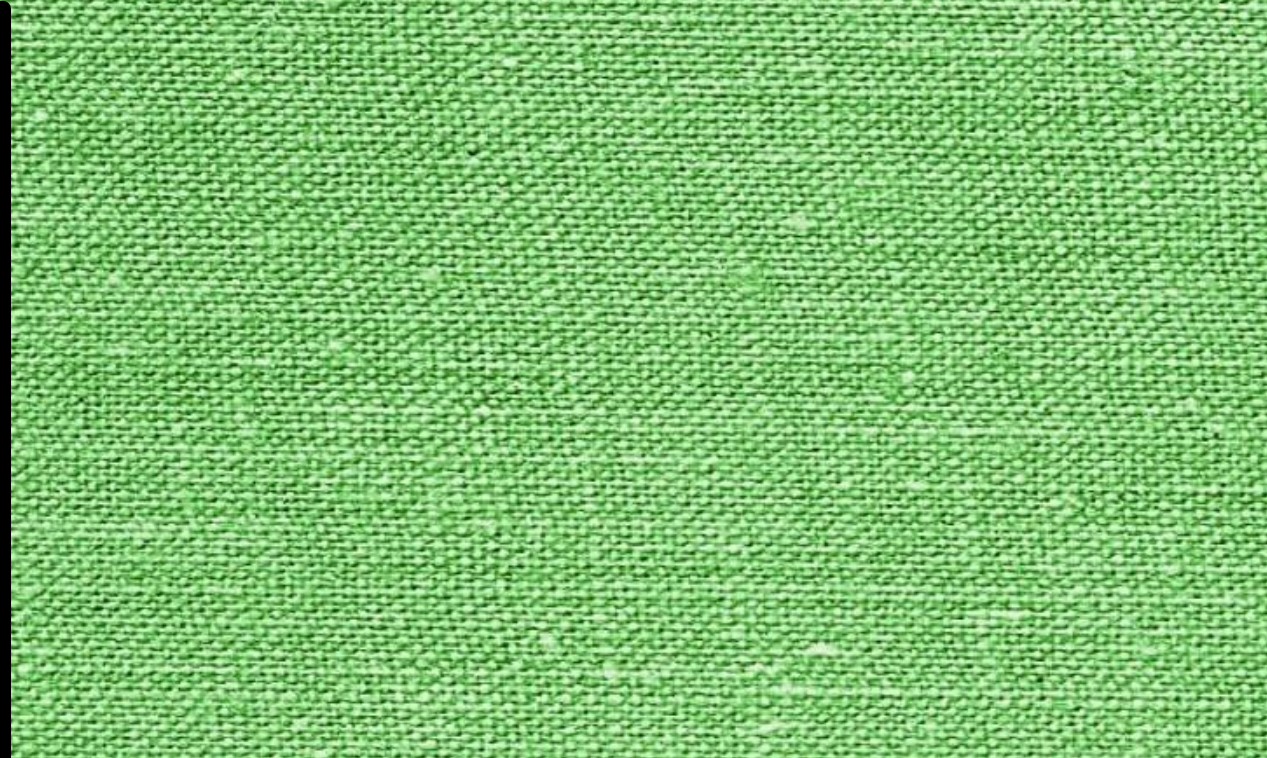
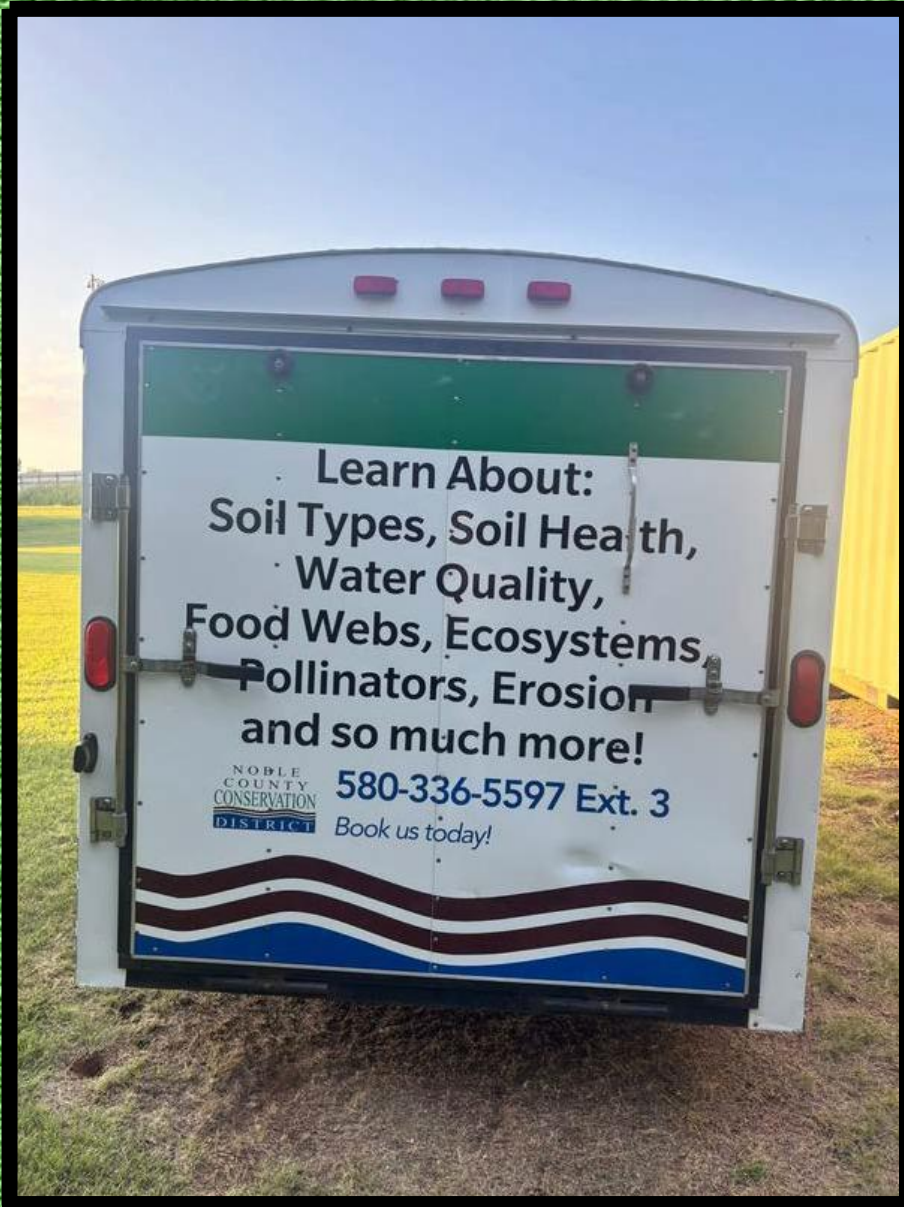
Facilitating & Enhancing
Prescribed Burn Practices Using
Unique Ignition Tools



Noble County
Conservation District

Conservation on the Move

Traveling Conservation
Classroom

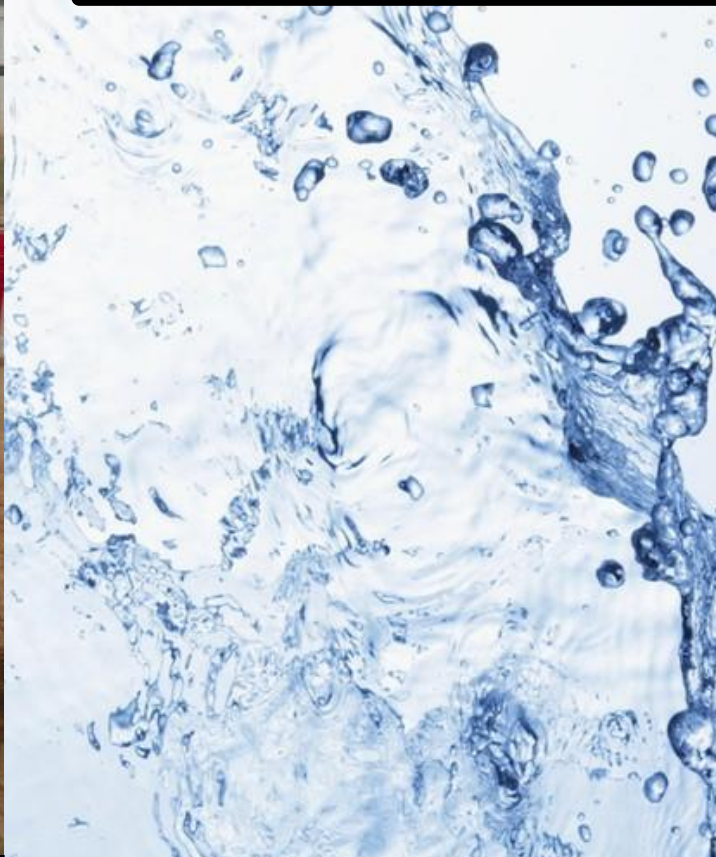


Major County
Conservation District

Sowing the Future

Implementing Hydroponic
Agriculture at a Local High
School







North Caddo
Conservation District

Greenhouse for Conservation & Community

Native Plant Nursery &
Educational Partnership

Pittsburg County
Conservation District

Feral Hog Pilot Bounty Program



Other Funded Projects

Hoop Houses for Local Schools-Murray County CD

Controlling JuJube-Dewey County CD

Native Plant Outdoor Classroom-Lincoln County CD

Generations in the Garden-North Fork of Red CD

Plant & Enchant-LeFlore County CD

Mobile Solar Watering Systems-Okfuskee County

Soil to Salsa-Harper County CD



DIG Fund Recipients

FY2026

Soil to Salsa

AREA I

Harper County Conservation District will be offering seeds and supplies at no cost to community members and local organizations to plant small gardens. The garden will consist of the three sisters (corn, beans, squash) along with peppers and tomatoes to later host "The Salsa Showdown"



Participants will be involved in every aspect of the food production process to provide a better understanding to their community of where food comes from. The project will not only teach basic life skills, but it will lay a foundation of understanding that when we steward and care for our land, the land provides a harvest that nourishes us as well. The district will be teaching soil health, companion planting, garden preparation, seed sowing, plant care, harvesting, food preparation and food preservation. At harvest participants will be making salsa to enter in the "Salsa Showdown" where they will be competing for the coveted "Golden Harvest" award.

Native Plant Outdoor Classroom

AREA II

The Lincoln County Conservation District will develop a teaching and demonstration area on their property that will allow them to host outreach meetings for producers and educational activities for schools. About 1.5 acres will be devoted to the project. Native grasses, forbs, and legumes will be planted that will cover the plant list on the National Range Judging list. Sources will include available seeds and transplants, but some will be foraged from the county as the district identifies them. The remaining land will demonstrate warm and cool season cover crop mixes that can be used for cropland grazing or pasture renovation. Once the plots are established the district will use various practices to maintain the plots. Partnerships will be built or strengthened with their local OSU extension and FFA Chapters.



Generations in the Garden: Cultivating Health & Learning

AREA IV

North Fork of Red River Conservation District will be partnering with the Sayre Senior Citizens Center and the City of Sayre to construct a high tunnel and a natural rock planter for vegetable, herb and ornamental plant production. The Senior Citizen Center plans to use raised garden beds to grow edible produce while ornamentals will be grown in the ground. The high tunnel will allow for a longer growing season, protect plants from the elements and pest pressure. The vegetable and herbs grown will be used for preparing meals at the center and extras will be given to the seniors to take home. The high tunnel will also be a mini classroom within city limits for students along with a facility for outreach events for citizens of Sayre. These events will bring seniors and youth together.



Plant and Enchant

AREA V

The LaFlore County Conservation District will transform the Cameron School greenhouse into a fully functional, year round educational facility. Currently, the district provides classroom lessons, field days and outreach focused on natural resources, but these are limited to seasonal activities and short-term demonstrations. This project expands those services into permanent, hands on learning environment that students can access daily. The greenhouse will be upgraded with new plastic covering and an inflation blower, roll-up shade curtains, ventilation fans, a heater and interior work tables. These improvements will create a safe and controlled space for demonstrations in soil health, water-use efficiency, climate -smart agriculture and crop production. The facility will serve as a "living laboratory" where students learn by doing. The district will not only provide new educational opportunities but will also strengthen connections with the community.

Mobile Solar-Powered Watering Systems

AREA V



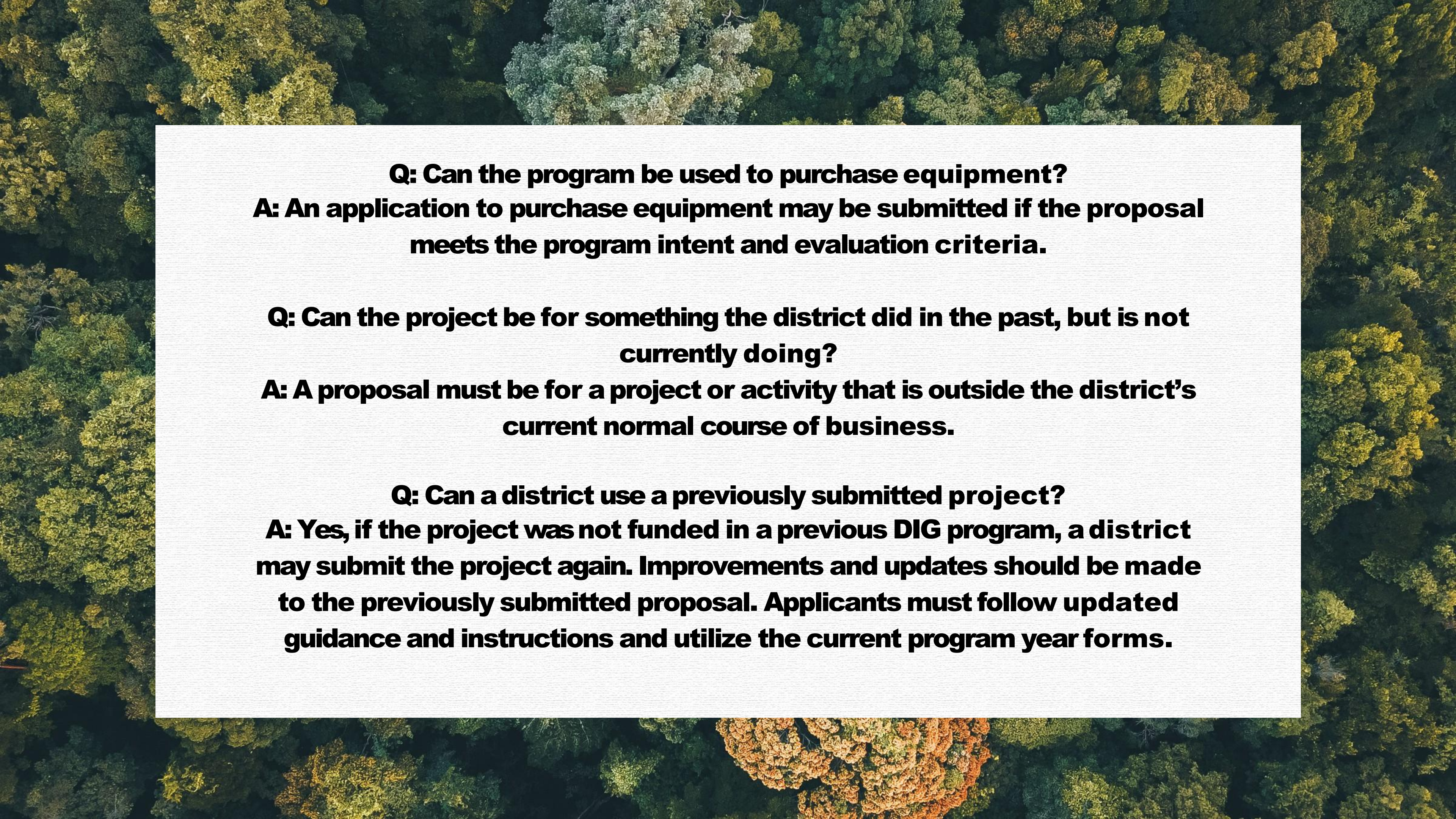
The Okfuskee County Conservation District knows that one of the biggest barriers to adaptive/rotational grazing is water access. A mobile solar-powered watering system can allow ranchers to move water with the herd, giving them flexibility to create smaller paddocks and rest pastures longer. This project will design, build and test one or more portable watering units powered by solar pumps, paired with 300-500 gallon troughs mounted on trailer or skids. Some of the benefits of the project will include supporting rotational grazing by giving an alternative water source for livestock and wildlife, giving longer rest periods for forage, and improving soil health. Additionally, the design of the system(s) will be shared with all producers in the county to replicate.



We appreciate all the districts that applied for the program this year! If your district has an idea and there is something OOC or your ADC can help with for generating a project proposal for next time, please let us know. We are happy to help by giving guidance, suggestions, or even reviewing proposals. The pilot year of the DIG Program was very successful, and we expect FY26 will be also, so the Commission is hopeful to continue the program into future years. There's no reason why you can't already be thinking about what your project might be and start working on your idea. Proposals can range from something that is stand alone project to something that is a beginning stage with bigger future plans. So, start working on your district's "DIG" idea for FY27!



Frequently Asked Questions



Q: Can the program be used to purchase equipment?

A: An application to purchase equipment may be submitted if the proposal meets the program intent and evaluation criteria.

Q: Can the project be for something the district did in the past, but is not currently doing?

A: A proposal must be for a project or activity that is outside the district's current normal course of business.

Q: Can a district use a previously submitted project?

A: Yes, if the project was not funded in a previous DIG program, a district may submit the project again. Improvements and updates should be made to the previously submitted proposal. Applicants must follow updated guidance and instructions and utilize the current program year forms.

Q: Our district had a project funded in the last program year, can we apply for a new and different project?

A: Yes, a district that received funding in the previous program year may submit a new and different project proposal. However, the current funded project must be fully completed or on track to be fully completed by the FY27 funding announcement date.

Q: Is mileage a valid project expense?

A: Yes, reasonable mileage may be considered a project expense if it is included in the project budget at the time of application.

Q: May the proposal budget include gift cards, door prizes, or other giveaway items?

A: Generally, no – project funds may not be expended for employee compensation, gift cards, cash awards, door prizes, or other “swag” and giveaway items. If there is a need for these types of items for the success of the project, that should be clearly explained in the application.

A photograph of a pond with blue water, green algae, and reeds. The word "Questions" is overlaid in white text.

Questions

Thank You



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Amy Weathers

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