

Cost Effectiveness of BMP Workshop – Kansas Wrap-up notes

1) BMP marketing options

- a. Info desired on all techniques currently being evaluated or used (auctions; trading practices; any other market based practices) in a fact sheet or publication.
- b. Put any/all info available in different publications in a central location on the Heartland site for people to access that is already available.

2) Models

- a. Heartland to have a web page listing all available models (and links to each) for the 4 states that could be practically used. A brief statement on each one indicating what it does, what used for, inputs, outputs; limitations, other specific info. GOAL – users could determine what and when to use.

3) Economics

- a. Discussion around how complex and difficult this is to apply across the vast differences of farms.
- b. Develop the “best” BMP’s for reducing each impairment and have available on those in a easy to use format. This could be used in the “problem” areas with producers to give the options that will have the biggest impact.
- c. Discussion on lots of easy to look at economics, but need a tool that offers flexibility to change inputs to help determine the economic value – a spreadsheet format. Is something like this already out there? Example was the KSU publication on buffers and impact of Ag profitability that is about 10 years old.

4) Buffers

- a. Several expressed how buffers are the BMP that needs to be emphasized from implementation and economics. More education and simplified information about them and the economics of them.
- b. Interest n buffers in an urban setting. Urban/acreage residences are contributors due to animal density relative to land size. To our knowledge, no information targeting this audience is available relative to buffer strip use for their small pastures and run-off.

5) Ag lenders

- a. Can they have a role if a water quality practice will improve water quality and improve operation profit at the same time? How do we engage this group to help influence change to have a dual impact?

6) Concluding comments

- a. Heartland can help the most by establishing a clearing house web page of info that everyone can access in these areas. Lots of info in the 4 states on some of these topics, but no where it is all together for everyone to easily find and use.