



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ)
for a contractor to operate an
IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
for the
MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
December 2011



Working with our partners at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Montana Association of Conservation Districts (MACD) instituted a new program to assist growers with managing irrigation water in their fields. Irrigation Water Management helps growers evaluate the effectiveness of irrigation equipment, calculate good water management decisions, and justify irrigation adjustments. Irrigation Water Management is the practice of monitoring and managing the rate, volume, and timing of water application according to the seasonal crop needs, giving consideration to the soil intake and water holding capacity. Soil moisture is managed to obtain optimum yields without losses to deep percolation or runoff.

Fifty fields across the state are participating in the program for the 2012 growing season (See attached map for locations).

MACD is searching for a contractor to operate the system in 2012.

MACD is looking for a contractor with:

1. A proven interest in numbers and detail-focused work.
2. An interest in part time work (1 or 2 hours per day during the 2012 growing season).
3. A familiarity with Montana agriculture and irrigation systems.

4. Advanced skills in a newer version of Excel and a computer to run this software. The Excel spreadsheet for the program is provided by NRCS.
5. A high speed internet connection from his/her office.
6. A cell telephone able to accept text messages.
7. Telephone skills.
8. A cloud email address.
9. Daily or nearly daily access during the 2012 growing season to the telephone and internet.
10. Intent to commit to 8 months of work for this contract.

Duties of the contractor/deliverables include:

1. Starting in early March 2012 with a 3-4 hour training session regarding the software.
2. Ending the contract in October with the production of individual spreadsheets for each field.
3. Weekly contact with each grower (around 40 individuals).
4. Contact growers if irrigation tracking is showing a critical level of moisture (50% MAD).
5. Periodic contact with the local NRCS District Conservationists.
6. Daily web research to find appropriate data.
7. Keeping your cell telephone and computer operational.
8. One level of data back-up, which will be given to the NRCS at the end of the season.
9. Tracking irrigation application against daily temperatures and or soil moisture sensors.
10. Familiar with and understand NRCS Practice Specification 449 – Irrigation Water Management.
11. If the technology is available in or near the communities, MACD intends to set up a video conference for both season beginning and end. Travel to that video conference location is expected.

This is a new program and the exact details of the contractor may be slightly adjusted from the above.

A typical day for the contractor would likely include one or two hours filling out the spreadsheets for each field. The contractor may miss a day or two and not keep the spreadsheets updated for a short period of time. In that situation, the contractor would be expected to spend the time necessary to catch up with data entry so that the spreadsheets are up to date.

Compensation would be paid according to the following guidelines:

March, April and May: \$800 per month. June, July, August, September, and October: \$1,477 per month. Total compensation available = \$9,785.

Please send to jtiberi@macdnet.org via email your resume and a cover letter by **Wednesday 25th January 2012**. Your cover letter and resume should show that you have the background, availability, and interest needed for this contract.

For additional information contact Jeffrey Tiberi, Executive Director, MACD, 790 Colleen Street, Helena, Montana 59601, 406.465.8813, jtiberi@macdnet.org.