



FY 2020 EQIP & CSP Accomplishments



NRCS Caribbean Area is committed to providing assistance to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) farmers through the **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** and **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**. EQIP is the primary financial assistance program in the Caribbean Area. Puerto Rico's average farm size is less than 25 acres, while USVI farms average less than 5 acres. Over 90% of our farmers are historically-underserved.

EQIP helps farmers and ranchers improve and protect environmental quality on their land by offering financial and technical assistance to voluntarily implement conservation practices. **CSP** helps farmers build on conservation efforts from improving grazing conditions to increasing crop yields or developing wildlife habitat, while strengthening operations. NRCS also continues to help farmers recover from the 2017 hurricanes and rebuild storm-damaged conservation practices through EQIP disaster relief.

2020 Overall Programs Status:

In FY 2020, NRCS processed over **1,400** conservation assistance applications, obligated **374** contracts for over **\$8.6 million** on over **15,700 acres**. NRCS also paid out over **\$5.8 million** to producers to apply **1,413** conservation practices on more than **18,400** acres in the Caribbean Area under existing contracts.

Program	# Applications	# Contracts	Contract \$ Amount	# Acres
CSP	12	10	\$130,594	1,012
EQIP	1,390	364	\$8,499,251	14,690



Number and amount of obligated CSP and EQIP contracts in FY 2020 by Field Office and territory.



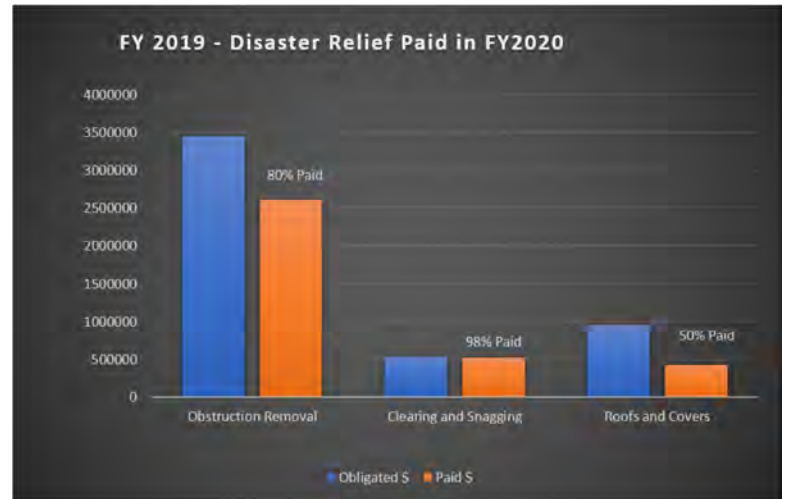
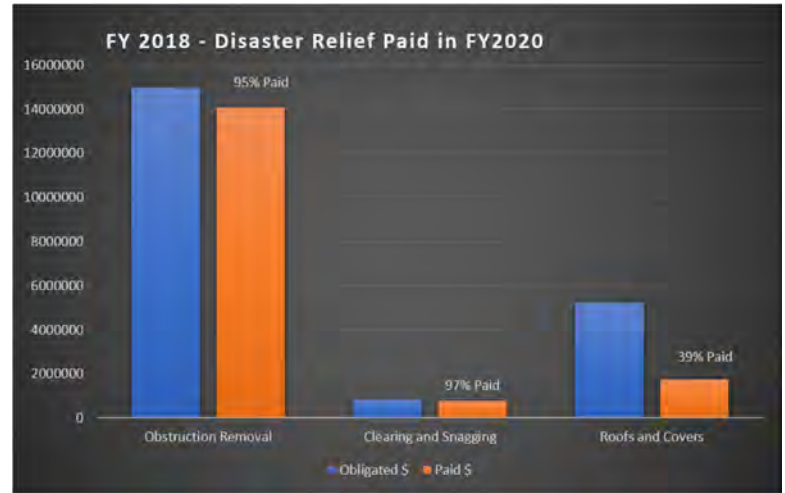
Targeted Conservation

Through targeted conservation of some of our islands' most-valuable resources, NRCS and partners helped farmers apply practices to:

- Improve water quality on over **13,000** acres,
- Improve soil quality and health on over **6,500** acres,
- Improve over **10,000** acres of grazing land, and
- Deliver over **5,500** trees to Puerto Rico farmers through the [Shade Coffee Initiative](#) and [Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Initiative](#).

Through NRCS' EQIP equitable relief assistance, **three** emergency recovery practices were implemented post-hurricanes Irma and María: obstruction removal, roofs and covers, and clearing and snagging (of debris in waterways).

In FY 2020, NRCS Caribbean Area continued to reimburse farmers for implementing these recovery practices contracted in FY 2018 and FY 2019. In FY 2020, NRCS paid over **\$3.7 million** for FY 2019-contracted emergency practices, and over **\$17 million** for FY 2018-contracted emergency practices.



Right: BEFORE—Morovis dairy barn roofs and covers destroyed by Hurricane Maria (Photo from Rafael Davila, Sep. 2018). Far right: AFTER – Cattle safely enclosed after farmer installed 14,000 square feet of NRCS Roofs & Covers practice, built to new stronger standards to withstand higher wind speeds (Oct. 2019).



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More Information:

Javier Cruz, Assistant State Conservationist for Programs,
787-501-6144, 787-281-4962 or Javier.Cruz@usda.gov.

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