

Key Points

September 2009

Resource Conservation and Development Program

- The purpose of the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) is to encourage and improve the capability of volunteer local elected and civic leaders in designated RC&D areas to plan and carry out projects for resource conservation and community development.
- The RC&D program was permanently authorized in the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002.
- Program objectives focus on “quality of life” improvements achieved through natural resources conservation and community development.
- The RC&D program pulls together people, communities, Indian tribes, and grassroots groups that unite in shared purpose and pool resources to get work done.
- Once the Secretary of Agriculture officially authorizes a specific RC&D area, it is eligible for assistance through its organized RC&D council (comprised of local leaders).
- To date, 375 areas across the Nation (plus the Caribbean and Pacific Basins) have been designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as RC&D areas. They serve more than 85 percent (2,709) of U.S. counties and over 80 percent of the U.S. population.

- RC&D councils and their sponsors, in association with State, local, and Federal governments and non-profit organizations, develop and implement local RC&D area plans.

- RC&D councils also obtain assistance from other local, State, and Federal agencies; private organizations; and foundations.

- RC&D priorities are set by area residents to meet their needs.

- Technical assistance is available to RC&D areas for planning and installing approved projects specified in RC&D area plans.

For More Information

If you need more information about RC&D, please contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information also is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/>

Visit USDA on the Web at:

<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>

Note: This is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of farm legislation. Rather, it is preliminary and may change as USDA develops implementing policies and procedures. Please check back for updates.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment.