

Course Name: Applied Economics for Conservation Planners	
Course Coordinator: Economist	Course Number: MI

Overview: One day advanced economics course for experienced planners who desire to understand and apply economics to Conservation Technical Assistance. The course provides participants with an understanding of economic concepts and tools used in the process of providing Conservation Technical Assistancess and working with customers applying for Conservation Program Contracts. Participants will learn how to apply and use the results of economic tools in providing technical assistance to landowners.

Purpose: Learn how to apply field level economic tools during the conservation planning process and how to present economic analysis to customers.

Prerequisites:

- MI0012 Basic Conservation Assistance
- MI0014 Conservation Planning
- NEDC Economics of Conservation Planning
- Have completed at least three conservation plans

Duration: 1 day

Target Audience: NRCS and conservation partner employees providing conservation technical assistance to customers.

Expected Outcomes: The minimum economic tool application proficiency level expected at the end of the course is 3 – perform with supervision

Resources needed:

- Michigan Field Office Technical Guide
- Classroom with space for tables of 4-5 participants per table
- Overhead projector
- Computer and projector
- 2 Flip charts
- Participants need to bring a calculator

Outline for: **Applied Economics for Conservation Planners**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM (with lunch and breaks)

9:00 Welcome - Introduction - Course Purpose and Goals - Course Description

Participant Introductions - Instructor Introductions

9:30 Economic Concepts applied to Conservation

- Economic Effects and Impacts of Conservation

10:00- 10:15 Break

10:15 Preparing and presenting Economic Information to Customers

- Economic Indicators/Target Values
- Data Gathering to Apply Tools
- Impact of Program Payments: Financial Analysis for Contracting Decisions
- Typical cost to install, operate, and maintain Conservation Practices
- Average Annual Costs

11:30-12:30 Lunch

Preparing and presenting Economic Information to Customers (continued)

- Developing Cost Estimates

1:45- 2:00 Break

- Presenting Cost Estimates

- Developing and/or presenting other Economic Analysis

Applied Economic Analysis – (case farm is used to work with tools & discuss results)

- Break Even / Payback Analysis
- Partial Budget
- Marginal Analysis

3:30 Economic Guidance/Assistance Available

Wrap-up and Evaluation