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**USDA
State
Outreach
Council**

2008 Farm Bill

**Programs and Assistance
geared to Organic Fruit,
Vegetable, and Specialty
Crop Growers**



**The Food, Conservation,
and Energy Act of 2008**

www.usda.gov

November 19, 2008

<u>Conservation Opportunities</u>	Agency to Contact
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program —Provides technical & financial assistance to develop and improve high quality habitat that support wildlife populations.	<p style="text-align: center;">Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff are housed in USDA Service Centers</p>
Wetland Reserve Program — Provides technical and financial assistance to landowners to restore, enhance, and protect wetlands.	
Soil Survey Program —On-the-ground inventories of each type of soil, data about the characteristics of each type, & information about each use of that soil.	
Conservation Technical Assistance- provides support and tools to help people conserve, maintain, and improve their natural resources.	
Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative — Six percent of funds from EQIP, CSP, WHIP, and Farm & Ranch Lands Protection Program are set aside for targeted groups of producers who are members of a state/local/tribal government, producer association, or other nongovernmental organization, that has been selected through a competitive application process to enhance conservation outcomes on the land of producers within their targeted group.	
Healthy Forest Reserve Program — Assists landowners to restore and protect forest land resources and protects at risk species. HFRP allows for 10-year cost-share agreements and 30-year easement or permanent easements.	
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program —Provides matching funds to help State, tribal, or local governments and non-governmental organizations purchase development rights to keep productive farm and rangeland in agricultural uses.	
Conservation Reserve Program — Offers annual rental payments, incentive payments, and cost-share payments to encourage farmers to plant long-term resource-conserving covers to improve soil, water, and wildlife resources.	Farm Service Agency (FSA) staff are housed in USDA Service Centers
Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program — Provides matching funds to help county or local governments or non-profit purchase from sellers private forests that are threatened by conversion to non-forest use and are economically, culturally, and environmentally important to communities.	To be Determined

<u>Marketing Opportunities</u>	Agency to Contact
<p>Purchases of Locally Produced Foods. Encourages institutions receiving funds through the 2008 Act and through the Child Nutrition Act to purchase locally grown and locally raised foods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, which provides free fresh fruits and vegetables to children in schools with at least 50% free/reduced price eligibility, is expanded nationwide for schools . Therefore, more schools will be encouraged to purchase fruits and vegetables locally. The Department of Defense Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program, participating in the school lunch program, are allowed to use a geographic preference for the procurement of locally grown fruits and vegetables. The Emergency Food Assistance Program is increased \$1.256 billion to increase commodity purchases for food banks. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Michigan Department of Education</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Dept. of Defense</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Farm Service Agency in Washington, D.C.</p>
Specialty Crop Block Grants —Funds to State Departments of Agriculture are increased to \$55 million to enhance the competitiveness of specialty crops in areas such as marketing, promotion, education, research, trade, and nutrition.	Michigan Department of Agriculture
Market Access Program (MAP) — MAP provides funding to increase the availability and viability of U.S. specialty crops in foreign markets.	Michigan Department of Agriculture
Seniors Farmer Market Program —Provides low-income seniors with coupons that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits, vegetables, and herbs at approved farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs.	Office of Services to the Aging & Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa & Chippewa
Purchases of Fruits, Vegetables, and Nuts for Domestic Nutrition Assistance Programs —USDA is required to purchase certain minimum amounts of fruits, vegetables and nuts for Nutrition Assistance Programs.	Farm Service Agency staff housed in Washington, D.C.
Farmer Market Nutrition Program —Provides the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) participants with coupons that can be exchanged for fresh, nutritious, unprepared, locally grown fruits and vegetables at approved farmers' markets, roadside stands, and community supported agriculture programs.	Michigan Department of Community Health

