

# So You Inherited the Farm...Now What?

## ***How do I find out if there are any conservation easements or contracts?***

- Contact the Farm Service Agency (FSA) at your local USDA Service Center to see if the farm has any required acreages to report for crop production, or to verify if you have acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program-CRP.
- Contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at your local USDA Service Center to verify if you have acres enrolled in easement programs (Wetlands Reserve Program- WRP, Floodplain Easement Program-FEP, Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program-FRPP) or Grassland Reserve Program-GRP).
- Contact NRCS to verify if there are any contracts on the land requiring conservation practices or enhancements to be installed or maintained, through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program-EQIP, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program-WHIP, and/or Conservation Security Program-CSP.



**Find local USDA Service Center locations at: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>**

### ***If there are conservation easements or contracts... what next?***

Visit with the local NRCS District Conservationist and verify:

- If you want to continue or cancel the contract, and if there are any repercussions if you decide to cancel;
- If there are practices still to be completed, installed, or maintained under the contract

### ***What if I want to sell the property?***

- You are responsible for disclosing information about USDA contracts or easements to potential buyers.
- Work with FSA and/or NRCS to cancel or withdraw from conservation contracts, or other requirements, prior to selling. Or, transfer agreement(s) to a new landowner.
- Federal easements will transfer with the sale of land and will be recorded on the deed. Inform potential buyers of any work that needs to be completed under the easement and of maintenance requirements.

***“You need to take federal contracts and easements on your land seriously, as they are binding agreements with the federal government.”***

~ Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist, Indiana



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service