

Soil conservationists inspecting practices in the field.



# NRCS Programs At-A-Glance

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Finca Porvenir - Santa Isabel Special Irrigation Project

## Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits. Under the **Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)** component, NRCS helps territorial and local governments, non-government organizations and Indian tribes to protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land. Under the **Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)** component, NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands.

## Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

CIG is a competitive grants program that supports development, testing and research of conservation technologies, practices, systems and approaches on private lands. CIG projects inspire creative problem-solving solutions that boost production on farms, ranches and private forests and improve natural resources. Grantees must match the CIG investment at least one to one. All U.S.-based non-Federal entities and individuals are eligible to apply.

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

CSP is a voluntary program that helps farmers build on conservation efforts while strengthening operations. CSP is offered in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands through continuous signups. The program provides many benefits including increased crop yields, decreased inputs, wildlife habitat improvements and increased resilience to weather extremes. CSP is for working lands including cropland, pastureland, rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of a tribe.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



High tunnel.

EQIP is the Caribbean Area's most popular program. EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural and forestry producers in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation, and improved or created wildlife habitat.

Through EQIP, NRCS provides farmers with financial resources and one-on-one help to plan and implement conservation practices. Using these practices can lead to cleaner water and air, healthier soil and better wildlife habitat, all while improving agricultural operations. EQIP is a voluntary program where NRCS co-invests in conservation practices with our farmers.

## Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWPP)

EWPP is a federal emergency recovery program that helps local communities recover after a natural disaster strikes. EWPP offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms and other natural disasters that impair a watershed. EWPP allows communities to quickly address serious and long-lasting damages to infrastructure and to the land. EWPP does not require a disaster declaration by federal or state officials for program assistance to begin, but ultimately partial funding must be provided by the state legislature.

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

RCPP promotes coordination of NRCS conservation activities with partners that offer value-added contributions to expand our collective ability to address on-farm, watershed, and regional natural resource concerns. Through RCPP, NRCS seeks to co-invest with partners to implement projects that demonstrate innovative solutions to conservation challenges and provide measurable improvements and outcomes tied to the resource concerns they seek to address

Yabucoa Agriculture Reserve RCPP conservation practices residue management (left) and drip irrigation (right) implemented to combat poor soil drainage and flooding.

