

Tell me about Financial Assistance

The [2014 Farm Bill](#) was enacted on February 7, 2014. NRCS offers voluntary Farm Bill conservation programs that benefit both agricultural producers and the environment. These programs provide financial assistance to install conservation practices.



For example, you might be able to improve the efficiency of your pasture by creating paddocks and rotating livestock between them. If your animals are overgrazing, chances are high that you're losing good soil. *Rotational grazing* between paddocks could save the soil you have and allow your pasture to regain healthy growth. NRCS has programs to help pay for the fencing to divide your pasture.

If you're using a sprinkler system to *irrigate your crops*, you could be losing water. Did you know that drip irrigation is more efficient? We may be able to help you make the transition.

Perhaps your crop production is limited by the cold winters of Pennsylvania. NRCS has a program to help pay for a *high tunnel* built where you have been growing your crops. The high tunnel lengthens the growing season, allowing you to plant earlier in the spring and produce later into the fall.



The *financial incentive programs* of the NRCS are grouped into three main categories: [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#), [Conservation Stewardship Plan \(CSP\)](#), and [Agricultural Management Assistance \(AMA\)](#).

Financial Assistance Programs	
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	The Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) offers financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to help resolve issues with water quality and erosion so that the risk of crop loss is reduced. If using a variety of resource conservation practices sounds appealing to you, like lowering production risk through soil erosion control, integrated pest management, or transition to organic farming, AMA might be right for you.
Conservation Stewardship Plan (CSP)	You might consider your long term efforts at conservation on your farm as part a more comprehensive plan. You could benefit from the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Plan (CSP), which offers a range of payments which grow as your conservation performance increases.
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	If your goal is to combine agricultural production and environmental quality, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) might be right for you. This voluntary conservation program gives financial and technical assistance to create physical and management practices to provide environmental benefits on working agricultural land.



NRCS provides financial assistance to help manage natural resources on your farm. These programs are voluntary, and they provide opportunities to help save energy, improve soil, water, plant, air, animal, and related resources on farmland and in privately owned forests that aren't being used for industry. You could receive a significant portion of funding needed to help save the natural resources on your farm if you apply for NRCS programs. NRCS also works with partners to leverage additional conservation assistance for agricultural producers and landowners in priority conservation areas.

Your conservation goals and needs are unique to your farm, and the NRCS staff are skilled in crafting plans to fit your operation. For details on each program listed above, contact your local USDA service center to see how we can help. To learn how to get started with NRCS, click on the link: [Fives Steps to Receive Assistance](#).