



What does conservation mean?

The protection, preservation, management, or restoration of natural environments and the ecological communities that inhabit them. Conservation is generally held to include the management of human use of natural resources for current public benefit and sustainable social and economic utilization.

Conservation is the careful maintenance and upkeep of a natural resource to prevent it from disappearing. A natural resource is the physical supply of something that exists in nature, such as soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy. The Natural Resources Conservation Service recognizes that we don't want these things to diminish or disappear altogether, and that we must make an effort to protect and maintain natural resources.

The purpose of conservation in agriculture is to maintain or improve the land with a long-term vision for the future, which we call sustainability. The goal of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to help you care for and manage the soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy on your farmland and forestland. We can provide technical assistance and financial assistance, as well as a variety of tools to learn more about the opportunities you have to conserve natural resources on your land. We work together with you to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems.

No matter the size of your farm, conservation fits your operation!

Farm Bill 2014

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.

Other Farm Bill programs

[Agriculture Conservation Experience Services Program \(ACES\)](#)
[Conservation Innovation Grants \(CIG\)](#)
[Technical Service Providers \(TSP\)](#)
[Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program \(VPA-HIP\)](#)

Other resources

[Five steps to obtain assistance](#)
[List of all of the NRCS Farm Bill Programs](#)
[USDA Farm Bill website](#)
[Jason Weller talks about Farm Bill 2014](#)
[Emergency Watershed Protection Program \(EWP\)](#)
[Watershed Rehabilitation](#)

