

How can NRCS assist in my conservation goals?

The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is committed to helping private landowners care for the land, use it productively, and excel as stewards for the future. Through voluntary incentive-based programs, NRCS works directly with farmers and landowners to provide technical and financial assistance to make conservation work on private lands.

Taking care of the landscape in concert with agricultural productivity is our goal. Whether it's reducing erosion, improving soil health, guarding streams and rivers, restoring and establishing fish and wildlife habitat, bringing in pollinators, improving air quality or conserving energy, we're here to help you develop a conservation plan and achieve your conservation goals.



24,186 acres of forest land with conservation applied to protect and improve vegetative condition.

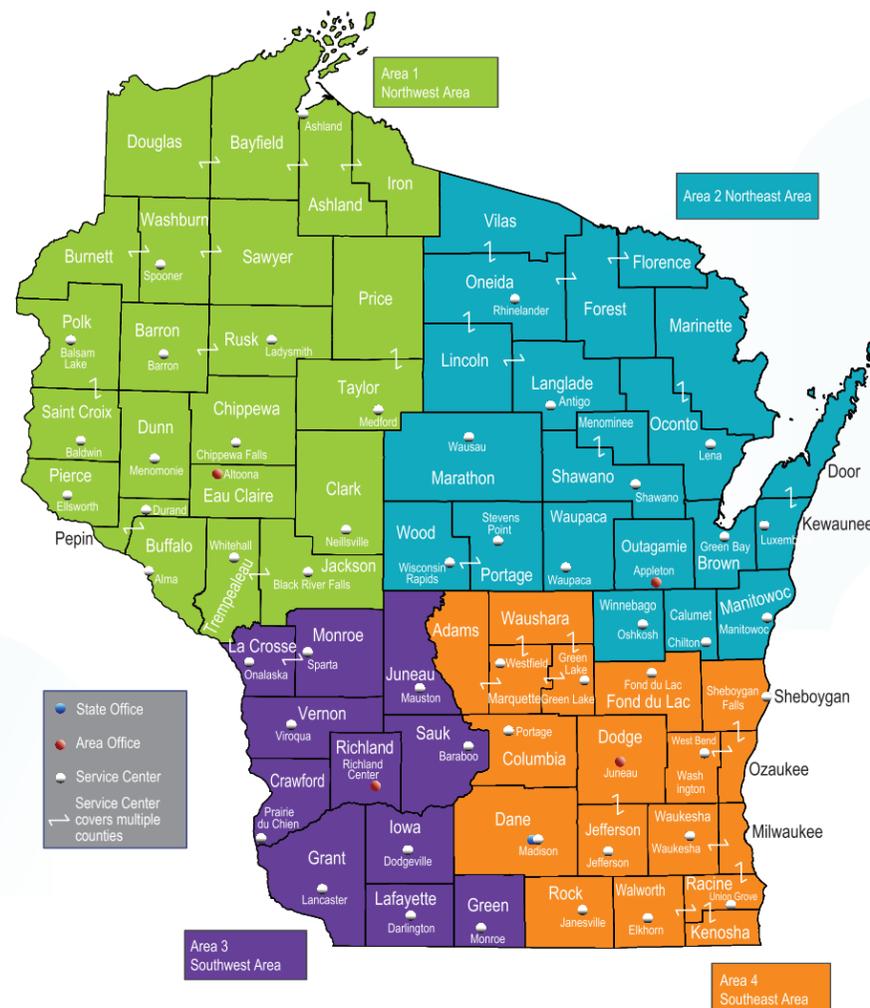
How do I get started?

It all starts with a visit to your local USDA Service Center to develop a conservation plan. From there, our professional staff and technical experts will work with you to identify what resource concerns you may have and which programs you are eligible for. NRCS helps you plan, design and implement conservation practices on your land. Find your nearest Service Center here: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/local/



20,579 acres of private land with conservation applied to improve fish and wildlife habitat.

NRCS Offices in Wisconsin



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Helping You Help the Land

Conservation Programs Available for
Wisconsin Farmers and Landowners



Natural Resources Conservation Service
www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov

What programs are available?

Landscape Initiatives

These initiatives accelerate the benefits of voluntary conservation programs, such as cleaner water and air, healthier soil and enhanced wildlife habitat. Conservation programs help agricultural producers improve the environment while maintaining a vibrant agricultural sector. Contact your local USDA Service Center to see which landscape initiatives are active and available in your area. Some examples of landscape initiatives include the following:

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative—MRBI provides assistance to selected watersheds in the Mississippi River Basin to voluntarily implement conservation practices that avoid, control, and trap nutrient runoff; improve wildlife habitat; and maintain agricultural productivity.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative—GLRI addresses urgent issues such as cleaning up Great Lakes areas of concern, reducing nutrient runoff that contributes to harmful or nuisance algal blooms, and restoring habitat to protect native species.

National Water Quality Initiative—NWQI improves impaired waterways throughout the nation. NRCS manages the initiative by making funds available to farmers and forest landowners in selected watersheds, to accomplish needed conservation practices to reduce sediment and nutrient runoff on agricultural lands.

Conservation Stewardship Program

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns. The program provides assistance to landowners who practice good stewardship on their land and are willing to take additional steps over the next five years.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

EQIP provides voluntary conservation to promote agricultural production, forest management, and environmental quality to help install or implement structural, agronomic, or management conservation practices to protect soil and water quality. NRCS evaluates each application, with higher priority given to practices that address local resource concerns and provide the most environmental benefit. Special initiative opportunities include honey bee pollinator, soil health, organics, energy, and high tunnel. Special rates are available for socially disadvantaged, beginning and limited resource farmers.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

RCPP uses partnerships to multiply conservation investments and reach goals on a regional or watershed scale, promoting coordination between partners to deliver assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts or easement agreements. NRCS and its partners help producers install and maintain conservation activities in selected project areas.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

ACEP provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands, wetlands, and their related benefits. Wetland Reserve Easements provide technical and financial assistance directly to private landowners and Indian tribes to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands through purchasing easements. Agricultural Land Easements provide financial assistance to eligible partners for purchasing easements that protect the agricultural use and conservation values of eligible land.



18,333 acres of grazing land with conservation applied to improve resources.



45,212 acres of cropland with conservation applied to improve soil health and sustainability.



460,020 acres of conservation applied to improve environmental quality.

*All acreage amounts in highlights are from 2016 Wisconsin NRCS results.