

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Who We Are and What We Do



Our Mission

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) mission is to deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. The agency's vision is a world of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation.

Who We Are

Our workforce consists of a diverse group of skilled natural resource professionals. With representatives in nearly every county, we have a thorough, first-hand understanding and appreciation of the challenges, limitations and special needs unique to the Wisconsin landscape. These skills enable us to develop solutions that best match our customers' unique goals with the needs of the land.



What We Do

As an agency, our goal is to help landowners develop conservation plans and provide advice on the design, layout, construction, management, operation, maintenance and evaluation of voluntary conservation practices. We are committed to helping farmers and landowners care for the land, use it productively, and excel as stewards for the future.

NRCS also conducts soil surveys and the National Resources Inventory nationwide, to provide the basis for conservation planning activities and an accurate assessment of the land's condition.

How We Do It

NRCS provides both technical and financial assistance to farmers and landowners through Farm Bill programs. 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.

How to Get Involved

To get started, visit your local USDA Service Center to begin developing a voluntary 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.farmers.gov/service-center-locator

Conservation Technical Assistance

NRCS delivers technical assistance through its voluntary Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA). Through CTA, NRCS employees assist landowners, communities, units of state and local government and other Federal agencies in planning and implementing conservation systems. Although CTA does not include financial assistance, landowners may develop plans that can serve as a springboard for future participation in financial assistance programs.



Farm Bill Programs

NRCS offers financial and technical assistance through conservation practices, activities and enhancements to help agricultural producers make and maintain improvements on their land. The following page has a summary of the various conservation programs funded through the 2018 Farm Bill and other federal programs.

Financial Assistance

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)

Competitive grants that drive public and private sector innovation in resource conservation to ultimately improve water quality, soil health and wildlife habitat.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Encourages producers to embrace long term comprehensive conservation by maintaining and improving existing practices to address priority resource concerns.

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, drought, windstorms and other natural occurrences.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Our most popular farmer program provides assistance for a broad spectrum of conservation practices that promote agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality.



Easements

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Provides financial and technical assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

Agricultural Land Easements (ALE)

NRCS helps Indian tribes, state and local governments and non-governmental organizations protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of the land.

Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)

Helps landowners restore, enhance and protect forestland resources on private lands through easements and financial assistance. Promotes the recovery of endangered or threatened species, improves plant and animal biodiversity and enhances carbon sequestration.

Wetland Reserve Easements (WRE)

NRCS helps to restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands, which provide habitat for fish and wildlife, including threatened and endangered species, and improves water quality.

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP)

A voluntary program through which NRCS enters into agreements with eligible partners to leverage resources to carry out high priority wetland protection, restoration, and enhancement and to improve wildlife habitat.

Landscape Initiatives

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Helps landowners and land users to plan and implement activities to improve and protect the natural resources in locally identified watersheds.

Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative (MRBI)

NRCS and its partners help producers in select watersheds within the Mississippi River Basin to implement conservation practices that avoid, control and trap nutrient runoff, improve wildlife habitat and maintain agricultural productivity.

National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI)

Offers financial and technical assistance to farmers and forest landowners interested in improving water quality and aquatic habitats in priority watersheds with impaired streams.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPPI)

Promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners, through contracts and agreements, to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners.

More Information

For more information, contact your local USDA Service Center or visit www.wi.nrcs.usda.gov.

